

PSCI 3205A
Mexican Politics
Wednesdays 11:35 - 2:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Laura Macdonald
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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 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 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.

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 make noise that disturbs 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, **3rd edition**

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.

Peter Watt and Robert Zepeda: *Drug War Mexico: Politics, Neoliberalism and Violence in the New Narcoeconomy*. New York and London: Zed Books, 2012.

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

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

Class participation and attendance:	15%
Book review (due in class October 7th)	15%
Group Presentation:	10%
Final essay (due in class November 18th)	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.

Camín, Héctor Aguilar and Jorge G. Castañeda. 2012. "Mexico's Age of Agreement." *Foreign Affairs* 91(2): 23-30.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 September 2 - Introduction

Week 2 –September 9 - Mexican History up to the Revolution

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

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 1.

Week 3 –September 16 – 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 –September 23 – The “Perfect Dictatorship” – Mechanisms of Semi-Authoritarian Rule

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 3

Film: “Herod’s Law” (“La Ley de Herodes”)

Warning: This film contains a lot of bad language and some nudity, violence and sexual content

Week 5 –September 30 – The Mexican Economic Miracle/ISI and the Crisis

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 10

Gordon H. Hanson, (2010), “Why Isn’t Mexico Rich?” *Journal of Economic Literature* 48(4): 987-1004.

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

Warning: This film contains violence.

Week 6 –October 7- Democratization

CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE TODAY

GROUP PRESENTATIONS BEGIN TODAY (GROUP 1)

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 4, 5

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.

Video: PBS Frontline: “Murder, Money, and Mexico.”

Week 7 –October 14 – Political Parties and Elections

GROUP 2 PRESENTS

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 6, 7

J. Klesner, “Electoral Competition and the New Party System in Mexico,” *Latin American Politics and Society*, 47(2), 2005, 103-142.

Gustavo Flores-Macías, “Mexico’s 2012 Elections: The Return of the PRI,” *Journal of Democracy*, 24 (1), January 2013, pp. 128-141.

Week 8 –October 21 – Poverty and Human Rights

Guest speaker: Rachel Vincent, Director, Media and Communications, Nobel Women’s Initiative

2 films:

“The Monster in the Mountains” by Sky Dylan-Robbins and Matt Black,

<http://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/video-the-monster-in-the-mountains> (7 minutes)

“Women Crossing the Line: Defensoras in Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala,”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIUrV1TkfDU> (15 minutes)

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 11

Lucy Luccisano and Laura Macdonald, "Mexico and Social Provision by the Federal Government and the Federal District: Obstacles and Openings to a Global Social Protection Floor," *Global Social Policy*, Vol. 14, no. 3, 2014, pp. 333-351

Francisco Goldman, "The Missing Forty-Three: The Government's Case Collapses," *New Yorker*, June 8, 2015.

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>

Human Rights Watch World Report 2014: Mexico | <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/mexico>

FALL BREAK – October 26-30

Week 9 – November 4 – Gender, Ethnicity, Civil Society

GROUP 3 PRESENTS

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, Chapter 9

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 11 – Migration, Mexico-US relations

Guest speaker: Alejandro Hernandez, PhD candidate, Department of Sociology, Carleton.

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapters 13, 14.

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.

WOLA, “Mexico’s Other Border,” http://www.wola.org/publications/mexicos_other_border

Week 11 –November 18 – Drug Wars and the Rule of Law

GROUP 4 PRESENTS

Required:

Edmonds-Poli and Shirk, chapter 12

Arturo C. Sotomayor, “Militarization in Mexico and its Implications,” in Brian Bow and Arturo Santa-Cruz, eds. *The State and Security in Mexico: Transformation and Crisis in Regional Perspective*. New York: Routledge, 2013, pp. 4-60.

Stephen Morris, “Corruption, Drug Trafficking, and Violence in Mexico.” *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 18 (11), 2012. 29-43.

FINAL PAPER DUE TODAY

Week 12 –November 25 –Mexico in North America

GROUP 5 PRESENTS

Required:

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>

Enrique Dussell Peters, “Manufacturing Competitiveness: Toward a Regional Development Agenda,” in *The Future of North American Trade Policy: Lessons from NAFTA*, ed. Kevin P. Gallagher, Enrique Dussell Peters and Timothy A. Wise, Boston University Pardee Center Task Force Report, 2009, pp. 27-34 (Pardee report) <http://www.bu.edu/pardee/files/2009/11/Pardee-Report-NAFTA.pdf>

Timothy A. Wise, “Reforming NAFTA’s Agricultural Provisions,” in Pardee report, pp. 35-42.

Jennifer Jeffs, “Canada’s North America Strategy,” in Brian Bow and Arturo Santa-Cruz, eds. *The State and Security in Mexico: Transformation and Crisis in Regional Perspective*. New York: Routledge, 2013, pp. 142-159.

Week 13: December 2- Review Class

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATIONS AND ESSAYS

A. Critical Book Review:

Length: 5-6 pages

Due: October 7th

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

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

Peter Watt and Robert Zepeda: *Drug War Mexico: Politics, Neoliberalism and Violence in the New Narcoeconomy*. New York and London: Zed Books, 2012.

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: 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 7^h. 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.

C. Research Report

Due Date: November 18th

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?

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

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 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. 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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> 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.