

PBPL 24901/SOCI 20251/LACS 24901: Trade, Development, and Poverty in Mexico

Autumn 2016; Tues./Thurs. 10:30-11:50 a.m., Cobb 301

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With a focus on the past two decades, this interdisciplinary course explores the impact of economic integration, urbanization, and migration on Mexico and, to a lesser extent, on the United States—in particular, working class communities of the Midwestern Rust Belt. The course will examine work and life in the borderland production centers; agriculture, poverty, and indigenous populations in rural Mexico; evolving trade and transnational ties (especially in people, food products and labor, and drugs) between the U.S. and Mexico; and trade, trade adjustment, and immigration policy.

Grading: 20% attendance and engagement 20% case study paper
 30% critical analyses (4 @ 7.5% each) 30% final paper

Attendance and Engagement: I expect students to attend and be engaged in all class meetings. An absence can only be excused if it is brought to our attention *before* class.

Screen policy: Screens are banned after class begins. This may inconvenience some of you, and may even be counterproductive in some ways (taking notes, look-ups, references to PDF readings, etc.), but I've found that maintaining a collective focus makes class sessions immeasurably better.

Critical Analyses: Four critical analyses (CAs) are due, one for each class section (you skip 1 of the 5). You choose which class each section. A CA is a short, analytic essay that:

- 1) is submitted at Canvas *before the beginning* of class **by 10:00 a.m.** (please note the time);
- 2) is 600-900 words long and includes a word count ("Tools" menu in Microsoft Word);
- 3) analyzes *all* (if there are more than three, three is enough) course materials *for that day*;
- 4) may reference other course readings or outside texts as you see fit;
- 5) hopefully helps jump start our class discussions about the readings;
- 6) and can be made up if late (no extensions), but will be graded down half a point per day.

Case Study: Choose a topic for independent study. Past topics include: the Zapatistas, junk-food taxes, Los Mineros, narcotrafficking, femicide in Juarez, call centers in Mexico City, Walmart's impact on Mexico, Oportunidades, CONASUPO, immigration policies, ecotourism, medical migrants. By 10/5, submit a **prospectus with biblio.** (200-400 words (excluding biblio.); half a point late penalty per day to case study grade) and indicate in which section of the class it fits (Part II, II, or IV) and if you'd like to present. Each section has its own due date for the **case study paper** (5-10 pages, double-spaced) and time slots for four slide-based voluntary **presentations** (5-6 min.). Extension requests are granted only if requested at least 24 hours ahead of deadline and if they specify a one- or two-day extension.

Final Paper: At the quarter's end there's a final essay assignment that requires integration of readings (6-12 pages, double-spaced) and insights from at least one student presentation. There will be three prompts, but I also welcome student-generated topics. Extension requests are granted only if requested at least 24 hours ahead of deadline and if they specify a one- or two-day extension.

Required Readings

- Chad Broughton. 2015. *Boom, Bust, Exodus: The Rust Belt, the Maquilas, and a Tale of Two Cities*.
- Sam Quinones. 2015. *Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic*.

Part I. Origins of Transnational Inequality, Development Paradigms, and Mexico's Opening

Background resources (in Files; optional): Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*, "So Close, Yet So Different"
Juan Gonzalez, "The Spanish Borderlands... (1810–1898)," *Harvest of Empire*, Chp. 2

Watch: "Harvest of Empire" (available to rent at Amazon)

WEEK 1

9/27 (Tu): Introduction

9/29 (Th): U.S.-Mexico Economic Integration: The NAFTA Era Begins

The North American Free Trade Agreement (excerpts)

Mankiw, *Principles of Economics*, Chp. 3, "Interdependence and the Gains from Trade" (11 pages)

Stiglitz, 2006, *Making Globalization Work*, Chp. 3, "Making Trade Fair" (40 pages; Chps. 1, 2 rec'd)

WEEK 2

10/4 (Tu): U.S.-Mexico Economic Integration: The NAFTA Era Begins

Mankiw, *Principles of Economics*, Chp. 9, "Application: International Trade" (19 textbook pages)

D. Harvey, *Brief History of Neoliberalism*, Intro, Chp. 1, "Freedom's Just Another Word" (pp. 1-38)

10/5 (W): **Due:** Case study prospectus with bibliography by Midnight at Canvas

Part II. The Rust Belt and the Borderlands: Production and Life in the NAFTA Era

Background resources (in Files; optional):

Fairbrother, "Economists, Capitalists, and the Making of Globalization," *AJS*

United Nations, "Human Rights, Violence Against Women, Mission to Mexico"

10/6 (Th): Rust Belt Layoffs and a Decade of Transitions

Broughton, *Boom, Bust, Exodus*, Chps. 11, 14, 16

NAFTA NOW, "[Success Stories: Caterpillar](#)"

Watch at home: [PBS, "Made in the USA"](#)

WEEK 3

10/11 (Tu): NAFTA and the Rise of the *Maquiladora* in Reynosa, Tamaulipas
Preston and Dillon, *Opening Mexico*, Chp. 7, "The Carlos Salinas Show" (pp. 181-187, 197-227)
Broughton, *Boom, Bust, Exodus*, Chps. 5 (Chp. 2 rec'd)
Davis, *Planet of Slums*, "The Urban Climacteric"
In-class film excerpt: "[Maquilapolis](#)"

10/13 (Th): Industrial Border: Work, Life, and the Unraveling
Broughton, *Boom, Bust, Exodus*, Chps. 9, 12, 17, Epilogue
Weil, "In Starr County, Texas..." *New York Times Magazine*
Guest: Benjamin Davis, Director of International Affairs, United Steelworkers
Case study presentations: The Rust Belt and the Borderlands

WEEK 4

10/18 (Tu): Mexico's Opening: Making an Initial Assessment
Jorge Castañeda, *Mañana Forever: Mexico and the Mexicans*, Chp. 6, "At Last..." (pp. 154-180)
Reports to skim in arriving at your assessment
PIIE Briefing, "Nafta at 20" (pp. 3-21)
CEPR, "Did NAFTA Help Mexico? An Assessment After 20 Years" (pp. 1-18)
Gerardo Esquivel, "Extreme Inequality in Mexico"
Case study presentations: The Rust Belt and the Borderlands

10/19 (W): Case study papers, Part II: The Rust Belt and the Borderlands by Midnight at Canvas

Part III. Mexican Hinterlands: Land, Drugs, the Indigenous, and Transnational Ties

Background resources (in Files; optional)

Assies, "Land Tenure and Tenure Regimes in Mexico: An Overview"
Wise, "Agricultural Dumping under NAFTA (2009)" (skim for main conclusions)
Malkin, "Narcotrafficking, Migration and Modernity in Rural Mexico," *LAP*
Patrick Radden Keefe, "Cocaine Incorporated," *NYT Magazine*

10/20 (Th): ¡Tierra y Libertad! Land, Power, and Agriculture in Rural Mexico
Broughton, *Boom, Bust, Exodus*, Chps. 7, 10, 15
Wilson Center, "Poverty Statistics Mexico"
"[Super Bowl success story: Mexico's avocados.](#)" *Christian Science Monitor*

WEEK 5

10/25 (Tu): An Evolving North American Food System: Production and Consumption
Los Angeles Times, "[Product of Mexico](#)" (four article and multimedia)
VICE News, [The Fruits of Mexico's Cheap Labor](#)
Clark et al., "Exporting Obesity," *IJOEH* (skim for findings)
NAFTA NOW, "[Success Stories: Grupo Modelo](#)"
Skype guest: Rich Marosi, *Los Angeles Times*

10/27 (Th): Drugs in Mexico: Entrepreneurs, Traffickers, and Warriors
Everard Meade, "Introduction: Beyond the Body Count," *The Taken*
Quinones, *Dreamland*, Preface, Introduction, Part I (pp. 1-55; you can skip 15-16, 28-31)
Skype guest: [Everard Meade](#), Director, Trans-Border Institute, U. of San Diego

WEEK 6

11/1 (Tu): Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic I
Quinones, *Dreamland*, Part I (pp. 56-184)
(if you wish, you can skip 76-88, 92-99, 107-110, 124-127, 132-139, 145-152, 169-172)
Skype guest: Sam Quinones
Case study presentations: Mexican Hinterlands

11/3 (Th): Dreamland: The True Tale of America's Opiate Epidemic II
Quinones, *Dreamland*, Part II selections (pp. 222-231, 256-263), Part III selections (pp. 278-285)
Part IV selection (pp. 316-323), Part V (pp. 331-345), Epilogue
In-class film excerpt: "Narco Cultura"
Case study presentations: Mexican Hinterlands

WEEK 7

11/8 (Tu): Indigenous Survival: From the Zapatistas to Fair Trade
Jaffee, *Brewing Justice*, Introduction, Chps. 5 (pp. 133-153) & 7 (199-221)
Preston and Dillon, *Opening Mexico*, Chp. 15 (Chiapas)
Watch at home: "[A Place Called Chiapas](#)" (first 20 min.; entire film rec'd)
In-class film: Vice, "[The Zapatista Uprising \(20 Years Later\)](#)"

11/9 (W): **Due**: Case study papers, Part III: Mexican Hinterlands by Midnight at Canvas

Part IV. Transnational Flows: Migrants, Food Systems, and Immigration Policy

Background resources (in Files): CAP, "Immigration Enforcement: A View from the Ground"
Ratha, "Leveraging Remittances for Development" (13 pages)

11/10 (Th): The Invisible Farmworker: Enduring Legacies
Holmes, *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies*, Chps. 1, 2
Watch at home: "Sin Nombre" (2009)
Guest: Dr. Geeta Maker-Clark, UCMC (formerly, resident doctor to farmworkers)
Case study presentations: Transnational Flows

WEEK 8

11/15 (Tu): U.S. Immigration Policy in the Free Trade Era

Patricia Fernández-Kelly and Douglas S. Massey, "Borders for Whom?" *Annals Broughton, Boom, Bust, Exodus*, Chp. 13

PEW, 2015, "More Mexicans Leaving"

Watch at home: Roy Germano (AM '03), "The Other Side of Immigration" (rent iTunes, Amazon)

Case study presentations: Transnational Flows section

11/17 (Th): The Invisible Farmworker: Pathways to Change

Greenhouse, "[...a Penny Buys Progress](#)," *New York Times*

Greenhouse, "[The Workers Defense Project, a Union in Spirit](#)," *New York Times*

Workers Defense Project, "[Build a Better Nation](#)"

Watch at home: Sanjay Rawal, "Food Chains" (Netflix, available to rent elsewhere)

Skype guest: Steve Greenhouse, former labor reporter, *New York Times*

WEEK 9

11/22 (Tu): Mayans in NC: The Case of Opportunity Threads

Leon Fink, *The Maya of Morganton: Work and Community in the Nuevo New South*, Intro., Chp. 1

YES! Magazine, "[A North Carolina Textile Co-Op Gives Immigrant Workers a Stake in the Business](#)"

Smith, "[The fight to unionize the South brews at an N.C. slaughterhouse](#)," *Indy Week*

Skype guest: Molly Hemstreet, Founder, [Opportunity Threads](#), Morganton, NC

11/23 (W): **Due**: Case study papers, Part IV: Transnational Flows by Midnight at Canvas

11/24 (Th): Happy Thanksgiving!

Part V. Trade, Development, and Poverty: The Big Policy Picture

Background resources (in Files): Pardee Center, 2009, "Future of North American Trade Policy"

Guillermoprieto, "Mexico: Risking Truth for Life," *New York Review of Books*

WEEK 10

11/29 (Tu): NAFTA, the TPP, and Beyond

Chang, 2008, *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade*, Prologue, Chp. 3, Epilogue

Wheelan, 2010, *Naked Economics*, "Trade and Globalization" (23 pages)

EXAM WEEK

12/6 (Tu): Final essay by 11:59 p.m. at Canvas