

## History 134A Colonial Mexico

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Summer Session 1, 2016  
U.C. Santa Cruz  
M-W, 1-4:30 p.m.

Professor Matt O'Hara  
office: 537 Humanities  
email: mdohara@ucsc.edu  
office hours: M, 12-12:45 or appt.

### Course Description:

This course surveys the history of New Spain (colonial Mexico) from European contact in the early sixteenth century to the independence movement of the early nineteenth century. We will cover major social, political, economic, and cultural topics, including: pre-Columbian civilizations, early European incursions and Indigenous responses, economic systems and labor exploitation, religion and spirituality, the "two republic" model and other mechanisms of social control, and moments of unrest. Course materials include secondary sources by historians and an array of primary sources from the colonial era (e.g., native language writings in translation, Inquisition cases, paintings, and music).

We will also read a number of chapters and articles (marked with an asterisk under each week's reading assignments to distinguish them from the books). Apart from the books, all of the course readings are available on eCommons as well as in a course packet at the bookstore. You can either download the articles and print them out (for free) or purchase the course packet (for convenience). If you print out the articles, you will be expected to bring them to class, since we will refer to them during discussions. We will devote some time each week to the interpretation and analysis of our sources.

Additional articles, artwork, and other sources may be made available electronically via eCommons. I will announce any such materials in class.

### Required Texts (available at the Literary Guillotine):

Alan Knight, *Mexico: The Colonial Era* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2002)

Matthew O'Hara, *A Flock Divided: Race, Religion and Politics in Mexico, 1749-1857* (Duke University Press, 2010)

William Taylor, *Drinking, Homicide, and Rebellion in Colonial Mexico* (Stanford University Press, 1979)

*History 134A Course Pack*, available at the Literary Guillotine (again, please note that all of the materials in the coursepack can also be downloaded via eCommons).

### Course Requirements:

Midterm exam (20%)

6-7 page paper (30%)

Class participation (25%) – (class discussions and short writing assignments)

Final exam (25%)

Students are required to take a midterm and a final examination that will be based on the readings, lectures and any other materials assigned (e.g., images, films). The midterm and final will consist of identifications and brief essays. A paper will be due near the end of the term. We will discuss the paper assignment at more length on the first day of class. Active class participation is also required.

Please Note: If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me during my office hours in a timely manner, preferably in the first week of the quarter. Contact DRC at 459-2089 V, 459-4806 TTY.

Week One:

Day 1 (6/20): Indigenous Mesoamerica; Iberia in the Fifteenth Century; Early Encounters  
Day 2 (6/22): The Military and Biological Conquest; Non-conquests

Reading: Knight, pp. 1-31  
\* "Santo Oficio contra Dolores" (in class) (CP 1)  
\* Townsend, "Burying the White Gods: New Perspectives on the Conquest of Mexico" (Course Pack 1B)  
\* Russell, "The Conquest of Mexico, 1519-1521" (CP 1A)  
\* Las Casas, *Brevísima relación/An Account, Much Abbreviated...*, selections (CP 1C)  
\* "Second Letter of Hernán Cortes" (CP 1D) (in class)  
*Codex Mendoza*, selections (in class)

Week Two:

Day 1 (6/27): Political Structures; *relaciones geográficas*  
Day 2 (6/29): Religion; Mining and Labor Regimes; Film/Discussion *La otra conquista*

Reading: Knight, pp. 31-72; O'Hara, *Flock Divided* (Intro. and Chp. 1)  
\* Restall, "Invisible Warriors" (CP 2)  
\* Restall, "The Lost Words of La Malinche" (CP 3)  
\* "Orders Given to the Twelve" (CP 4)  
\* "The Lords and Holy Men of Tenochtitlán Reply to the Franciscans, 1524" (CP 4A)

Week Three:

Day 1 (7/4): **No class - Fourth of July Holiday**  
Day 2 (7/6): Mid-Colonial Politics/Indigenous-European Interactions/*títulos primordiales*;  
**Midterm Exam**

Reading: Knight, pp. 72-102, 150-185  
Taylor, *Drinking, Homicide, and Rebellion* (Intro-Chp. 3)  
\* Horn, "Spaniards in the Nahua Countryside: Dr. Diego de León and Nahuatl Land Sale Documents" (Early Seventeenth Century) (CP 5)

Week Four:

Day 1 (7/11): Gender, Honor, and Social Status; Casta Paintings  
Day 2 (7/13): Resistance to Empire: Insurrections, Revolts, and Rebellions; Cores and Peripheries; The Bourbon Reforms;

**Reading:** O'Hara, *Flock Divided* (Chp. 2-3), Knight, pp. 201-283; Taylor (Chp. 4-Conclusion)  
\* Lipsett-Rivera, "Scandal at the Church: José de Alfaro Accuses Doña Theresa Bravo and Others of Insulting and Beating His *Castiza* Wife, Josefa Cadena" (1782) (CP 8)  
\* Sor Juana, selected poetry/writing (CP 8A)  
\* "Santo Oficio contra Dolores" (CP 1, reread)  
\* Restall, "Under the Lordship of the King" (CP 6)  
\* Voekel, "Peeing on the Palace" (CP 11)  
\* O'Hara, "Orthodox Underworld" (CP 9)

Week Five:

Day 1 (7/18): Independence: Creole and Indigenous Perspectives; A Colonial Legacy?, **Paper Due**  
Day 2 (7/20):— **Final**

Reading: O'Hara, *Flock Divided* (Chp. 4-Conclusion); Knight, pp. 283-331  
\* Morelos, "Sentiments of the Nation" (CP 12)