

**Politics of Mexico** | University of Houston  
**POLS 3321** | Fall 2015  
Monday and Wednesday | Francisco Cantú  
2:30-3:50 p.m. | [fcantu10@uh.edu](mailto:fcantu10@uh.edu)  
Agnes Arnold Hall 15

This course is an introduction to contemporary Mexican politics. The course is divided in two sections. First, we will identify the actors and institutions in the political arena from the Mexican Revolution to the present. Second, we will review and discuss some of the modern actors involved in the political development of the country. The goals for this course are (1) to being competent explaining the factors and (2) to develop your analytical and writing skills. Although always helpful, no previous knowledge of Mexican politics is required.

### Format

We will meet twice a week for the duration of the semester. There are assigned readings for each lecture, and students are expected to come to each class having read all the required material. Class lectures are not a substitute for the readings or vice versa. The material from lectures and readings will be complemented with film sessions and a collective blog for the course.

### Course Requirements

**Quizzes:** At the beginning of every lecture, students must answer a short question about the readings assigned to that day. There will not be trick questions and the answers will be obvious for those who read the material. Quizzes missed due to absences or late arrival cannot be made up. When estimating your final grade, I will drop out your three lowest quizzes.

### Writing Assignments:

**Blog posts:** The blog for the course is located at <http://politicsofmexico.tumblr.com>. The purpose of the blog is to discuss current issues in Mexico that cannot be extensively discussed in class. Each student is required to post two op-eds during the semester and comment at least three times in other students' postings. Each op-ed should focus to a contemporary problem or contingent event in Mexico and should demonstrate your ability to apply readings and topics from the course. Posts should amount 750 words and are due every Sunday at midnight. The schedule for posting and additional guidelines will be discussed the first day of class. I will use the same rubric to evaluate your blog posts and comments. Each op-ed is worth 15% of your final grade and your comments are worth 5%.

**Policy memos:** Students should submit two policy memos related to the case problems described in the last page of the syllabus. Each memo should amount 1000 words (excluding bibliography). You should bring a draft of your memo for the session at the Writing Center and submit the final version via Blackboard at the dates specified the first day of class.

### Grading

Op-eds	$2 \times 20\% + 5\% = 45\%$
Policy memos	$2 \times 15\% = 30\%$
Quizzes	20%
Participation	5%
Total	100%

Final letter grades will be calculated in an absolute scale as follows: A (94-100%), A- (90-93%), B+ (87-89%), B (84-86%), B- (80-83%), C+ (77-79%), C (74-76%), C- (70-73%), D+ (67-69%), D (64-66%), D- (60-63%), F (0-59%).

### **Electronic Devices**

Use of cell phones, laptops, or other electronic devices is not allowed during class. If you feel that your learning will be hampered by not having access to your laptop for note-taking or other legitimate purposes, please speak to me. Otherwise, keep your devices stowed away during class. If you wish to place or receive a call you must leave the room.

### **Disabilities**

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify both me and the Center for Students with DisAbilities (CSD).<sup>1</sup> You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriate accommodations.

### **Academic Integrity**

There will be a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism in any of the required activities for this course, and any violation will be penalized in the terms cited by the UH's Academic Dishonesty Policy.<sup>2</sup> Feel free to consult with me before submitting your essay if you have concerns about the correct way to reference the work of others.

### **Deadlines and extensions**

Unless very pressing (and fully documented) situations, extensions are not allowed.

### **Office Hours**

Tuesday 3:00-5:00 p.m. at 429 Philip Guthrie Hoffman Hall.

### **Teaching Assistant**

Emilia Barreto ([egbarretodecarvalho@uh.edu](mailto:egbarretodecarvalho@uh.edu)). Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:30 p.m. at 426 Philip Guthrie Hoffman Hall.

### **Readings**

The reading load is not burdensome, but the material may prove challenging. We will spend the two sessions of the semester clarifying the goals and techniques required to read the assigned material. At the beginning of every lecture, I will expect that you understand the basic argument of the readings as well that you expressed your questions and comments on the readings.

The course requires the following textbook:

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press.

The rest of the readings are available online on NB (<http://nb.mit.edu>), which is a collaborative text annotation tool that will help me and your peer-students to solve your specific questions on the readings before class. Additional information and instructions on how to sign up to the system will be provided during the first lecture. Please let me know if you have any economic restriction

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.uh.edu/csd/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/policies/academ-reg/academic-honesty/>

that may prevent you from obtaining the course material.

## **I. Mexico before 1982**

### **August 24. Logistics and Introduction of the Course**

No reading assigned.

### **August 26. The Mexican Revolution**

#### **Read:**

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 25-43

Brandenburg, F. (1964). *The Making of Modern Mexico*. Prentice Halls, Englewood Cliffs: 47-58

#### **Recommended:**

Cosío Villegas, D., editor (1974). *A Compact History of Mexico*. El Colegio de México: 110-129

Krauze, E. (1998). *Mexico: Biography of Power. A History of Modern Mexico, 1810-1996*. HarperPerennial, New York

Camín, H. A., Meyer, L., and Fierro, L. A. (1993). *In the Shadow of the Mexican Revolution: Contemporary Mexican History, 1910-1989*. University of Texas Press

Haber, S., Razo, A., and Maurer, N. (2004). *The Politics of Property Rights: Political Instability, Credible Commitments, and Economic Growth in Mexico, 1876-1929*. Cambridge University Press

Film: *The Storm that Swept Mexico* (Ray Trelles, 2011)

### **August 31. The Revolutionary Legacy**

#### **Read:**

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 43-53

Brandenburg, F. (1964). *The Making of Modern Mexico*. Prentice Halls, Englewood Cliffs: 58-78

#### **Recommended:**

Middlebrook, K. J. (1995). *The Paradox of Revolution*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore

Film: *The Last Zapatistas* (Francesco Taboada Tabone, 2002)

## September 2. Political Order

### Read:

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 128-130

Smith, P. H. (1979). *Labyrinths of Power: Political Recruitment in Twentieth-Century Mexico*. Princeton University Press: 242-277

“Mexico’s 1968 Massacre: What Really Happened?” (NPR) <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=97546687>

### Recommended:

Castañeda, J. G. (2000). *Perpetuating Power*. The New Press, New York: Introduction

Bethell, L., editor (1991). *Mexico since Independence*. Cambridge University Press: Chapters 3-6

## September 9. From Boom to Bust

### Read:

Haber, S., Klein, H. S., Maurer, N., and Middlebrook, K. J. (2008). *Mexico Since 1980*. Cambridge University Press, New York: 20-65

### Recommended:

Cárdenas, E. (2000). The process of accelerated industrialization in Mexico: 1920-1982. In *Industrialization and the State in Latin America: The Postwar Years*, volume 3 of *An Economic History of Twentieth-Century Latin America*. Palgrave, London

Urquidí, V. L. (2003). Mexico’s development challenges. In *Confronting Development: Assessing Mexico’s Economic and Social Policy Challenges*. Stanford University Press and Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies

Film: From Boom to Bust, 1940-1982 (PBS, 1988)

## II. Political Institutions

### September 14. The Executive Branch

#### Read:

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 189-196

Romero, V. (2013). Of love and hate: Understanding the determinants of presidential legacies. *Political Research Quarterly*, 67(1):123–135

**Recommended:**

- Weldon, J. A. (1997). Political Sources of Presidentialismo in Mexico. In Mainwaring, S. and Shugart, M. S., editors, *Presidentialism and Democracy in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press
- Weldon, J. A. (2002). The legal and partisan framework of the legislature delegation of the budget in Mexico. In Morgenstern, S. and Nacif, B., editors, *Legislative Politics in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press
- Castañeda, J. G. (2000). *Perpetuating Power*. The New Press, New York

**September 16. The Legislative Branch****Read:**

- Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 196-202
- Nacif, B. (2012). The fall of the dominant presidency: Lawmaking under divided government in Mexico. In Camp, R. A., editor, *The Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics*, pages 234–261. Oxford University Press

**Recommended:**

- Fernández-Albertos, J. and Lapuente, V. (2010). Doomed to disagree? Party-voter discipline and policy gridlock under divided government. *Party Politics*, pages 1–22
- Molinar, J. and Weldon, J. A. (2001). Reforming electoral systems in Mexico. In Shugart, M. S. and Wattenberg, M., editors, *Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: The Best of Both Worlds*, pages 209–230. Oxford University Press
- Weldon, J. A. (2001). The Consequences of Mexico's Mixed-Member Electoral System, 1988-1997. In *Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: The Best of Both Worlds?* Oxford University Press, Oxford
- Rosas, G. and Langston, J. (2011). Gubernatorial effects on the voting behavior of national legislators. *Journal of Politics*, 73:477–493
- Casar, M. A. (2010). Executive-legislative relations: Continuity or change? In Selee, A. and Peschard, J., editors, *Mexico's Democratic Challenges: Politics, Government, and Society*, pages 117–134. Woodrow Wilson Press Center
- Nacif, B. (2002). Understanding party discipline in the Mexican Chamber of Deputies. In Morgenstern, S. and Nacif, B., editors, *Legislative Politics in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press

**September 21. The Judicial Branch****Read:**

- Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 202-208
- Edmonds-Poli, E. and Shirk, D. (2011). *Contemporary Mexican Politics*. Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, MD, 2 edition: 303-324

### **Recommended:**

- Shirk, D. (2010). Justice reform in Mexico: Change and challenges in the judicial sector. In Olson, E. L., Shirk, D., and Selee, A., editors, *Shared Responsibility: U.S.-Mexico Policy Options for Confronting Organized Crime*, pages 205–246. Woodrow Wilson Press Center and University of San Diego
- Magaloni, B. and Zepeda, G. (2004). Democratization, judicial and law enforcement institutions, and the rule of law in Mexico. In *Dilemmas of Political Change in Mexico*, pages 168–197. Institute of Latin American Studies, University of London; Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, UCSD
- Sánchez, A., Magaloni, B., and Magar, E. (2011). Legalist versus interpretivist. the supreme court and the democratic transition in Mexico. In Helmke, G. and Rios-Figueroa, J., editors, *Courts in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press, New York
- Zamora, S. and Cosío, J. R. (2005). Mexican constitutionalism after presidencialismo. *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 4(2)
- Zepeda, G. (2004). *Crimen Sin Castigo*. CIDAC, Mexico City
- Film: Presumed Guilty (Roberto Hernández and Geoffrey Smith, 2008)

### **September 23. Federalism**

#### **Read:**

- Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 208-214
- Gibson, E. L. (2013). *Boundary Control: Subnational Authoritarianism in Federal Democracies*. Cambridge University Press, New York: 112-147

#### **Recommended:**

- Wuhs, S. (2013). From centralized authoritarianism to desarticulated democracy? In Loughlin, J., Kincald, J., and Swenden, V., editors, *Routledge Handbook of Regionalism and Federalism*. Routledge
- Díaz-Cayeros, A. (2006). *Federalism, Fiscal Authority, and Centralization in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press
- Díaz-Cayeros, A. (2003). Decentralization, democratization, and federalism in Mexico. In *Dilemmas of Change in Mexican Politics*. Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, La Jolla

### **September 28. The Institutionalized Revolutionary Party (PRI)**

#### **Read:**

- Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 253-255
- Langston, J. (2012a). The dinosaur that evolved: Changes to the PRI's gubernatorial candidate selection, 1980-2009. In Camp, R. A., editor, *The Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics*, pages 143–166. Oxford University Press

**Recommended:**

- Langston, J. (2012b). *Party Change. Mexico's PRI, from Hegemony to Democracy, 1980 to 2006*. Book manuscript Chapter 3
- Estévez, F., Díaz-Cayeros, A., and Magaloni, B. (2008a). A house divided against itself: The PRI's survival after hegemony. In Wong, J. and Friedman, E., editors, *Learning to Lose: Dominant Party Systems and their Transitions*. Routledge
- Ames, B. (1970). Bases of support for Mexico's dominant party. *American Political Science Review*, 64(1):153–167
- Craig, A. L. and Cornelius, W. A. (1995). Houses divided. parties and political reform in Mexico. In Mainwaring, S. and Scully, T., editors, *Building Democratic Institutions: Party Systems in Latin America*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California
- Langston, J. (2007). Strong parties in a struggling party system: Mexico in the democratic era. In Webb, P. and White, S., editors, *Party politics in new democracies*. Oxford University Press, New York

**September 30. The National Action Party (PAN)****Read:**

- Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 246-249
- Wuhs, S. T. (2014). The Partido Acción Nacional as a right party. In Luna, J. P. and Rovira Kaltwasser, C., editors, *The Resilience of the Latin American Right*, pages 219–241. John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore

**Recommended:**

- Lujambio, A. (2001). Democratization through federalism? The National Action Party strategy, 1939-2000. In Middlebrook, K. J., editor, *Party Politics and the Struggle for Democracy in Mexico*, pages 47–94. Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla
- Magaloni, B. and Moreno, A. (2003). Catching all souls: Religion and ideology in the PAN. In Mainwaring, S. and Scully, T., editors, *Christian Democracy in Latin America: Electoral Competition and Regime Conflicts*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, California.
- Shirk, D. (2001). Mexico's democratization and the organizational development of the National Action Party. In Middlebrook, K. J., editor, *Party Politics and the Struggle for Democracy in Mexico*, pages 47–94. Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla p. 47-94

## **October 5. The Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD)**

### **Read:**

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 249-253

Bruhn, K. (2008). The evolution of the mexican left. In Castañeda, J. G. and Morales, M. A., editors, *Leftovers: tales of the Latin American left*. Routledge, New York

### **Recommended:**

Bruhn, K. (1998). The partido de la revolución democrática: Diverging approaches to competition. In Serrano, M., editor, *Governing Mexico: Political Parties and Elections*, pages 114–137. Institute of Latin American Studies. University of London

Mossige, D. (2013). *Mexico's Left. The Paradox of the PRD*. First Forum Press, Boulder, CO

Semo, E. (2006). What is left of the mexican left? *Latin American Perspectives*, 33(2)

## **October 7. Writing Center Session**

## **October 11. First Policy Memo is Due at Midnight**

## **October 12. Film: La Ley de Herodes**

## **III. Elections and Democratization**

## **October 14. Elections under a single-party regime**

### **Read:**

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 220-227

Simpser, A. and Hernández Company, J. A. (2014). Fraud is not a last resort. Working Paper

### **Recommended:**

Gillingham, P. (2012). Mexican elections, 1910-1994: Voters, violence, and veto power. In Camp, R. A., editor, *The Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics*, pages 53–72. Oxford University Press

Magaloni, B. (2006). *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and Its Demise in Mexico*. Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1

Dominguez, J. I. and Poiré, A. (1998). *Toward Mexico's Democratization: Parties, Campaigns, Elections, and Public Opinion*. Routledge



## October 19. Democracy through the ballot box

### Read:

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 227-232

Preston, J. and Dillon, S. (2004). *Opening Mexico: The Making of a Democracy*. Farrar Straus and Giroux, New York: 3-29

### Recommended:

Greene, K. F. (2007). *Why Dominant Parties Lose: Mexico's Democratization in Comparative Perspective*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge: Chapter 7

Eisenstadt, T. A. (2004). *Courting democracy in Mexico: party strategies and electoral institutions*. Cambridge University Press

Schedler, A. (2000). The democratic revelation. *Journal of Democracy*, 11(4)

Díaz-Cayeros, A. (2003). Decentralization, democratization, and federalism in Mexico. In *Dilemmas of Change in Mexican Politics*. Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, La Jolla.

Magaloni, B. (2006). *Voting for Autocracy: Hegemonic Party Survival and Its Demise in Mexico*. Cambridge University Press: Chapter 3

## October 21. Contemporary elections

### Read:

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 232-246

Lawson, C. (2007). How did we get here? Mexican democracy after the 2006 elections. *Political Science and Politics*

### Recommended:

Estévez, F., Magar, E., and Rosas, G. (2008b). Partisanship in non-partisan electoral agencies and democratic compliance: Evidence from Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute. *Electoral Studies*, 27:257-271

Hiskey, J. T. and Bowler, S. (2005). Local context and democratization in Mexico. *American Journal of Political Science*, 49(1):57-71

Magar, E. (2012). Gubernatorial coattails in Mexican congressional elections. *Journal of Politics*, 74(2):383-399

Cortina, J., Gelman, A., and Lasala Blanco, N. (2008). One vote, many Mexicos: Income and vote choice in the 1994, 2000, and 2006 presidential elections. Working Paper

Aparicio, J. (2006). Fraud or human error in Mexico's presidential election? *Voices of Mexico*, (77)

Bravo, J. (2011). Emigration and political engagement in Mexico. Working Paper

Flores-Macías, G. (2013). Mexico's 2012 elections: The return of the pri. *Journal of Democracy*, 24(1):128-141

**October 26. Film: 0.56% What Happened to Mexico? (Lorenzo Hagerman, 2010)**

**October 28. Electoral behavior**

**Read:**

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 82-111

**Recommended:**

Moreno, A. (2012). Who is the Mexican voter? In Camp, R. A., editor, *The Oxford Handbook of Mexican Politics*, pages 571–595. Oxford University Press

Chong, A., De La O, A. L., Karlan, D., and Wantchekon, L. (2015). Does corruption information inspire the fight or quash the hope? a field experiment in Mexico on voter turnout, choice and party identification. *Journal of Politics*, 77(1):55–71

Larreguy, H. (2013). Monitoring political brokers: Evidence from clientelistic networks in Mexico. Working Paper

Benton, A. (2013). The territorial logic of electoral manipulation in an electoral authoritarian regime: The case of Mexico. Working Paper

Díaz-Cayeros, A., Magaloni, B., and Ruiz Euler, A. (2012). Traditional governance, citizen engagement and local public goods: Evidence from Mexico. Working Paper

## **IV. Political Economy of Contemporary Mexico**

**November 2. Economic Stagnation**

**Read:**

Hanson, G. H. (2010). Why isn't Mexico rich? *Journal of Economic Literature*, 48(4):987–1004

**Recommended:**

Edwards, S. (1995). *Crisis and Reform in Latin America*. Oxford University Press: Chapter 10

Pastor, M. and Wise, C. (1998). Mexican style neoliberalism: State policy and distributional stress. In Wise, C., editor, *The Post-NAFTA Political Economy*. The Pennsylvania State University Press

Haber, S., Klein, H. S., Maurer, N., and Middlebrook, K. J. (2008). *Mexico Since 1980*. Cambridge University Press, New York

Lustig, N. (2001). Life is not easy: Mexico's quest for stability and growth. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 15(1):85–106

Levy, S. (2008). *Good intentions, bad outcomes : social policy, informality, and economic growth in Mexico*. Brooking Institution Press Chapter 10

## November 4. Inequality

### Read:

Esquivel, G. (2015). Extreme inequality in Mexico: Concentration of economic and political power. Technical report, OXFAM

### Recommended:

Scott, J., Esquivel, G., and Lustig, N. (2010). A decade of falling inequality in Mexico: Market forces or state action? In López-Calva, L. F. and Lustig, N., editors, *Declining Inequality in Latin America: A Decade of Progress?* Brookings Institution Press

Binelli, C. and Attanasio, O. (2010). Mexico in the 1990s: The main cross-sectional facts. *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 13(1):238–264

Guerrero, I., López-Calva, L. F., and Walton, M. (2009). The inequality trap and its links to low growth in Mexico. In Levy, S. and Walto, M., editors, *No Growth Without Inequality?*, pages 111–156. The World Bank, Washington DC

Villarreal, A. (2010a). Nafta and the Mexican economy. Technical report, Congressional Research Service

Elizondo Mayer-Sierra, C. (2009). Perverse equilibria: Unsuitable but durable institutions. In Levy, S. and Walton, M., editors, *No Growth Without Inequality?*, pages 157–202. The World Bank, Washington DC

## November 9. Poverty policies

### Read:

Levy, S. (2006). *Progress Against Poverty*. The Brookings Institution, Washington D.C Chapter 2.

De La O, A. L. (2015). *Crafting Policies to End Poverty in Latin America*. Cambridge University Press:134-149

### Recommended:

De La O, A. L. (2012). Do conditional cash transfers affect electoral behavior? evidence from a randomized experiment in Mexico. *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(1):1–14

Díaz-Cayeros, A., Magaloni, B., and Estévez, F. (2006). Clientelism and portfolio diversification: A model of electoral investment with applications to Mexico. In Kitschelt, H. and Wilkinson, S. I., editors, *Patrons of Policies*. Cambridge University Press, London

Molinar, J. and Weldon, J. A. (1994). Electoral Determinants and Consequences of National Solidarity. In Cornelius, W. A., Craig, A. L., and Fox, J., editors, *Transforming State-Society Relations in Mexico*. Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla

Dresser, D. (1994). Bringing the poor back in: National solidarity as a strategy for regime legitimation. In *Transforming State-Society Relations in Mexico*. Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla

Film: Los Olvidados (Luis Buñuel, 1950)

## **November 11. Interest Groups**

### **Read:**

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 143-188

### **Recommended:**

Middlebrook, K. J. (1989). The sounds of silence: Organised labour's response to economic crisis in Mexico. *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 21(2):195–220

Maloney, W. F. (2009). Mexican labor markets: Protection, productivity, and power. In Levy, S. and Walton, M., editors, *No Growth Without Inequality?*, pages 245–282. The World Bank

Lawson, C. (2002). *Building the Fourth Estate. Democratization and the Rise of a Free Press in Mexico*. University of California Press

del Villar, R. (2009). Competition and equity in telecommunications. In Levy, S. and Walton, M., editors, *No Growth Without Inequality?*, pages 321–364. The World Bank

Puryear, J. M., Santibañez, L., and Rocha, A. S. (2012). Education– breaking the constraints. In Loser, C. and Kohli, H., editors, *A New Vision for Mexico 2042*, pages 99–120. Centennial Group International

Vogl, T. (2012). Height, skills, and labor market outcomes in Mexico. NBER Working Paper No. 18318

## **November 16. Race and ethnicity**

### **Read:**

Villarreal, A. (2010b). Stratification by skin color in contemporary Mexico. *American Sociological Review*, 75(5):652–678

### **Recommended:**

Arceo-Gomez, E. O. and Campos-Vazquez, R. M. (2014). Race and marriage in the labor market: A discrimination correspondence study in a developing country. *American Economic Review*, 104(5):376–80

Aguilar, R. (2011). Social and political consequences of stereotypes related to racial phenotypes in Mexico. Working Paper

Inclán, M. (2009). Repressive threats, procedural concessions, and the zapatista wave of protests, 1994-2003. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 53(5):794–819

Trejo, G. (2012). *Popular Movements in Autocracies: Religion, Repression and Indigenous Collective Action in Mexico*. Cambridge University Press

## **November 18. Violence (I)**

### **Read:**

Guerrero, E. (2012). Organized crime and violence in Mexico, 2007-2010. In Philip, G. and Berruecos, S., editors, *Mexico's Struggle for Public Security: Organized Crime and State Responses*, pages 29–46. Palgrave Macmillan

Poiré, A. (2012). Fighting for security in Mexico. *ReVista, the Harvard Review of Latin America*, XI(2):23–25

### **Recommended:**

Shirk, D. (2011). The drug war in Mexico. Council Special Report 60, Council on Foreign Relations

Snyder, R. and Martínez, A. D. (2009). Drugs, Violence, and State-Sponsored Protection Rackets in Mexico and Colombia. *Colombia Internacional*, (70):61–91

Maurer, N. (2012). Criminal organizations and enterprise. *ReVista, the Harvard Review of Latin America*, XI(2):15–18

Kleiman, M. A. (2012). Targeting drug-trafficking violence in Mexico: An orthogonal approach. In Zedillo, E. and Wheeler, H., editors, *Rethinking the "War on Drugs" Through the US-Mexico Prism*, pages 125–136. Yale Center for the Study of Globalization

## **November 23. Violence (II)**

### **Read:**

Calderón, G., Robles, G., Díaz-Cayeros, A., and Magaloni, B. (Forthcoming). The beheading of criminal organizations and the dynamics of violence in Mexico's drug war. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*

### **Recommended:**

Dube, A., Dube, O., and García-Ponce, O. (2013). Cross-border spillover: U.s. gun laws and violence in Mexico. *American Political Science Review*, 107(03):397–417

Dube, O., García-Ponce, O., and Thom, K. (Forthcoming). From maize to haze: Agricultural shocks and the growth of the Mexican drug sector. *Journal of the European Economic Association*

Dell, M. (2015). Trafficking networks and the Mexican drug war. *American Economic Review*, 105(6):1738–79

Film: El Alcalde (Emiliano Altuna, Diego Enrique Osorno and Carlos Rossini, 2012)

## **November 30: Political Culture**

### **Read:**

Camp, R. A. (2014). *Politics in Mexico*. Oxford University Press: 59-81

Oppenheimer, A. (1996). *Bordering Chaos*. Little, Brown & Company, New York: 263-275

### **Recommended:**

Moreno, A. (2010). Citizens' values and beliefs towards politics: Is democracy growing attitudinal roots? In Selee, A. and Peschard, J., editors, *Mexico's Democratic Challenges: Politics, Government, and Society*, pages 29–49. Woodrow Wilson Press Center, Washington D.C

Fried, B., Lagunes, P., and Venkataramani, A. (2010). Inequality and corruption at the crossroads: A multi-method study of bribery and discrimination in Latin America. *Latin American Research Review*, 45(1):76–97

Bravo, J. (2011). Emigration and political engagement in Mexico. Working Paper

Almond, G. A. and Verba, S. (1963). *The Civic Culture; Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ

## **December 2. Writing Center Session**

## **December 6. Second Policy Memo is Due at Midnight**

## Op-ed

An Op-ed is a brief essay in a newspaper or magazine that expresses the personal opinion of an independent author. Along this semester, you need to write two Op-eds in our course blog. Each Op-ed should focus to a contemporary problem or contingent event in Mexico and demonstrate your ability to apply readings and topics from the course. Posts should amount 750 words and are due every Sunday at midnight. The schedule for posting and additional guidelines will be discussed the first day of class.

### Instructions:

- Choose an issue that you care about.
- Take seriously the challenge of adding something new to the public conversation, something you would like to have people read.
- Unfortunately, 750 words are seldom enough to solve any world's problem. Nevertheless, you can present a single point in a clear and persuasive way. The message you try to explain should be summarized in no more than two sentences.
- Hook the reader since the beginning getting to the point as fast as possible and persuading the reader that it is worth to spend more time reading your text.
- At the end of every paragraph you should tell readers why they should care about your point.
- Go beyond a simple analysis and propose a solution or recommendation.

Think about where you want to see it in print. As a suggestion, look for an op-ed you find interesting. Mentally annotate that editorial, looking for such aspects as an opening hook, placement of thesis statement, length of sentences, and the closing punch line. Consider the intended audience of the publication and the way in which your op-ed reaches that demographic. For excellent tips on writing in a clear and concise way for publishing take a look at The Economist's style guide: <http://www.economist.com/styleguide/introduction>.

Comments on other posts: Along the semester, you need to comment on at least three different posts from other students. I'll grade the comments using the same rubric that the one for evaluating your posts.

### Rubric:

Content	5 points
Organization	4 points
Style	4 points
Writing Center Appointment	2 points
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 15 points

## Policy memo

A policy memo is a short document providing information and recommendations to public decision-makers. Since policy makers have scarce time, they need reports that are well-organized, clear, and succinct. Policy memos describe the strength and vulnerabilities of a proposed policy by concisely analyzing the case and relying on evidence to support your points.

Unlike academic writing, policy writing should go to the point since the beginning and need to provide background of an issue and provide solutions in a very concise way.

For each of the policy memos you write for this course, you need to:

- Describe the case and its significance
- Provide evidence for the scope of the issue
- Explain the factors contributing to the issue
- Make recommendations, provide counter-arguments about your position, and rebutte the counter-arguments.

Additional suggestions on how to write your policy memo please visit:

[http://twp.duke.edu/uploads/media\\_items/policy-memo.original.pdf](http://twp.duke.edu/uploads/media_items/policy-memo.original.pdf)

<http://shorensteincenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Christopher-Stones-Memo-on-Memo-Writing.pdf>

Example: <http://www.hks.harvard.edu/content/download/66717/1239678/version/1/file/sample-policy-memo.pdf>

You are encouraged to bring evidence an additional materials from elsewhere, but you are required to use at least three of the recommended readings of the course.

Memos should be written in teams of three students. You will be graded by the collective work and individual performance. The first draft of the memo should be ready the night before our session at the Writing Center, where you will have the opportunity to receive feedback and suggestions on how to polish your memo. Submitting your first memo on time is worth 25% of your grade.

**Policy memo #1** (First draft: October 6 at midnight. Final draft: October 11 at midnight.)

You are advising the government of Houstonia, a country ruled by an hegemonic party for several decades. Elections in Houstonia are held next month and polls suggest that the hegemony of the ruling party is likely to finish. The President of Houstonia is very anxious about what it is going to happen and he confesses to his staff (you included) his two biggest concerns: (1) how his power will decrease by losing the legislative majority and (2) whether the party will survive outside of power. Your staff is making policy recommendations based on similar experiences elsewhere. Your colleagues are working on the cases of Turkey, Italy, and Taiwan; but everyone in the office knows you took a course in Mexican politics and expect you to write about it.



Write a policy memo choosing either of the President’s concerns on the Mexican case. The memo should:

- Identify and explain the institutional features for the executive-legislative relationship or the party structure were relevant for the Mexican case.
- Incorporate information from the additional readings you selected that complements the case study.
- Recommend whether the president should be worried or not and explains why.

**Policy memo #2** (First draft: December 2 at midnight. Final draft: December 7 at midnight.)

You are employed in the market research division of Lone Star Oil & Gas Co., an energy company that sells oil extraction technology. The company is considering to expand its business to the recently open Mexican sector, but it is concerned about whether it can operate effectively south the border. During the last meeting of the directive board, you heard concerns on (1) the stagnant economy, (2) the consequences of the rampant violence in the country, and (3) the potential problems of the company competing against the existent interest groups in the country.

Write a policy memo for your company that:

- Identifies one of the potential problems of the country regarding either of the board’s concerns. Explain the main characteristics of each feature and why they are important.
- Incorporates information from the additional readings you selected that complements the case study.
- Recommends whether Lone Star Oil & Gas Co. should enter this potential market and explains why.

Rubric:

Content	5 points
Recommendations	4 points
Audience	3 points
Sources	3 points
Style and mechanics	3 points
Work evaluation by your team members	3 points
First draft submission	7 points
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Total	28 points