

As a Gateway course, this class methods. Using the case of colonial Mexico, it will teach you how historians do what they do. In other words, we will learn how to identify a research topic, pose a historical question, locate and interpret the documents that allow us to craft a narrative of the past. To do justice to the complexity of Mexican history, we will use ethnohistorical techniques to examine Indigenous documents. The course will begin with a brief examination of Nahuatl pictographic sources and codices to illustrate the movements of the Mexica people and the politics of their history. We will also consider the use of alphabetic indigenous sources (in translation) by urban chroniclers such as Chimalpahin.

We will then move through the colonial period by means of different types of accounts from the military phase of the Spanish conquest. From conquistador memoirs to judicial cases, we will study questions of perspective, access to written documentation and legal representation. These case studies will inevitably lead us to consider the evidence that we have (and do not have) for mestizo individuals, Indigenous women and people of African descent. Thematically, we will cover the everyday histories of blasphemers, artisans, apprentices, food vendors and militiamen.

Throughout the course, you will develop a research paper based on a set of primary sources. I strongly recommend you visit me during office hours to discuss what kind of materials are available for your project. Locating colonial letters, maps, contracts, bills of sale, and criminal trials can be a very time-consuming endeavor. If the library does not hold the book or article you need, you may have to request it on InterLibrary Loan (ILL). In this course, identifying precisely what documents you will use and situating them in the work of previous scholars will be essential elements of your research paper. In the final weeks of the course, you will focus your efforts on justifying the use of y-9(ae)sQ..2 Tf1 0 0 88Q..o3r 0 g0 G{doc}4(uments you wil)-2(l use a)5(nd si)-2

The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators in the Office of Disability Resources can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the Office of Disability Resources at: disability@rochester.edu; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall.

All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be treated as such. Anyone who engages in such activities will be turned over to the College Board on Academic Honesty for disciplinary action, as outlined here (<http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/>.) For a helpful discussion of plagiarism (including <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/plagiarism-curricular-materials-for-history-instructors/defining-plagiarism>

Grading scale

A 100-93%	A- 92.9-90%	
B+ 89.9-87%	B 86.9-83%	B- 82.9-80%
C+ 79.9-77%	C 76.9-73%	C- 72.9-70%
D+ 69.9-67%	D 66.9-63%	D- 62.9-60%
E Below 60%		

Course Schedule

- readings marked with an * will be posted to our course Blackboard page

Week 1 – Welcome!

Wednesday, Jan. 11

Introductions, syllabus, and motivations

Week 2 – History: Tlacuilo Style – No class Monday

Wednesday, Jan. 18

-160*

Lori Boornazan Diel, *The Codex Mexicanus*, 94-120, also see the images in Plates 10-23*

In-class exercise: *Mexican History*, Source 5, 30-37*

Douglas Cope, *The Limits of Racial Domination*, 106-124
Mexican History, Source 27, 149-154

Wednesday, Apr. 12

Douglas Cope, *The Limits of Racial Domination*, 125-168

Week 15 – Blackness and the Mexican Archive, pt. I

Monday, Apr. 17

Patrick Carroll,