History of Guatemala
Syllabus

DESCRIPTION

This course will offer an in-depth history of Guatemala from the immediate pre-conquest period through the twentieth century. Through student readings, research and discussion, we will seek out the continuous threads that run though the course of Guatemalan history, including the relations between metropolis and periphery during the colonial era; the Liberal and Conservative discourses of state formation in the 19th century; the “modernizing” programs of the 20th century, and the polemical politics from the 1970s through the 1990s. In specific terms, the course will examine how the Guatemalan state’s ambiguous relationship with the majority Maya population, power relations between economic/social classes, and guiding political imperatives change over time. The class will explore how certain outside actors, such as the United Fruit Company, German coffee growers, the United States government, and Catholic and Protestant churches have impacted pivotal episodes in Guatemala’s history. Finally, we will examine the role that violence played in Guatemala’s on-going state formation project.

GRADING

Grades for this class will use the plus-minus system.

Grades will be based on:
1) journal (20%)
2) visual mapping project (30%)
3) short research paper based on primarily sources housed at CIRMA or through the online National Security Archive (40%)
4) class participation and attendance (10%)

CLASS POLICIES

Absences
Attendance is mandatory, every day. This includes fieldtrips. Failure to show up will negatively affect your grade. Please note that 10% of your grade is based on participation and attendance; this means you need to attend and actively take part in every class.

Electronics:
Please turn off your cellphone before you come to class.
Laptops/notebooks/IPads are permitted ONLY IF you are using them to take notes for the class If the temptation is too great to use them for other purposes during class (checking Facebook, Hulu, Wikipedia, etc), I reserve the right to ban them from class altogether.

Academic Honesty:
Plagiarism and dishonesty will not be tolerated. Anyone who cheats: that is, submits work that is not his or her own (including and especially work downloaded off the Internet), or turns in work that is recycled from another class will be given an F for the course. No excuses, no second chances.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Email: garrard@mail.utexas.edu
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Office hours: Tuesdays, 3-4. (Casa Herrera, library)

TEXTS:


Blackboard e-reader.

*Given time constraints, additional movies viewings may be in the evenings.

CALENDAR

Week 1
August 31: introduction
September 1: the Maya world of Antigua

Week 2
Sept. 5: Mayan and European worlds before the Encounter
    Read: Woodward, 1-12.
Sept. 6. Conquest of Guatemala
Sept. 7: Establishment of the colonial system: labor systems and demographic decline
Sept. 8: Africans in the Kingdom of Guatemala/ race and class

Week 3
Sept. 12: Social hierarchies and gender in colonial Guatemala
Sept. 13: The Kingdom of Guatemala
Sept. 14: Bourbon reforms/commodities and the 1773 earthquake
Sept. 15: Central American Independence Day-national holiday!

Week 3
Sept. 19: Mexican and Central American independence
Read: Woodward, 34-54
Sept. 20: The United Provinces of Central America
Read: Woodward, 55-74
Sept. 21: Mariano Galvez, Rafael Carrera, and the 1834 cholera epidemic (trip to Cathedral crypt)
Read: Woodward, 76-96.
Read: Reeves, Ladinos with Ladinos, Indians with Indians: pp 72-102
Sept. 22: Guatemala and the coffee industry (visit coffee finca on edge of Antigua)

Week 4
Sept. 26: Justo Rufino Barrios and the Liberal Reforma
Read: Woodward, 97-126
Sept. 27: The Civilizers: Germans in Guatemala (film)
Sept. 28: Dictator or Patron? Jorge Ubico
Read: Gleijeses, Piero, “The End of Ubico,” Shattered Hope: pp. 8-29
Read: Woodward, 127-129
FIELD TRIP OVER THE WEEKEND TO Lake Atitlán, Chichicastenango and Santiago Atitlán

Week 5
October 3: The Guatemala Revolution and the Counterrevolution (1950-1944)
October 4: Military Governments and guerrillas in the 1960s (National Security Archive)
   Read: Woodward, 143-153
October 5: The 1976 earthquake and La Violencia
   Read: Menzal, I, “Green Berets in Guatemala,” Dictators, Drugs & Revolution- pp 55-117

October 6: Presentation day for Visual Mapping project

Week 6
October 10: Film: When the Mountains Tremble
October 11: Work day for final papers
October 12: Dia de la Raza: yet another national holiday!
October 13: Papers due