

FW22 AP/HIST 3733 3.0M The Spanish Conquest of Mexico (Winter term)

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Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

The Spanish invasion of Mexico beginning in 1519 was one of the most dramatic events in world history and had profound consequences for the Americas and the world as a whole. It was long imagined as a spectacular feat in which a few hundred Europeans swiftly subjugated millions of Indigenous people, but historians no longer accept this portrayal of what happened. This course focuses on the Mexica, a people based in what is today Mexico City who were the dominant power in what we know as the Aztec empire. Their defeat in 1521 was a critical step in establishing European hegemony in the Americas. We will seek to understand Mexica society, politics, and culture in their Central Mexican and Mesoamerican contexts. On this basis, we will examine how the Spanish established control over the region, and why historical interpretations of this subject have changed so much in recent decades. Finally, we will study Indigenous accounts of the conquest that were written a few decades after the events.

Required Course Text/Readings:

TENTATIVE

Camilla Townsend, Fifth Sun. A New History of the Aztecs. Oxford University Press, 2019.

Bernardino de Sahagún, Florentine Codex: Book 12. The Conquest of Mexico. The University of Utah Press, 2012.

Weighting of Course:

TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown

Quizzes: 20%.

Forum Participation: 10%.

Take-Home Exam: 40%.

Primary Source Analysis: 30%.