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 the causes and effects of Mexico’s 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 books.


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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance:</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book review (due in class <strong>October 8th</strong>)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation:</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Report (due in class <strong>November 26th</strong>)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (in official exam period):</td>
<td>30%</td>
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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

Week 2 –September 17 - Mexican History up to the Revolution

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sonya Lipsett-Rivera, Department of History, Carleton

Required:
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 1.


Week 3 –September 24 – The Mexican Revolution and its Aftermath
Film: The Last Zapatistas: Forgotten Heroes (266067), 2002, 70 minutes

Required:
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 2.


Week 4 –October 1 – The “Perfect Dictatorship” – Mechanisms of Semi-Authoritarian Rule

Required:
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 3


Week 5 – October 8 – 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 –October 15 - Political Parties and Elections

GROUP PRESENTATIONS BEGIN TODAY (GROUP 1)

Required:
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 6


John Ackerman, “The Mexico Bubble: Is Enrique Peña Nieto about to Fall to Earth?” Foreign Policy May 1, 2013.

Week 7 –October 22 – Democratization
Guest Speaker: Ambassador Francisco Suárez, "The political economy of the relationship between Mexico and Canada, present and future".

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


FALL BREAK – NO CLASS October 29

Week 8 – November 5 – Poverty and Social Policy

Required:
Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 10

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

**GROUP 2 PRESENTS**

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


**Week 10 – November 19 – Migration and Mexico-US Relations**

**Guest Speaker:** Hector Eloy Rivas Sanchez, PhD candidate, Department of Sociology, Carleton

**GROUP 3 PRESENTS**

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


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

**GROUP 4 PRESENTS**

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


FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY

Week 12 – December 3 – Mexico in North America

Required:


**REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATIONS AND ESSAYS**

**A. Critical Book Review:**
Length: 5-6 pages
Due: October 8th

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 this book contribute to your understanding of Mexican politics and society?

**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 October 15\textsuperscript{nd}. 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:** November 26\textsuperscript{th}
**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**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic
accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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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.

**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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit [http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety](http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety) 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.