

Carleton University  
Fall 2019  
Department of Political Science

**PSCI 3205A**  
**Mexican Politics**  
Tuesdays 11:35 am to 2:25 pm  
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Laura Macdonald  
Office: Room C669 Loeb Building  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:45 to 4:30 pm  
Phone: 613-520-2600 x 2771  
Email: [Laura.Macdonald@carleton.ca](mailto:Laura.Macdonald@carleton.ca)

**Course Objectives:**

- To analyse the historical development of Mexican politics;
- To analyse the political institutions and actors of contemporary Mexican politics;
- To evaluate the economic, political, and social challenges facing Mexico in the coming years;
- To analyse Mexico's relationship with the United States and Canada and its position in the North American region.

**Course Description:**

Mexico is going through a deeply challenging period with a new president elected with a resounding majority in the 2018 elections who has promised a fundamental transformation of the country's political and economic systems. At the same time, US President Donald Trump has engaged in various forms of intimidation and pressure on Mexico, from the re-negotiation of NAFTA, to the threat to build a wall at the US-Mexico border, to threats to increase tariffs if Mexico does not act to restrict Central American migrants travelling through Mexico from claiming asylum in the United States. This course provides fascinating insight into the factors behind these events.

The purpose of the course is to provide an introduction to contemporary Mexican politics. We will examine not only political institutions and how they have developed, but also the transformation of the country's economy and how these changes affect the lives of ordinary Mexicans. We will also focus on how Mexico interacts with the international system (particularly the influence of the United States). We will cover such issues as historical development, market reforms, the operations of the traditional authoritarian system and how it has been democratised, the development of the party system, indigenous and women's rights, migration, and Mexico's long-lasting drug war. **Previous knowledge of Mexican politics is not required. The course is designed to be highly topical so short readings and guest speakers may be added in response to current events.**

**Format:** This is a lecture class, but class participation is an essential part of the class. The first part of every class will begin with a lecture, to be followed by a film, guest lecture, group discussion and/or group presentations. **Student participation based on faithful reading of the required texts is essential.** I will provide some time in class for group meetings to prepare the presentations.

**Classroom courtesy:** Out of respect for all of those in class, all cell phones, pagers, and any other noisemaking devices must be turned OFF during the entire class period and during exams. Laptop computers may be used in class provided they do not distract those around you. Please do not use your laptop for non-academic purposes during class. I reserve the right to ask you to turn off and put away your computer if it is creating a disruption.

**Course Materials:** Course materials are available online through the course's CULearn site. Please advise the instructor immediately if you encounter difficulties in obtaining the course materials.

One required text has been ordered for purchase and is available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue (in the Glebe, by Bank Street). Here is a link to some FAQs about Octopus Books.

<http://octopusbooks.ca/book/course-book-faq>

Note: Octopus requests that you come equipped with **the instructor's name** as well as the **course code**.

The required text is:

Emily Edmonds-Poli and David A. Shirk, *Contemporary Mexican Politics*, Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015, **3<sup>rd</sup> edition**

I have also ordered the following books (in more limited quantities) for the book review; you will review one of these two books.

Chad Broughton, *Boom, Bust, Exodus: The Rust Belt, the Maquilas, and a Tale of Two Cities*, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Elaine Carey. *Women Drug Traffickers: Mules, Bosses, & Organized Crime*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2014. (Note this book is available only as "Print on Demand" so I have ordered fewer copies of it than the Broughton book and it may arrive later at Octopus. I will keep you updated).

I will also regularly post news articles on current events in Mexico.

**Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

Class participation and attendance:	15%
Book review (due on line <b>October 15th</b> )	15%

Group Presentation	10%
Final essay - research report (due in class <b>November 26<sup>th</sup></b> )	30%
Take home exam (due on line <b>December 21<sup>st</sup></b> – based on course materials):	30%

See discussion of requirements below.

### **Late Policy**

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. **Late papers will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day not including weekends.** Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date. No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Do not ask for an extension on the due date of the assignment. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

### **\*Policies on Assignments:**

All assignments in this course (with the exception of the single-space annotation) must be 12 pt font, double-spaced and have standard one-inch margins. They should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and bibliography. Assignments that do not have any citations from academic sources will be returned to the student ungraded. Students will be permitted to re-submit the paper, within a specified deadline, but an automatic 10% penalty will be levied.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1 September 10 - Introduction**

Video: Mexico's Dilemma: Tariffs or Impose Trump's Draconian Immigration  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=317&v=RL9DmcfizrY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=317&v=RL9DmcfizrY)

### **Week 2 –September 17 - An Overview of Mexican History**

#### **Required:**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapters 1 and 2.

**Guest speaker: Gerardo Familiar Ferrer, UNAM Canada**

### **Week 3 – September 24– The “Perfect Dictatorship” – Mechanisms of Semi-Authoritarian Rule**

#### **Required:**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 3

### **Week 4 – October 1 – The Mexican Economic Miracle/ISI and the Crisis**

#### **Required:**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 10

Mark Weisbrot, Stephan Lefebvre, and Joseph Sammut, "Did NAFTA help Mexico? An assessment after 20 years, Accessible at: <http://cepr.net/documents/nafta-20-years-2014-02.pdf>

### **Week 5 - October 8 - Democratization and Civil Society**

**Film: *Presunto Culpable* (Presumed Guilty)**

**Required:**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapters 4, 9

Peter H. Smith, "Mexican democracy in comparative perspective," in Roderic Ai Camp, ed., *Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012, pp. 77-97.

### **Week 6 – October 15 – Political Parties and Elections**

#### **CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE TODAY**

#### **GROUP 1 PRESENTS**

**Required:**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapters 5, 6, 7

Gustavo Flores-Macías, "Mexico's Stalled Reforms," *Journal of Democracy*, 27 (2), 2016, pp. 66-78.

### **October 22 - No class! FALL BREAK**

### **Week 7 – October 29 – Poverty and Human Rights**

#### **GROUP 2 PRESENTS**

**Required:**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 11.

Carlos Alberto Jiménez-Bandola, "Development in Southern Mexico: Empirical verification of the 'Seven erroneous theses about Latin America'," *Latin American Perspectives*, 45:2, 129-141.

Francisco Goldman, "The Missing Forty-Three: The Mexican Government Sabotages its own Internal Investigation," *New Yorker*, April 22, 2016 Available at:

<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-missing-forty-three-the-mexican-government-sabotages-its-own-independent-investigation>

**Other resources:**

UN Human Rights Council, “Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan E. Méndez, Addendum: Mission to Mexico” accessed at

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/MXIndex.aspx>

Amnesty International Annual Report Mexico 2017/18, available at

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/americas/mexico/report-mexico/>

Alma Guillermoprieto, “Mexico, The Murder of the Young” in *New York Review of Books*, January 8, 2015. <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2015/01/08/mexico-murder-young/>

**Week 8 – November 5 – The 2018 Elections and an evaluation of the first year of the MORENA government**

**Guest Speaker: Sergio Michel Chávez, PhD candidate, Political Science, Carleton University**

**Required:**

Luis Rubio, *Unmasked: López Obrador and the End of Make-Believe*, Washington DC: Wilson Center, 17-23; 49-60. Accessible at:

[https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/mi\\_190625\\_unmasked\\_v2b.pdf](https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/mi_190625_unmasked_v2b.pdf)

Denise Dresser, “Mexico’s new president turns back the clock on democracy,” *The Mazatlán Post*, May 8, 2019. <https://themazatlanpost.com/2019/05/18/mexicos-new-president-turns-back-the-clock-on-democracy/>

Genaro Lozano, “Grading AMLO’s first six months as president,” *Americas Quarterly*, June 12, 2019.

Genaro Lozano, “Why I’m still optimistic about AMLO,” *Americas Quarterly*, June 19, 2019.

**Week 9 – November 12 – Social Movements, Gender and Ethnicity**

**GROUP 3 PRESENTS**

**Required:**

Victoria E. Rodriguez, “Women, Politics, and Democratic Consolidation in Mexico: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back,” in Roderic Ai Camp, ed., *Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012, 446-465.

Shannan Mattiace, “Social and Indigenous Movements in Mexico’s Transition to Democracy,” Roderic Ai Camp, ed., *Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012, 398-422.

## **Week 10 –November 19 - Mexican Foreign Policy and Mexico-US relations**

### **GROUP 4 PRESENTS**

#### **Required:**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapters 13, 14.

Greg Grandin, *The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America*, New York: Henry Holt & Company, 2019, pp. 1-9 and 267-292.

Eduardo Zepeda, Timothy Wise and Kevin Gallagher, *Rethinking Trade Policy for Development: Lessons from Mexico Under NAFTA*, Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (December), 2009, accessed at <http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/Pubs/rp/CarnegieNAFTADec09.pdf>

## **Week 11 –NOVEMBER 26 – Drug Wars and the Rule of Law**

### **FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY**

### **GROUP 5 PRESENTS**

#### **Required:**

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 12

Joel Salvador Herrera, “Cultivating Violence: Trade Liberalization, Illicit Labor, and the Mexican Drug Trade,” *Latin American Politics and Society*, 61:3 August 2019.

Alejandro Hope, “*Plus ça change*: Structural continuities and Mexican counternarcotics policy,” Brookings Policy Brief, Available at: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Hope-Mexico-final.pdf>

Video: “World’s Most Wanted,” BBC, Film on Demand:  
[http://fod.infobase.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/p\\_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=115662](http://fod.infobase.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=115662)

## Week 12 - December 3 - Migration and Border Politics

### GROUP 6 PRESENTS

Lynn Stephen, "Creating preemptive suspects: National security, border defense, and immigration policy, 1980-present," *Latin American Perspectives*, 45: 6, 2018, 7-25.

Joseph Nevins, *Operation Gatekeeper: The Rise of the 'Illegal Alien' and the Making of the U.S.-Mexico Boundary*, New York: Routledge, 2002, pp. 1-37.

David FitzGerald and Rafael Alarcón, "Migration: Policies and Politics," in Peter H. Smith and Andrew Selee, eds., *Mexico and the United States: The Politics of Partnership*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Press, 2013.

---

### REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATIONS AND ESSAYS

#### A. Critical Book Review:

**Length: 5-7 pages**

**Due: October 15<sup>th</sup> - to be submitted online**

This paper will provide a critical review of **one** of the following two books:

Chad Broughton, *Boom, Bust, Exodus: The Rust Belt, the Maquilas, and a Tale of Two Cities*, Oxford University Press, 2015.

Elaine Carey. *Women Drug Traffickers: Mules, Bosses, & Organized Crime*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2014.

Your paper should provide a critical evaluation of the book you have chosen. While it should include a short summary and description of the contents of the book, it is most important to provide an analysis and assessment of it. For example, some of the topics you may consider covering include:

- What is the stated purpose of the book?
- What is the author's argument?
- What is the theoretical framework?
- How successful is the author in achieving the book's purpose (methodology, evidence, writing style, argument)?
- What is the relevance of this book (who would be interested in it)?
- What does this book tell us about Mexican politics?

#### B. Group Presentation

**Worth: 10%**

**Dates of Presentations and group memberships will be arranged during the second class. You should come to the second class with your top two selections for topics. The first presentation will be on October 15<sup>th</sup>. See course schedule for other presentation dates (the presentation schedule may change depending on the number of people in the class)**

Beginning in Class 3, groups will be given some time in class to organize their group presentation and divide up responsibility among group members.

The group will be evaluated based on: success in covering diverse aspects of the issue under discussion; research; communication skills, and success in stimulating class participation in discussion. Your grade for this assignment will be based on a combination of three factors: grade for individual presentation; group mark, and group members' evaluation of their fellow group members (you will be asked to submit a grade for each of your fellow group members based on their contribution to the group effort, this evaluation will be confidential). I encourage you to be creative in designing a dynamic group presentation – you may want to consider using a debate format, powerpoints, multimedia, game show format, and/or handouts. **Speakers should not just read their presentations** but present material in an interesting fashion with lots of eye contact! But you should also ensure that you provide a thorough analysis of the issues under discussion.

#### **Written Summary:**

Each group member is also required to submit a two-page summary (double-spaced) of your oral presentation. This summary is due in the same class as your presentation. Late submissions will be penalized. This summary will not be evaluated separately, it will help me assign a grade for your oral presentation.

#### **C. Research Report**

**Due Date: November 26<sup>th</sup> to be submitted online**

**Worth:** 30%

**Length:** 7-8 pages.

**Topic:** You will write a short research paper based on a topic related to the theme of your group presentation. It does not have to be exactly the same topic you present on in class but should be on a related topic. I would **strongly recommend** that you discuss the topic for your paper with me in person.

**Marking:** The paper will be marked on three criteria:

**Argument, organization and logic.** Is the thesis presented in a logical and convincing manner?

**Research and use of evidence:** Does the paper contain extensive and effective use of available research sources? Does it contain proper footnotes/endnotes and bibliographic style?

**Communication:** Is the paper organized and written as clearly and concisely as possible?

**Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).**

## **Academic Accommodations**

---

### **Requests for Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

#### **Pregnancy obligation**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### **Religious obligation**

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](https://carleton.ca/pmc)

#### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

#### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

### **Plagiarism**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

### **Submission and Return of Term Work**

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

### **Grading**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

### **Approval of final grades**

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### **Carleton E-mail Accounts**

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

### **Carleton Political Science Society**

"The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

### **Official Course Outline**

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.