History 242- MODERN LATIN AMERICA: From Independence to the Present

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Office Hours:
Mondays, 12:00-1:00 (Walk-In Hours)
Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 (Sign Up on the Sheet Outside My Door)
And By Appointment

Teaching Assistants: Marc Hertzman
Carolyne Ryan

Course Description:

Twenty countries, two hundred years, fifteen weeks: this is indeed the whirlwind tour!! In order to give meaning to this vast undertaking, this course is organized into five units that provide overlapping topical, chronological and regional approaches to the study of 19th and 20th century Latin America. Using film, primary documents, and historical analysis, it explores the distinct historical experiences of Latin America’s diverse peoples, placing political conflict and socioeconomic inequality in cultural, human and transnational context.

Lectures in each unit combine a discussion of the readings in broader context, with an expansion of the discussion to other parts of the region. A list of the major issues and themes is provided, and visual materials, both images and film, will also be used. Writing assignments based on units then provide a way to link these different elements together.

Course Requirements:

1) Two short papers, around 5 pages each, that organize the materials in one unit—readings, lectures, and visuals—in order to address one of the major issues or themes around which the unit has been organized. Please note: You will be required to write a paper for either Unit I or II, and again for either Unit III or IV. Unit V will serve as the basis from which to write a comprehensive essay question for the final exam

2) Exams: (a) A midterm quiz, consisting of a map quiz and 5 short answer questions; and (b) A final exam, consisting of one comprehensive essay question that will ask you to take the issues raised in Unit V and place them in the context of the entire course; and five short essays (about a page each) that explain terms selected from the second half of the semester.

3) Honors Option: To be worked out individually with me. Please see me by the third week in the semester if you are interested in honors credit for the course.

4) Grading: Short papers: 40% (20% each); midterm quiz: 10%; final exam: 30%; discussion: 20%.
Required Reading:
Please Note: The book has been ordered exclusively at Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 426 W. Gilman, 257-6050. It is also on three-hour reserve at the College Library in Helen C. White.


There is also a xerox packet available at the Humanities Copy Center, 1650 Humanities Bldg., 263-1803; Hours M-F, 7:45-11:45 A.M., 12:30-4:00 P.M.

A Statement on Grading Policy:

1) Criteria for grading: in general, an assignment receives an A when it combines three things:
   - Originality or a willingness to take intellectual and/or analytical risks;
   - Command of the lecture and reading materials in the class and an effective use of these as evidence to back up your points;
   - A writing style that is clear and grammatically correct so that it doesn’t get in the way of the content of the paper.

2) Grading is not an exact science, and mistakes can be made. If you feel that you have been given a grade in error, you need to take the following steps, in the order listed:
   - Reread your assignment. Sometimes what you think you argued did not entirely make it onto the page, and it’s important to reread and make sure that your impression of what you said is actually what you did say.
   - If after rereading you still feel that an error was made, see your TA and provide specific examples of what you feel you did not get credit for.
   - Your TA will then reread the assignment, and will have three options: raise the grade, lower the grade, or leave it the same.
   - If you still feel that you have not been given adequate credit for your work, you may ask the professor to read the assignment, once again providing specific examples of what you feel you did not get credit for. The professor will also have the options of raising, lowering, or leaving the grade the same.

3) Discussion counts for 20% of the overall grade, which means that a student who does not attend discussion section cannot get an A in the class, no matter how well s/he does on the rest of the assignments. Discussion grades are based on both attendance and participation, and your TA will share with you the specifics of his or her criteria of evaluation.

4) Policy for late assignments: A student who knows that an assignment will be late must get in touch with his or her TA a minimum of 48 hours before the due date and time in order to negotiate an extension. Emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Assignments that are late without explanation will be docked a half-grade for each 24 hours they are late.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings, and Written Assignments:

Please Note:

a) With the exception of Week 1 (Labor Day) and Week 5 (Yom Kippur), Monday’s lecture will start with a general overview of the issues of the week that discusses the readings directly in context of the course, thus serving as a “warm-up” for discussion sections on Monday and Tuesday.
b) With the exception of Week 6 (midterm) and Week 12 (Thanksgiving), Friday's lecture will include a “Friday Brunch” segment that incorporates images, sound, and video into the themes of the week.

UNIT I- Rumors of Freedom, 1780-1898

Week 1, 6-8 Sept.- Liberty, Fraternity and Equality?
Reading (Weeks 1 and 2 are discussed together in section, Week 2):

Week 2, 11-15 Sept.- The Many Meanings of Independence, 1780-1850

Week 3, 18-22 Sept- Race and Nation: A Caribbean Coda

UNIT II- Dilemmas of Development, 1810-1940

Week 4, 25-29 Sept.-Growth vs. Development? The Negotiation of Markets and Subsistence

***PAPERS FOR UNIT I DUE LATEST FRIDAY, SEPT. 29, AT 5 P.M.***

Week 5, 2-6 Oct.- Export Production, Foreign Investment, and Neocolonialism

Week 6, 9-13 Oct.- Policymaking and Economic Development: The Postwar Years

@@ MIDTERM IN CLASS ON FRIDAY, OCT. 13TH @@

UNIT III- Competing Notions of Nation, 1840-1940

Week 7, 16-20 Oct.- War and Popular Nationalisms

***PAPERS FOR UNIT II DUE LATEST FRIDAY, OCT. 20, AT 5 P.M.***

Week 8, 23-27 Oct. Eugenics and Positivism

Week 9, 30 Oct.- 3 Nov.- From the Mexican Revolution to the Popular Front

UNIT IV- The Rise and Fall of the Activist State, 1940-1990

Week 10, 6-10 Nov.- Populism
Reading: *Weaver, Latin America in the World Economy, pp. 117-46.


***PAPERS FOR UNIT III DUE LATEST FRIDAY, NOV. 10, AT 5 P.M.***


UNIT V- Neoliberalism and its Discontents, 1973 to the Present

Week 13, 27 Nov.-1 Dec.- Crisis, Repression and the Rise of the Free Market

Reading: **“Weaver, Latin America in the World Economy, 169-209


***PAPERS FOR UNIT IV DUE LATEST FRIDAY, DEC. 1, AT 5 P.M.***

Week 14, 4-8 Dec.- Free Trade and New Identities

Reading: **Excerpts about NAFTA and the Zapatista Rebellion, in Chasteen and Wood, pp. 312-22.


Week 15, 11-15 Dec.- The Pink Tide

LIST OF READINGS IN XEROX PACKET
(In Order of Assignment)


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Lecture, Institute of Latin American Studies, University of Texas at Austin.


21) Frederick S. Weaver, _Latin America in the World Economy_, pp. 117-46.


26) Frederick S. Weaver, _Latin America in the World Economy_, 169-209.
