

Political Science: POS 4931
Modern Mexico

Professor Leslie Anderson

Purpose of the course: This course is a specialized class on Mexico. We will spend the first weeks of the semester studying recent Mexican history. Our look at history will focus primarily upon the twentieth century, looking particularly at the Mexican Revolution, its antecedents, causes, and aftermath. In the second part of the course we will study authoritarianism and clientelism. This section will address the single-party authoritarian state that was set up in Mexico after the revolution. Under single-party authoritarianism, the PRI (Institutionalized Revolutionary Party) held presidential elections every six years and won every election. In this second section of the course we will learn how it was possible to run both elections and authoritarianism. Mexico finally moved to democracy and an electoral calendar in 2000, although movement in that direction began considerably before that year. In the final section of the course we will study Mexico's current electoral democracy, both its achievements and its limitations. We will look, as well, at what democracy has meant for the rural poor and the extent to which political pluralism has seeped down to the grassroots level.

Requirements: You are required to read six books and 5 articles. The books are on sale at the various Florida book stores or will be available on reserve at Smathers Library. If you are reading this after August 6, you probably do not have time to purchase the first books on line. Given the advanced nature of this class, we will be reading some new literature, both new books and recently published articles. The total cost of the books is high, primarily because many of them are very new. If you are starting with this syllabus in early summer, you will also have time to order the books online. If you are looking at the books for the first time at the start of the fall semester, you will not have time to order them online. All the articles can be had online. You can go to the library and access them there or you can use your gatorlink ID or your library bar code to sign on from outside the library. Then go to the link for journals and type in the name of the journal. Once you get the journal, type in the year and issue number. That will give you a PDF version of the article which you can either read online or print off.

Grading: About half (40-50%) of your total grade will come from a series of pop quizzes that will be administered in the first fifteen minutes of class periodically throughout the semester. The quizzes will ask about the reading for that particular day. Another 20% of your grade will be based upon class attendance. Attendance of class sessions will be recorded, and attendance expressed as a percentage rate will account for 20% of the final grade. This means that if you are there 80% of the time you get an 80% on attendance. I will be taking attendance each day. The remainder of your grade, about 30%, will depend upon a written final exam.

Overview: This class is for students who have a serious interest in contemporary Mexican politics. There is a fair amount of reading and students will be required to present some parts of the reading in class. The class is oriented toward students who intend to come to class every time the class meets, who intend to arrive on time so that they can take the pop quiz if there is one, and who have read the required reading by the day that it is required. Staying up with the reading will be the only way to do well on the quizzes.

required books (6)

1. Ramon Eduardo Ruiz, *Triumphs and Tragedy: A History of the Mexican People*, W.W. Norton, 1992 0393320663
2. Susan Eckstein, *The Poverty of Revolution: The State and the Urban Poor in Mexico*, Princeton, 2007, newly back in print, now in paper, original publication date 1977 0691022828

3. Beatriz Magaloni, *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and Its Demise in Mexico*, Cambridge, 2006 0521862477
4. John Cross, *Informal Politics: Street Vendors and the State in Mexico City*, Stanford, 1998 0804730628
5. Jorge Dominguez and James McCann, *Democratizing Mexico: Public Opinion and Electoral Choices*, Hopkins, 1998 0801860938
6. Jonathan Fox, *Accountability Politics: Power and Voice in Rural Mexico*, Oxford, 2008 0199208859

required articles (5)

1. Jonathan Fox, "The Difficult Transition from Clientelism to Citizenship," *World Politics*, Vol 46, # 2, January, 1994, pp 151-184
2. Jonathan Fox, "Latin America's Emerging Local Politics," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol 5 # 2, April, 1994
3. Chappell Lawson, "Fox's Mexico At Midterm," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol 15, # 1, January, 2004
4. Andreas Schedler, The Mobilization of Distrust, *Journal of Democracy*, Vol 18, # 1, January, 2007
5. Jorge Castaneda and Marco Morales, Looking to the Future, *Journal of Democracy*, Vol 18, # 1, 2007

Part I: Recent Mexican History: The Mexican Revolution and Its Aftermath

<u>Date</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
August 23	first class: pass out syllabus
August 25	Ruiz, first half of book
August 30 and September 1	no class this week, read Ruiz
September 6-8	Ruiz, second half of book

Part II: Authoritarianism and Clientelism: Mexico's Single-Party System and PRI Domination

September 13-15	Eckstein, pp 1-150
September 20-22	Eckstein, pp 151-end
September 27-29	Fox, <i>World Politics</i> , 1994
	Magaloni, entire book
October 4-6	Cross, entire book

Part III: Exiting Authoritarianism: The Emergence of Mexican Democracy

October 11-13	Fox, <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 1994; Dominguez and McCann, entire book
October 18-20	Fox, <i>Accountability Politics</i> , Chaps 1-5
October 25-27	Fox, <i>Accountability Politics</i> , Chaps 6-10
November 1-3	Lawson, <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 2004
November 8-10	Schedler, <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 2007 Castaneda and Morales, <i>Journal of Democracy</i> , 2007
November 15-17	Overview, catch up class
November 22	Overview continues, Review for Final
November 24	Thanksgiving: no class
December 6	Final Exam