Instructor: Laura Macdonald
Office: C669 Loeb Building
Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30; Thursdays 12:30-2:30
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Email: 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 a fascinating country located on our own continent facing challenges such as economic development, poverty, democratization, crime, and human rights problems. Mexico is one of our NAFTA partners, and over 1.5 million Canadians will visit Mexico this year as tourists, yet most Canadians know little about Mexico.

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to 20th century and early 21st century 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 burgeoning drug war.

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.

Course Materials: Course materials are available online through the Carleton library website, or through the reserve desk at the library. 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.


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

The required text is:


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

Ronald L. Mize and Alicia C.S. Swords: *Consuming Mexican Labor: From the Bracero Program to NAFTA*, University of Toronto Press, 2011.


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

- Class participation and attendance: 15%
- Book review (due in class **February 6th**) 15%
- Group Presentation: 10%
- Final essay (due in class **April 2nd**) 30%
- Final exam (in official exam period): 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 January 9 - Introduction

Week 2 –January 16 - Mexican History up to the Revolution

Required:
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 1.


Week 3 – January 23 – The Mexican Revolution and its Aftermath
Film: The Last Zapatistas: Forgotten Heroes (266067), 2002, 70 minutes

Required:
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 2.


Required:
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 3


Film: Mexico, The Frozen Revolution (268157, 65 minutes)
Week 5 – February 6 – The Mexican Economic Miracle/ISI and the Crisis

**Required:**
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 9


**CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE TODAY**

**Film:** Señorita Extraviada (260242), 2001, 74 minutes

Week 6 – February 13 - Democratization

**Required:**
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 4, 5


**WINTER BREAK – February 20**

Week 7 – February 27 – Political Parties and Elections

**GROUP PRESENTATIONS BEGIN TODAY (GROUP 1)**

**Required:**
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 6


Week 8 – March 5 – Poverty and Urbanization

**Guest speaker:** Dr. Jill Wigle, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

**Required:**
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 10


**Week 9 – March 12 – Gender, Ethnicity, Civil Society**

**GROUP 2 PRESENTS**

**Required:**
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 8.


**Week 10 – March 19 – Migration, Mexico-US relations**

**GROUP 3 PRESENTS**

**Required:**
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapters 12, 13.


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

**GROUP 4 PRESENTS**

**Required:**
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 11


**FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY**
Week 12 – April 2 – Review Class/Mexico in North America

Required:

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATIONS AND ESSAYS

A. Critical Book Review:
Length: 5-6 pages
Due: February 6th

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


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)?
- What is the relevance of this book (who would be interested in it)?
- How does it relate to some of the topics covered in this course?

B. Group Presentation

Worth: 15%

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 February 27th. See course schedule for other presentation dates.
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.

**C. Research Report**
**Due Date:** April 2nd.
**Worth:** 30%
**Length:** 6-7 pages.
**Topic:** You will write a short research paper based on a topic related to the topic 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?

**Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by (November 11, 2011 for fall term examinations and March 7, 2012 for winter term examinations).
**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** The following is the Carleton University grading system.

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<th>Percentage</th>
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**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**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.

**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.