This course will offer an introduction to key themes and problems in modern Latin American history, as illustrated in four countries: Mexico, Argentina, Cuba and Brazil. Emphasis will be on the connection between economic structures and political change. Mexico and Cuba have undergone social revolutions. Argentina and Brazil have not. How did revolution occur? Why did it fail? How much difference have revolutions made?

The role of land systems and export sectors will be examined in each case. The influence of the United States and the role of institutions such as the military and the Church will also be considered. The aim of the course is to give a clear understanding of how economic systems have helped shape modern Latin America.

A textbook (Hubert Herring, *A History of Latin America*, 3rd edition) has been included in the reading assignments. If you already know the outline of events well enough, simply skip the assignments in Herring. All the required reading is on three-hour reserve in White Library and is also available for purchase in paperback (except Herring). For those who would like supplementary reading (optional only) suggested titles (some may be on reserve) are listed for each week.

**Sept. 5:** Today's Latin America: Questions that Call for Historical Answers

**Sept. 7:** The Colonial Background: How the Europeans Transformed the New World

**Required Reading**

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, entire

**Supplementary Reading (optional):**

Ricardo Pozas, *Juan the Chamula: An Ethnological Re-creation of the Life of a Mexican Indian* (1962)

Carlos Rangel, *The Latin Americans: Their Love-Hate Relationship with the United States* (1977)


**Sept. 10:** The Socio-Economic Legacy of the Colonial Era

**Sept. 12:** Independence from Spain and Portugal: Origins and Consequences

**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading (optional):**


Sept 17: 1820-1870: Traumas of New Nationhood
Sept 19: 1870-1930: The Europeanization of Latin America

Required Reading


Supplementary Reading (optional):

Nelson Reed, The Caste War of Yucatan (1964)
Richard Alan White, Paraguay's Autonomous Revolution, 1819-1840 (1978)

Sept 24: Mexico: Disunity and Yankee Invasion
Sept 26: Mexico: Autocratic Modernization: The Reign of Porfirio Diaz
(Title of Book for first book report due)

Required Reading

Michael C. Meyer & William L. Sherman, The Course of Mexican History (1979), 431-695

Supplementary Reading (optional):

Lesley Byrd Simpson, Many Mexicos, 3rd ed. (1952)
Samuel Ramos, Profile of Man and Culture in Mexico (1962)

Oct. 1: Why a Revolution in Mexico?
Oct. 3: Who Won the Mexican Revolution?

Required Reading

Octavio Paz, The Other Mexico: Critique of the Pyramid (1972)

Supplementary Reading (optional):

John Womack, Jr., Zapata and the Mexican Revolution (1969)
Frank Tannenbaum, Mexico: The Struggle for Peace and Bread (1950)

Oct. 8: Mexico's One-Party Democracy: A Durable Ruse?
Oct. 10: SIX WEEKS EXAM
Oct. 15: Brazil: From Colony to Empire
Oct. 17: Brazil: A Racial Paradise?

Required Readings

Herring, A History of Latin America, 823-895
Carl Degler, Neither Black Nor White, 3-92

Supplementary Reading (optional):

Richard Graham, Britain and the Quest of Modernism in Brazil (1963)
Stanley J. Stein, Vassouras, a Brazilian Coffee County, 1850-1900 (1957)
Oct. 22: Brazil: A Coffee Exporter Learns How to Industrialize

Required Reading

Degler, Neither Black Nor White, 95-292

Supplementary Reading (optional)

Charles Antoine, Church and Power in Brazil (1973)

Oct. 29: Argentina Before 1914: A Golden Age of Export Prosperity

Required Reading

Arthur P. Whitaker, The United States and the Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay (1976), 27-40, 75-103, & 202-255
Herring, A History of Latin America, 689-785

Supplementary Reading (optional):

Peter H. Smith, Politics and Beef in Argentina (1969)
Ysabel F. Rennie, The Argentina Republic (1945)

Nov. 5: Juan Perón’s Argentina, 1943-1955
Nov. 7: Contemporary Argentina, No Exit

Required Reading

José Luis Romero, A History of Argentina Political Thought (1963), 165-256

Supplementary Reading (optional):

Félix Luna, El 45: Cronica de un año decisivo (1971)
Ezequiel Martínez Estrada, X-Ray of the Pampa (1971)

Nov. 12: Cuba: A Model Economy?
Nov. 14: Was the Cuban Revolution Inevitable?

Required Readings

Herring, A History of Latin America, 393-425
Lee Lockwood, Castro’s Cuba, Cuba’s Fidel, entire

Supplementary Reading (optional):

Ramon Eduardo Ruiz, Cuba: The Making of a Revolution (1968)
Luis E. Aguilar, Cuba 1933: Prologue to Revolution (1972)
Nov. 19: The Cuban Revolution Brings Equality
Nov. 21: Cuba Between the Superpowers: Still a Satellite?
(Second Book Report Due)

Required Reading


Supplementary Reading (optional):


Nov. 26: The Catholic Church in Modern Latin America: Survival and Commitment
Nov. 28: The U.S. and Latin America: Velvet Fist and Iron Glove

Required Readings

Herring, *A History of Latin America*, 897-947
Karl M. Schmitt, ed., *The Roman Catholic Church in Modern Latin America*, 81-216
Samuel L. Baily, *The United States and the Development of South America, 1945-1975*, 1-131

Supplementary Reading (optional):

Phyllis R. Parker, *Brazil and the Quiet Intervention: 1964* (1979)

Dec. 5: The Military: Playing for Keeps?

Required Readings

James Cockcroft, "Last Rites for the Reformist Model in Latin America," in James D. Cockcroft, André Gunder Frank and Dale L. Johnson, *Dependence and Underdevelopment: Latin America's Political Economy*, 115-149
Gérard Chaliand, *Revolution in the Third World*, entire

Supplementary Reading (optional):


Dec. 10: *Mexico, Brazil, Argentina & Cuba: Differences and Similarities*
Dec. 12: Whither Latin America?
Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections. Written work will consist of: (1) Six weeks exam (classroom exam); (2) two book reports; (3) final exam.

Six-weeks exam: A classroom exam (October 10) that will include identification items (chosen from assigned reading and lectures) and essay questions. There will be a choice within both categories.

Book reports: These are to be critical reviews (maximum length 1500 words) of a significant book chosen by the student. The report should include a careful analysis of the author's assumptions, line of argument, and conclusions. The book may be on any aspect of Latin American since 1825 (including countries or topics not covered in lectures and assigned reading). Any of the books listed under "Supplementary Reading" would be acceptable, but the choice of book must be approved by the Instructor who will be glad to give suggestions. The first book report is due at the class hour on October 24 and the second is due in class on November 21.

Final exam: The format of the final exam will be announced during the semester.

OFFICE HOURS: Humanities 5223
Monday 11 - 12
Wednesday 1:30 - 2:30
or by appointment (263-1863) or 263-1800