

**HIST 4190- Mexico since 1810| Fall 2025**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 pm to 3:20pm**  
**Wooten Hall 121**  
**Dr. Sandra Mendiola**

**Best way to contact me:** [Sandra.Mendiolagarcia@unt.edu](mailto:Sandra.Mendiolagarcia@unt.edu) If you have questions or concerns, email me.

**Student Hours** (also known as Office Hours) If you need to talk with me, come to my office (Wooten Hall 263) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 4:30pm or email me to set up an online appointment that works for our schedules. Once you have the appointment, use this link: <https://unt.zoom.us/j/9270366247>

**Course Description**

In this course, we will study modern Mexican history from the wars of independence that began in 1810 to the present. We will begin the semester by studying Mexico's colonial background and we will conclude it by exploring the main challenges that Mexico experiences in the twenty first century. The topics that we will cover include: the independence wars, nation-building, the *Porfiriato*, the Mexican Revolution of 1910, the post-revolutionary state, migration and US-Mexican relations. In addition to reading and analyzing primary sources, we will read diverse works written by historians and other scholars. At the end of the semester, you will have an understanding of the different approaches and methods historians have used to study Mexico.

**Required Readings**

This is an upper level, reading intensive course, which requires you to read and analyze the materials assigned for each class and/or week.

Your *informed* participation is very important. Be prepared to discuss by taking notes while you read. It is imperative that you keep up with your readings because you must also use that material for your assignments. If you have any questions about the content, do not hesitate to contact me.

**Three Required Books**

You can choose to buy or rent these three books from our bookstore or from your favorite vendor.

Gilbert, David, *The End of Catholic Mexico: Causes and Consequences of the Mexican Reforma*, Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2024.

McCormick, Gladys, *The Logic of Compromise in Mexico: How the Countryside was Key to the Emergence of Authoritarianism*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2016.

Unlimited user access through UNT library:

<https://discover.library.unt.edu/catalog/b5527270#show-availability>

Hellman, Judith A., *Mexican Lives*, New York: New Press, 1999.

**\*\*You will find additional required readings in Canvas\*\***

## **Course Objectives**

In this course, you will identify the major turning points in the history of modern Mexico from the early nineteenth century to the present. You will learn how to read and interpret primary sources and how to think as a historian. Finally, you will improve your analytical, discussion, and writing skills.

## **Explanation of Assignments:**

***Student Leader (140 points):*** Every time we discuss our readings (see class schedule below for “reading and discussion”), at least two students will become “student leaders.” These students will become experts on the assigned readings by preparing at least two complex questions (each) that they will ask to the larger group.

***Participation (130 points):*** I will evaluate participation through class discussions and, if necessary, through pop quizzes. Your informed participation in every session is extremely important.

***Mid-term Exam (200 points):*** You will analyze material from assigned readings, lectures/Power Point presentations, and other assigned material (i.e. videos). I will post the exam questions with specific instructions one week prior to the due date. You’ll upload your exam to Canvas.

***Book Quizzes (270 points):*** You will write four book quizzes. I will post the questions two or three days before they are due. See class schedule for specific dates.

***Final Project (250 points).*** Specific instructions in Canvas depending on what you choose: a research paper or an oral history interview project.

### **Course Assignments**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>	<i>Percentage of Final Grade</i>
<i>Mid-term Exam</i>	<i>200 points</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Final Project (Final exam or research paper or oral history interview)</i>	<i>250 points</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Introducing yourself</i>	<i>10 points</i>	<i>1%</i>
<i>Book Quizzes (3 @ 90)</i>	<i>270 points</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>Participation</i>	<i>130 points</i>	<i>13%</i>
<i>Student Leader</i>	<i>140 points</i>	<i>14%</i>
<b><i>Total Points Possible</i></b>	<b><i>1000 points</i></b>	<b><i>100%</i></b>

### **Grading**

A = 900-1000

B = 800-899

C = 700-799

D = 600-699

F = 500-599

### **Late Work**

If you face any problems that prevent you from completing and/or uploading your work by the deadlines, you may submit your assignment late. Your grade for a tardy assignment will vary depending on how late you submit it. There are two exceptions to this rule: the student leader assignment and the final project. I will not provide any feedback for any late work.

### **UNT Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Communicate with me prior to being absent, so we can discuss and mitigate the impact of your absences. I will deduct 5% from the final grade course for each absence over three absences. Three tardies or leaving early will be treated as one absence unless you have talked to me in advance.

### **UNT Academic Integrity Policy**

According to UNT Policy 06.003, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

**How to avoid plagiarism?** Use quotation marks when you use an author's exact words. Cite your sources (Author, page number) or use footnotes even when you are paraphrasing. If you have any questions, please let me know before submitting an

assignment. If Turnitin or your professor find plagiarized work or if you use artificial intelligence, you will receive a **horrible F** in that assignment.

**Generative Artificial Intelligence?** In line with the UNT Honor Code, all work you submit must be your own. Using GenAI tools without attribution or relying on them to complete assignments violates academic integrity and will be addressed according to university policy.

In my course, I do not authorize the use of GenAI to write your assignments except for the transcription of your interview. If you use GenAI to complete assignments that require your own analysis and your own writing you may get an F.

### **Communication is essential.**

It is your responsibility to check your UNT email several times a week as well as logging in to Canvas to check announcements. I also expect that you answer to my emails if I write or reply to you individually.

### **ADA Policy**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://disability.unt.edu/) (<https://disability.unt.edu/>)

### **Class Schedule**

**Note:** The professor reserves the right to make changes to the course schedule with appropriate advance notice. You are responsible to check your UNT email and Canvas for announcements.

#### **Week 1**

Tu 8/19	Introduction
Th 8/22	The Colonial Background

#### **Week 2**

Tu 8/26	Independence Wars 1810-1821
Th 8/28	Reading and discussion: Wasserman, <i>Everyday Life and Politics</i> (only the Introduction in Canvas)

**Week 3**

- Tu 9/2 On Memory, Monuments, and Celebrations  
Reading and discussion: Archer, Christon I. "Death's Patriots-Celebration."
- Th 9/4 The Chaotic Nineteenth Century  
Reading and discussion: Boardman, "The U.S. Mexican War and the Beginnings of American Tourism in Mexico"

**Week 4**

- 9/9 & 9/11 Reading and discussion of the book *The End of Catholic Mexico*

***The End of Catholic Mexico*-READING QUIZ #1** due on Sunday 9/14 by 11:59 pm.

**Week 5**

- Tu 9/16 The Porfiriato  
Th 9/18 Reading and : Bueno, Christina "Teotihuacán: Showcase for the Centennial."

**Week 6**

- Tu 9/23 The Mexican Revolution of 1910
- Th 9/25 The Mexican Revolution of 1910 (continues)  
Read: Ricardo Flores Magón, "Manifest to the Nation;" Francisco I. Madero, "Plan de San Luis Potosí;" Emiliano Zapata, "Plan de Ayala."

**Week 7**

- Tu 9/30 The Post Revolution  
Reading and discussion of McCormick, *The Logic of Compromise*, Chapter One.
- Th 10/2 The Post Revolution  
Reading and discussion of McCormick, *The Logic of Compromise*, Chapter Two.

**Week 8**

- Tu 10/7 Recap, Reflection, and Review  
Th 10/9 **MID-TERM EXAM DUE**

**Week 9**

- Tu 10/14 The Rise of Authoritarianism  
Th 10/16 Reading and discussion of McCormick, *The Logic of Compromise* (Introduction, Chapters 3 and 4)

**Week 10**

- Tu 10/21 Reading and discussion of McCormick, *The Logic of Compromise* (Chapters 5, 6, & 7)
- Th 10/23 Thinking & Planning of Research Papers and Oral History Interviews  
*The Logic of Compromise*- **READING QUIZ #2 due on 10/24 by 11:59pm**

**Week 11**

- Tu 10/28 Protest in the Long 1960s
- Th 10/30 Tlatelolco

**Week 12**

- Tu 11/4 Reading and discussion of Jaime Pensado and Enrique Ochoa's excerpts in *Mexico Beyond 1968*
- Th 11/6 Dirty War:  
Reading and Discussion: Alexander Aviña, "We have returned to Porfirian Times," and Introduction of *Challenging Authoritarianism*.

**Week 13**

- Tu 11/11 Resisting the Dirty War: Vivos se los llevaron y vivos los queremos!
- Th 11/13 Migrating to the North

**Week 14**

- Tu 11/18 The Neoliberal Turn  
Reading and Discussion: Judith A. Hellman, *Mexican Lives* (first half of the book)
- Th 11/20 Reading and Discussion: Judith A. Hellman, *Mexican Lives* (second half of the book)  
*Mexican Lives*- **READING QUIZ #3 due on 11/21 by 11:59pm**

**Week 15**

- 11/25& 27 Thanksgiving Break

**Week 16**

- Tu 12/2 Migrating North: Llévate Mis Amores
- Th 12/4 Conclusions

**\*\*\*Final Project due NO LATER than December 11, 2025 at 3:30pm in Canvas\*\***