

Course Syllabus

History 134A Colonial Mexico

U.C. Santa Cruz

Summer Session 1, 2022

Rachel Carson College, 240

Monday-Wednesdays 9-11:30 (first meeting, Wednesday, June 22)

Professor Matt O'Hara, email: mdohara@ucsc.edu

office hours: Thursdays, 11:30-12:30 via zoom, or in person by appointment. Zoom link available via Canvas, but please sign up for a calendar slot at least one day in advance!

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 republics" 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).

My learning goals for you are threefold: to help you learn about the history of this place and time, including the significance of the colonial past for Mexico's later history; to develop your historical thinking and analysis; to hone your written expression.

All of the course materials (a combination of book chapters, articles, primary sources, images) are available on Canvas. I *strongly* suggest you print the course readings so that you are able to access them and read offline (or get a copy of the course reader, which should be available by the end of this week).

Course Requirements:

- * Class Participation (including short "in-class" writings, discussion posts, reading responses, etc.) (27.5%)
- * Analyzing Historical Conversations (5%)
- * Reflection 1 (17.5%)
- * Paper drafting assignment (5%)

- * Optional Sentence outline (5% pts. added to your paper)
- * Paper (27.5%)
- * End-of-term reflection and synthesis (17.5 %)

We will discuss these assignments during the first week of class. Written descriptions of the course assignments will also be available on Canvas.

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.

Withdrawals/Adds/Drops: Are all handled via the summer session office, not by me or the History Department. This is different than Fall/Winter/Spring, when academic departments are involved in the process. There are no automatic drops in the summer! For more details, see the [Summer Session info](#) on Canvas or <https://summer.ucsc.edu/courses/add-drop-withdraw.html>