HISTORY 153 – History of Mexico

Fall 2026 / Section 81243 / Fully Online in Canvas-no scheduled meetings

This course will examine the creation and development of Mexican political, economic, social, and cultural institutions from pre-Columbian times to the present. We will review these historical processes as they relate to Mexicans and Mexican Americans living in the U.S. Topics include pre-Columbian cultures of Mesoamerica, the Spanish conquest of Mexico, colonial society, the independence movement, the development of a national consciousness, the U.S. acquisition of Mexican territory, the Mexican Revolution, immigration to the United States, and other critical contemporary topics. Attention will be given to theories and understanding of race, culture, and politics and their related issues. You may be required to work in assigned groups, participate in presentations and discussions, and you will be pushed to be an active learner in this class! Sharing your thoughts, both out loud and in writing, is a skill that takes time and practice, so you'll get ample opportunities to build it. You'll have chances to work in groups, participate in presentations and discussions, and I'll encourage you to be an active learner in this class – yes, even online! There is a LOT of reading and writing required for this course, so prepare now to spend a lot of your time in both activities. Together we get to learn the rich and wonderful history of Mexico!

****You should expect to write the equivalent of 15-20 pages (3750-5000 words) for this course in variety of assignments that may include: short or long answer essay exams/quizzes, research projects, identifications and/or historical reflections/journals throughout the duration of the course.****

Figure 1 Llegada de los generales Zapata y Villa al Palacio Nacional, Arnold Belkin, 1978, Chapultepec Castle

Figure 2 Movie Poster for "Doña Diabla" (1950) starring Maria Felix

[My hope is] that historians claim a stronger voice in the public sphere to talk about the present under the light of the past. This does not mean we have to become antiquarians who claim there is nothing new under the sun, or determinists that try to establish the laws of evolution. We can help shaping historical discussions that will make sense of the present with a proper historical perspective. We can compare places and times, and remind the public that their horizon should not be an op-ed about the last five years, or a rigid school narrative about the last two hundred years. Today that operation is more important than ever… --Pablo Piccato, History Professor, Columbia University

---

Instructor Information:

Megan Lange: **CANVAS INBOX PREFERRED**
714.564.6543
lange_megan@sac.edu
Office Location: D-407
Office Hours: by appointment – phone/Zoom/Pronto
Website: www.langemegan.com

College Mission: Santa Ana College inspires, transforms, and empowers a diverse community of learners.

Student Learning Outcomes:

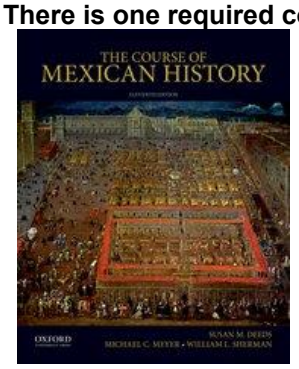
Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

1) Critically analyze and interpret primary documents and secondary sources, and will be able to interpret qualitative and quantitative data in order to evaluate historical events;
2) Develop communication skills through oral and written exercises, and develop analytical skills by critically interpreting historical events;
3) Analyze how local, national, and international policies and practices developed in the past continue to impact your contemporary life.

Course Requirements:

The study of history involves a lot of reading and analyzing content. As such, this course requires a lot of reading and writing. You will be given detailed instructions and grading rubrics for each assignment, and all assignments are due on the date they are listed on the calendar.

There is one required course text:



The Course of Mexican History, 11th ed.
By Susan M. Deeds, Michael C. Meyer, & William L. Sherman
ISBN: 978-019065-9011

There is one copy of this text on reserve at the SAC Library – plan accordingly. Reading assignments and other materials not found in the required textbooks will be made available and stored in Canvas. Check the Nealley Library website for hours and specifics on how and when to use the textbook on reserve.

Canvas

HIST 153 is fully online using CANVAS as the learning platform. You can access Canvas through the SAC website, or by going directly to http://rsccd.instructure.com –use your Self-Service username and password to login and choose "HIST 153" from your course list to access our course shell. If you attempt to login but are unable to do so, try following the steps outlined by the Distance Education Office. If you have other questions about Canvas and how it works, you can ask me or you can call their Help Desk at 1-844-612-7428 – it's a good number to save! **Please send all questions about the schedule and course content to me using the "Inbox" tool in Canvas (it works just like email).**

Is this your first fully online course? Great - welcome! I highly recommend that you complete the Quest for Online Success available to all SAC students. Even if you are not new to online, you may be new to SAC or to Canvas, and this training component will help you get prepared for a semester online at Santa Ana College. I will award 3pts of Extra Credit for proof of completion of this training course.

Course Policies:

Learning is the goal of this course; as such the classroom space to feel safe and open to everyone. Respecting yourself, your classmates and me, helps make our discussions lively and productive. Differing opinions aren't just OK here – they're encouraged! I will jump into discussions from time to time to add a question or to clarify something that was posted.

Attendance/Class Participation:

Since we don't meet face to face in a classroom, the guidelines for attendance differ slightly, but I'll still keep an eye on your activity in the course, including time spent on certain tasks, through Canvas. I'd encourage you to log in daily, at least for the first few weeks, while you get a feel for the weekly rhythm of the course.

To help make sure everyone gets off to a good start, there are three preliminary milestones to complete to stay enrolled in the class:

1. **Log in to the course shell by MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 11:59pm; students who have not logged in by then may be dropped from the course.**
2. **Review the Course Information module in its entirety, and complete the introductory/syllabus quiz by THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 11:59pm.**
3. **Post a reply to Discussion 1, Introductions -Week 1, by THURSDAY, AUGUST 20 as well as two responses to your peers by Monday, August 24, 11:59pm.**

Missing these early deadlines may result in being dropped from the course, and the same is true later in the semester if you go quiet for more than a week. Please reach out to me early and often if you're running into difficulties, whether it's technology, scheduling, or anything else — I'd much rather help you stay on track than see you fall behind. I'm on your side here, so keep me in the loop!
The last day to drop the course **without** a "W" is AUGUST 30, 2026; **with** a "W" is NOVEMBER 8, 2026.

Grading Policy:

Assignments and exams will be given points according to the following scale:

- Weekly Discussions (10 total) = 150 points (15 points each)
- Primary Source Analyses (PSA) (3 total) = 90 points (30 points each)
- ¡Viva Mexico! Presentation/ Annotated Bibliography = 125 points
- DLA/DOTA (completed through the Learning Center) = 15 points
- Chapter Quizzes (12 total) = 60 points (5 points each)
- Readiness Quizzes (2 total) = 20 points (10 points each)
- Exams (2 total) = 70 points (35 points each)
- TOTAL = 530 points

Your percentage achievement will be computed by dividing your cumulative point total by 530.

Please note that ***missing assignments will be automatically scored with half credit***. While this helps maintain accuracy in final grade calculation, it is certainly insufficient for a passing final score. I really encourage you to complete as many assignments as you can — they're designed to deepen your understanding of the material and help you grow as a communicator!

Extra credit opportunities will be offered throughout the semester, but total point value will not exceed 5% (26 points) of total possible points. **All extra credit and late work must be completed and submitted by TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24 to be considered for credit.**

You can check your grade at any time via Canvas GRADES.

The following grading scale will be applied:

A	**90-100 %**	**477+ points**
B	**80-89%**	**424-476**
C	**70-79%**	**371-423**
D	**60-69%**	**318-370**
F	**59% or below**	**317 or below**

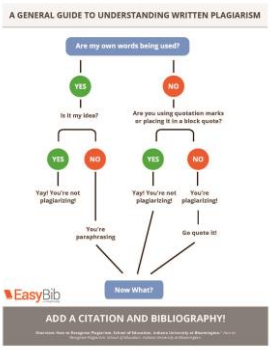
Late Work: There is a lot to cover in this course, so keeping up with deadlines really matters. That said, I understand that "life happens" and there may be some weeks when you need a little extra flexibility. That's why you can choose ten (10) of the available sixteen (16) module discussion posts to complete – pick the ones that work best for your schedule and that you find most interesting! ***I do not accept late discussion posts,*** but if you miss a module, it doesn't count against you - you only need to complete 10 of the 16 (week 1 is your first discussion and is required). Each initial post you provide for the discussion is due by Thursday night and your peer responses are both due Mondays. Any discussion forum that you participate in above the required 10 is worth 4pts Extra Credit!

Each week there is also a chapter quiz (the orientation quiz and the primary/secondary source quiz are required) for you to complete by Thursday, with a four-day grace period for late submissions at a minimum 10% deduction. I do not accept late submissions for exams. As always, I encourage you to communicate early and often with me if you're finding it tough to stay on track in the course. One heads-up: technology or internet issues aren't grounds for an extension, since online students are expected to have regular, reliable access to the course site throughout the semester, including at times working on a desktop or laptop as not all aspects of Canvas are accessible through mobile device apps. (This may mean you need to visit the Academic Computing Center to submit assignments.) Planning ahead is key!

A couple of good rules to follow: save your work in a document on your computer in addition to the submission field, and do not wait until the last second to attempt a submission (often everyone else is trying to submit at the same time and the system/site tends to be overwhelmed).

Education Plan: Do You Have an Education Plan? An education plan is essential to completing your education and to ensuring that every class you take counts toward your college graduation and toward getting a job or moving forward with your professional development. If you have not worked out an education plan with a Santa Ana College counselor, contact the counseling office and schedule an appointment. Do it today!

Academic Honesty - Cheating and Plagiarism:



From the current Student Catalog: *"The following conduct shall constitute good cause for discipline, including but not limited to the removal, suspension, or expulsion of a student, except for conduct that constitutes sexual harassment under Title IX, which shall be addressed under Interim AR 3425 Title IX (9) Sexual Harassment (Interim).*

A. Dishonesty, cheating, plagiarism, lying, or knowingly furnishing false information to the district or a college official performing their duties."

Limited sanctions include an academic action such as assigning a lower grade or a grade of "F" for the assignment, project, or test. College-wide sanctions include any sanction that will affect a student's standing with the college-at-large, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the college. If you don't feel entirely clear on what constitutes plagiarism, I am more than happy to work with you! We will practice using Chicago-Style citations in this history class, a standard for the history discipline.
When in doubt, cite your source.

AI Use Policy:

- Allowed: Using AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Grammarly, Canvas) to polish writing—grammar, clarity, sentence flow.
- Not allowed: Using AI to generate ideas, arguments, analysis, or any substantive content.
- Required: All ideas and analysis must come exclusively from course materials—lectures, discussions, and the assigned textbook.
- Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools, beyond the polishing use described above. Remember, we're practicing the skill of communicating our own ideas and thoughts – don't "outsource" your thinking!

My goal is to assess how well you've learned and can communicate the historical content, not how well you can prompt an AI. Just a reminder: I can only give credit for work that's genuinely your own.

Available Support Services (Tutors, Writing Lab): If you require extra academic support at any time throughout the semester, contact me. The SAC Learning Center offers remote tutoring to assist you with your reading and

writing skills. See their webpage for more details. In addition, I am more than happy to help you with supplementary study resources. NetTutor is also available, accessible through our course shell. I will grant 5pts of extra credit with proof of your first (and only the first) visit with a tutor, either through the Learning Center or NetTutor.

Students With Disabilities: Please speak with me directly regarding any special accommodations you require in this course. Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are also encouraged to contact Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion (714-564-6295; hours: M-TH 8:00am-5:30pm, W 5:30-7:00pm for appointments only & F 8:00am-12pm). Please meet with DSPS Staff to verify your eligibility for any classroom accommodations and for Academic assistance related to your disability. DSPS is located in the Johnson Student Center, JSC-108.

The Health and Wellness Center offers quality short-term care to support your academic success. Their diverse team provides both in-person and telehealth services, including physical and mental health care; most services are free for currently enrolled Santa Ana College and School of Continuing Education students. To schedule an appointment with a Nurse, Physician, or Psychologist, visit them in Johnson Student Center - 110, or call (714) 564-6216.

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-4:30pm and Friday, 8:00am-11:30am.
For after-hours or weekend emergencies:
1) Call the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988.
2) Text COURAGE to 741-741 (Crisis Text Line).
3) Contact the OC WarmLine for free emotional support at (714) 991-6412.

Sexual Harassment: It is the policy of the Rancho Santiago Community College District to provide an educational, employment and business environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct or communications constituting sexual harassment, as defined and otherwise prohibited by State and Federal law. The Rancho Santiago Community College District forbids any form of sexual harassment. Prompt disciplinary action will be taken against any student or employee engaging in sexual harassment. If you feel that you have been the victim of sexual harassment please contact Jennifer De La Rosa, the Deputy Title IX [pronounced "nine"] Coordinator, at (714) 564-6211 / titleix@sac.edu OR if you are the victim of sexual assault call 9-1-1 OR visit the campus Wellness Center.

Students with Undocumented Status: I am an unapologetic and unafraid trained ally to undocumented students and their families. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns about your status or would like guidance toward resources to ensure your success while at Santa Ana College. Check out our college website dedicated to informing the community about undocumented-related resources (i.e. AB540, DACA, financial aid, etc.).

SAC Pride!: now has a dedicated faculty liaison as well as a dedicated counselor and a Pride! student space is coming soon too! You can get contact information as well as access to additional resources through the SAC Pride! home page and you can always ask me for more information as well. I am proud to affirm LGBTQIA2S+ students!

No Trolls: Learning is the goal of this course; as such the classroom space is a safe and open space, conducive to learning. Respect for yourself, fellow classmates and me, the instructor, is required for lively and productive discussion. Dissenting opinions are not only tolerated, but they are encouraged. "Trollish" behavior, however, in the online environment is not permitted and will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to removal of remarks, exclusion from discussion(s) or zero points. A troll is defined as someone who deliberately

starts quarrels or posts inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic responses to elicit a negative emotional response from a target. We can (and will!) disagree, but let's do so respectfully.

In Case of Emergency: Download the Rave Guardian app to easily communicate your whereabouts and other safety concerns with campus staff. In addition, follow directions on text and email notifications sent by the school. We will review exit or shelter-in-place strategies.

*****This syllabus is subject to change at any time and all currently enrolled students will be updated accordingly.*****

Calendar/Schedule of Class Readings, Topics, And Assignments

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT(S) – Quizzes & Initial Discussion Posts due Thursdays; Peer replies/quiz extension due Mondays (unless otherwise noted)
WEEK 1 August 17-24 Module 1	Introductions Syllabus review What is history? Overview of content	**Profile Update** **Introduction Discussion Week 1 (required – choose 9 more throughout the semester for full credit);** **Orientation/Syllabus Quiz (required – choose 12 more chapter quizzes throughout the semester for full credit)**
WEEK 2 August 25-31 Module 2 LAST DAY TO DROP W/OUT 'W' 08/30	Introduction to Mesoamerica	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 1, 2, & 3 *Course of Mexican History (CMH)* quiz
WEEK 3 September 1-7 Module 3 *Monday 9/7 Labor Day Holiday*	Mexica-Aztec Society What do we mean by "context"?	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 4, 5 & 6 *CMH* quiz
WEEK 4 September 8-14 Module 4	Spanish Conquest & Consequences	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 7, 8, & 9 *CMH* quiz **PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS 1 (*You can skip 1 PSA*)**
WEEK 5 September 15-21 Module 5	Colonial Society	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 10, 11, & 12 *CMH* quiz **PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS 2 (*You can skip 1 PSA*)**
WEEK 6 September 22-28 Module 6	Late Colonial Period & Independence	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 13, 14, 15, & 16 *CMH* quiz

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT(S) – Quizzes & Initial Discussion Posts due Thursdays; Peer replies/quiz extension due Mondays (unless otherwise noted)
WEEK 7 September 29-October 5 Module 7	The Early Mexican National Period	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 17, 18 & 19 *CMH* quiz **DLA/DOTA completed through the Learning Center**
WEEK 8 October 6-12 Module 8 *Monday 10/12 Indigenous People's Day* 	Reform Period & French Intervention	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 20, 21, & 22; *CMH* quiz **Mid-term Exam (Chapters 1-22)**
SMILE! You've reached the mid-way point of the session!		
WEEK 9 October 13-19 Module 9	The Porfiriato & Modernization	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 23, 24, & 25; *CMH* quiz **PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS 3 (*You can skip 1 PSA*)**
WEEK 10 October 20-26 Module 10	La Revolución *The Storm that Swept Mexico*	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 26, 27 & 28 *CMH* quiz **¡Viva México! Presentation Initial Planning summary**
WEEK 11 October 27-November 2 Module 11	Consequences of the Revolution	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 29 & 30 *CMH* quiz
WEEK 12 November 3-9 Module 12 LAST DAY TO DROP WITH 'W' 11/08	Constructing a New Post-Revolutionary Mexico	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 31 & 32 *CMH* quiz **PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS 4 (*You can skip 1 PSA*)**
WEEK 13 November 10-16 Module 13 *Tuesday 11/11 is Veteran's Day*	Institutionalization of the Revolution	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 33 & 34 *CMH* quiz
WEEK 14 November 17-23 Module 14	Modern Mexico: Politics & Society	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 35, 36, & 37 *CMH* quiz **¡Viva México! Presentation (uploaded in the discussion forum)**
WEEK 15 November 24-30 Module 15 *Thursday-Friday 11/26-27 is Thanksgiving Holiday*	Mexico Since 1988 Contemporary Mexico & Its Future	*Course of Mexican History*, chapters 38, 39, & 40 *CMH* quiz **¡Viva México! Presentation Peer Review**

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT(S) – Quizzes & Initial Discussion Posts due Thursdays; Peer replies/quiz extension due Mondays (unless otherwise noted)
WEEK 16 December 1-5 Module 16	Final Thoughts	FINAL EXAM due SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 11:59pm (chapters 23-40) NO EXCEPTIONS
***** CONGRATULATIONS! Enjoy your winter break! *****		

Do you know what *Satisfactory Academic Progress* means?

For financial aid purposes, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher and complete 67% of their attempted units (which includes all coursework). F, NP, and W grades will lower GPA and/or completion rate. Students not meeting satisfactory academic progress will be notified of an opportunity to appeal in Self-Service. If their appeal is approved, their financial aid will be reinstated. Students must also complete their educational program within a maximum time frame of 150% of the units required to complete that educational program. Example: A student who is registered in a program with 60 required units for completion is eligible for financial aid while attempting their first 90 units. For more information, Santa Ana College's SAP policy can be found at https://sac.edu/StudentServices/FinancialAid/Documents/SAP%20Policy.pdf