

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History  
Semester I, 1979-80

History 242

Latin America Since 1825

Thomas E. Skidmore

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)  
Samuel Eliot Morison, The European Discovery of America: The Southern Voyages, 1492-1616 (1974)

- Sept 10: The Socio-Economic Legacy of the Colonial Era  
Sept 12: Independence from Spain and Portugal: Origins and Consequences

Required Reading

Hubert Herring, A History of Latin America, 3rd ed., 235-286

Supplementary Reading (optional):

- David Bushnell, ed., The Liberator, Simon Bolivar: Man and Image (1970)  
James Lockhart & Enrique Otte, eds., Letters and People of the Spanish Indies: The Sixteenth Century (1976)  
John Hemming, Red Gold: The Conquest of the Brazilian Indians, 1500-1760 (1978)

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

Required Reading

Stanley J. and Barbara H. Stein, The Colonial Heritage of Latin America: Essays on Economic Dependence in Perspective (1970)

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 Modernization in Brazil (1968)  
 Stanley J. Stein, Vassouras, a Brazilian Coffee County, 1850-1900 (1957)

- Oct. 22: Brazil: A Coffee Exporter Learns How to Industrialize  
 Oct. 24: Brazil Since 1964: Repression & Economic Growth: What Connection?  
 (First Book Report Due)

Required Reading

Degler, Neither Black Nor White, 95-292

Supplementary Reading (optional)

Joseph A. Page, The Revolution That Never Was: Northeast Brazil, 1955-1964 (1972)  
 Charles Antoine, Church and Power in Brazil (1973)

- Oct. 29: Argentina Before 1914: A Golden Age of Export Prosperity  
 Oct. 31: Argentina, 1916-1943: What Went Wrong?  
 (Title for second book report due)

Required Reading

Arthur P. Whitaker, The United States and the Southern Cone: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay (1976), 27-40, 75-103, & 202-255  
 or  
 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

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Cuba in the 1970's: Pragmatism and Institutionalization, revised ed. (1978), entire

Supplementary Reading (optional):

K. S. Karol, Guerrillas in Power: The Course of the Cuban Revolution (1970)  
 Bertram Silverman, ed., Man and Socialism in Cuba: The Great Debate (1973)

- 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):

Philip Agee, Inside the Company: CIA Diary (1975)  
 Phyllis R. Parker, Brazil and the Quiet Intervention, 1964 (1979)  
 Cole Blasler, The Hovering Giant: U.S. Responses to Revolutionary Change in Latin America (1976)

- Dec. 3: Latin American Revolutionaries: What Makes Them Run?  
 Dec. 5: The Military: Playing for Keeps?

Required Readings

James Cockcroft, "Last Rites for the Reformist Model of 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):

James Kohl & John Litt, Urban Guerrilla Warfare in Latin America (1974)  
 The Complete Bolivian Diaries of Che Guevara, ed. by Daniel James (1968)  
 Alfred Stepan, The Military in Politics: Changing Roles in Brazil (1971)

- 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