

HI2E7-30 A History of Modern Mexico

21/22

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Benjamin Smith

Credit value

30

Module duration

23 weeks

Assessment

60% coursework, 40% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Over the past century, Mexicans have endured a revolutionary civil war, two religious uprisings, a vicious Cold War counter-insurgency, nearly fifty years of authoritarian government, countless devaluations, and nearly a decade of violent confrontations between drug cartels. Yet Mexicans have also experienced far-reaching social reforms, unparalleled levels of economic growth, rapid rates of industrialisation and urbanisation, and seventy years of relative political stability. This module seeks to understand these contradictions and the ways in which they have affected Mexicans' everyday lives.

These processes, the bargaining between civil society actors and the state and the uses of the past and the understanding of history in these processes can only be understood through an understanding of the History of Mexico in the Modern period since the arrival of Europeans and Africans in Mesoamerica in 1519.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Students will be asked to examine at a range of subjects including; the way that local communities have used the law and the political ideas of the day to defend their interests, the development of the ideas of race, caste, class and gender, the relationship between the Church, the state and civil

society and ideologies of revolutionary leaders, like Emiliano Zapata, Pancho Villa, and Subcomandante Marcos; the politics of the world's longest running one party state; the long struggle for indigenous rights; the experiences of Mexico's urban poor; and the machinations of the country's cartels.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1

Week 1: Mexico: An Introduction

Week 2: Mexican Independence (1810-1821)

Week 3: Democracy and Dictatorship (1821-1846)

Week 4: The Mexican American War (1846-1848)

Week 5: Civil War and Benito Juarez (1848-1876)

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: Porfirio Diaz: The Liberal Dictator (1876-1910)

Week 8: The Mexican Revolution (1910-1920)

Week 9: Revolutionary Reform (1920-1940)

Week 10: Cultural Reform (1920-1940)

Term 2

Week 1: Counter Revolution and the PRI State (1940-1968)

Week 2: The PRI State and the Mass Media (1940-1976)

Week 3: The 1968 Student Movement

Week 4: Guerrillas and Counter Insurgency (1965-1982)

Week 5: Modern Mexico: Neoliberalism and Democratization

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: Modern Mexico: Zapatistas and Indigenous Rights

Week 8: Modern Mexico: Migration and the Border

Week 9: Modern Mexico: The Drug Trade and the War on Drugs

Week 10: Narcoculture

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of historical and theoretical interpretations of modern Mexico.
- Communicate ideas and findings, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- Generate ideas through the analysis of a broad range of primary source material for the study of modern Mexico.
- Analyse and evaluate the contributions made by existing scholarship.
- Act with limited supervision and direction within defined guidelines, accepting responsibility for achieving deadlines.

Indicative reading list

- Matthew Restall, Lisa Sousa and Kevin Terraciano eds. *Mesoamerican Voices: Native Language Writings from Colonial Mexico, Yucatán and Guatemala*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014)
- Mark Wasserman, *Everyday Life and Politics in nineteenth-century Mexico: men, women and war*. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2000)
- Gilbert Joseph and Jurgen Buchenau, *Mexico Once and Forever Revolution* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014)
- Paolo Riguzzi, *From Globalisation to Revolution? The Porfirian Political Economy: An Essay on Issues and Interpretations*, *Journal of Latin American Studies*
- Jennie Purnell, *With All Due Respect: Popular Resistance to the Privatization of Communal Lands in Nineteenth-Century Michoacan*, *Latin American Research Review*
- Alan Knight, *The Mexican Revolution*
- John Coatsworth, *Railroads, Landholding, and Agrarian Protest in the Early Porfiriato*
- Gilbert Joseph and Allen Wells, *Corporate Control of a Monocrop Economy: International Harvester and Yucatan's Henequen Industry during the Porfiriato*
- Matthew Butler and Antonio Escobar Ohmstede, "Transitions and Closures in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Mexican Agrarian History" in *Mexico in transition: new perspectives on Mexican agrarian history, nineteenth and twentieth centuries/ México y sus transiciones: reconsideraciones sobre la historia agraria mexicana, siglos XIX y XX*
- Emilio Kouri, *A Pueblo Divided*
- Frederick Katz, *The Life and Times of Pancho Villa*
- Mary Kay Vaughan and Heather Fowler-Salamini (eds.) *Women of the Mexican Countryside*.
- Eric Zolov, *Refried Elvis*
- Jaime Pensado, *Rebel Mexico*
- Fernando Calderón and Adela Cedillo, (eds) *Challenging Authoritarianism in Mexico: Revolutionary struggles and the dirty war, 1964-1982*
- Benjamin T. Smith and Paul Gillingham, *Dictablanda: Politics, Work, and Culture in Mexico*
- Gilbert Joseph and Daniella Spenser (eds.), *In from the Cold: Latin America's new encounter with the Cold War*
- Alex Aviña, *Specters of revolution: Peasant guerrillas in the Cold War Mexican countryside*
- Alberto Ulloa, *Surviving Mexico's Dirty War*

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	20 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Other activity	2 hours (1%)
Private study	256 hours (86%)
Total	298 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Other activity description

Revision seminars

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group D2

	Weighting	Study time
Seminar contribution	10%	
1500 word essay	10%	
3000 word essay	40%	
Take-home Examination	40%	

Feedback on assessment

- written feedback on essay and exam cover sheets
- student/tutor dialogues in one-to-one

tutorials\r\n-peer and group feedback in class and in study groups\r\n

[Past exam papers for HI2E7](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History

This module is Option list B for:

- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
 - Year 2 of V100 History
 - Year 2 of V100 History