

2

74-5/23

SCC# 74-75-23



FACULTY SENATE  
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE  
Course Approval Form

Department History

Title History of Mexico and the Caribbean

Sponsor(s) Dr. Lee Kross No. of Credits 3

Approved by the department Yes; 15-0 Graduate

Not recommended by the department Undergraduate

Information copies forwarded: Academic Dean; Chairman; Curriculum Committee Yes

[Signature]  
Signature: Department Chairman

ACADEMIC DEAN

Consultation on proposal has been held

Comments:

[Signature]  
Signature: Academic Dean

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Proposal received

Open Hearing held 3/24/75

Returned to the department for the following reason(s):

add consult. with fac. re lat. descrip.

Approved by the Curriculum Committee [Signature]

Presented to Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate as information [Signature]

Notifications forwarded: Academic Dean; Department Chairman [Signature]

Signature: Chairman, Curriculum Committee

GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE  
Glassboro, New Jersey

History Department

December 1974

PROPOSAL FOR A HISTORY COURSE INVOLVING MEXICO AND THE CARIBBEAN AREA

I. SPONSORSHIP

Department of History  
Dr. Lee Bruce Kress

II. CURRICULUM PATTERN, PERSONNEL, AND RESOURCES

Some time ago, the Department of History and Glassboro State College committed itself to an expansion of its offerings dealing with Latin America. Two Latin American history courses of a survey nature as well as several that present the area on a topical basis are already being given. This proposal is for a course concerning the historical background of a particular region, and it is designed to broaden the existing program.

The course is planned to begin during the fall semester, 1975 and it probably will be offered every two or three years, alternating with other Latin American courses.

A qualified instructor is already available on the faculty, and the holdings of the Savitz Learning Research Center are particularly strong in this field and are being expanded.

III. OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSAL

A. Essence of the Proposal:

1. Course Title: History of Mexico and the Caribbean
2. Credit: Three semester hours
3. Level: Undergraduate (300 level)
4. Eligibility: This course would be open to all students who have successfully completed an introductory course in either Latin America or Spanish American Civilization and Culture and to any other student who has obtained the approval of the instructor.
5. Requirement: It would satisfy general education requirements as well as the requirements for a specialization in history or social sciences. In addition, it would be offered as part of the existing Latin American track in the World Studies program.

B. Details of the Proposal

1. The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with a more detailed knowledge about the histories of specific Latin American nations. In particular, it will deal with the national periods of these nations; that is, the time since their independence from European colonial rule. It will be an expansion and an elaboration of many subjects already covered briefly in the introductory course.

Latin American History since 1808, 2205. 261. In addition, new areas will be presented, such as Central America, Hispaniola, and the former British colonies in the Caribbean, which are ordinarily not covered in the survey course for lack of time.

The student will come to understand the common and separate problems of these nations as functions of their historical backgrounds and geographical locations.

2. The course will be conducted so as to show the inter-relations of the nations of the region as well as the specific ways in which they developed. Students will have the opportunity to focus on topics or countries that especially interest them.
3. Teaching will be done by lectures, class discussions, audio-visual materials, and special reports. Evaluation of students will be measured by class participation, periodic written examinations and term papers or research projects.

### C. Rationale

In recent years, the faculty and administration of Glassboro State College has expressed their support to expand and improve courses and other offerings dealing with the Third World. The Latin American track now has the largest student enrollment in the World Studies interdisciplinary concentration, and its continued growth is anticipated. But at present only four 300-level Latin American History courses are being offered on a regular basis, and two of these, which deal with Puerto Rican history, are often given in Spanish. Therefore it seems appropriate to add to the number of upper-level Latin American history courses in order to alternate academic subjects and allow students greater selection.

The history of Mexico and the Caribbean area is a particularly appropriate choice to pick. First, many students have at least a passing acquaintance with the region. Some have visited the area or may do so soon, and all have been exposed to news stories or advertisement concerning it. Second, since it is the Latin American area closest to the United States, it is the area most vital to the United States. The political histories of the nations have proved this over and over again from the time of the original Monroe Doctrine down to the 1965 American intervention in the Dominican Republic. Third, it is the region of Latin America that has been most affected by the United States in its economic and cultural development, as well, and the combination of European, Latin American national, and North American influences presents there an unusual and highly interesting mix.

Latin America is a very misunderstood area. It is necessary to break down the barriers of parochialism based upon ignorance and lack of experience that most Americans share. A course in the history of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean nations can help to accomplish this goal.

D. Suggested Topics

- I. Mexico: The Movement for Independence
- II. Mexico: The Era of Santa Anna
- III. Mexico: The Period of La Reform
- IV. Mexico: Maximilian, the French, and the Porfiriato
- V. Mexico: The Revolution, 1910-1920
- VI. Mexico: The Continuing Revolution, 1920-40
- VII. Mexico: The War Years and After
- VIII. Central America: The Nineteenth Century
- IX. Central America: The Twentieth Century
- X. Haiti
- XI. Dominican Republic
- XII. Cuba: The Ever-Faithful Isle
- XIII. Cuba: Independence and Development in the Twentieth Century
- XIV. The Other Caribbean Islands