

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Semester II Year 1982-83

Course No.
260

Course Title
Latin America: An Introduction

Enroll. Code
Stern

Description

This course introduces students to Latin American history, society, and culture from an interdisciplinary perspective, and is therefore cross-listed in a number of Departments (History, Afro-Amer., Ag. Econ., Anthro., Econ., Geog., Journ., Poli. Sci., Rural Soc., Spanish & Portuguese). Our goal will be to gain a multi-faceted, yet coherent and substantive, understanding of the human condition in Latin America. We will do so by focusing on four broad themes in particular: the wounds and legacies of history; the elusive quest for economic development; contemporary social change and cultural innovation; the politics of revolution and counter-revolution.

Specific topics will include: Indians and colonialism; slavery and race relations; the impact of capitalism; economic growth and development, in theory and practice; U.S. foreign policy, with special reference to Central America; city, countryside, and migration; relations between women and men; society and the artist; the Mexican and Cuban Revolutions; crisis and revolution in contemporary politics.

Aside from lectures and discussion sections, course materials will include Latin American literature and films, and studies by social scientists, historians, and journalists. Spanish-speaking discussion sections will be available if enough students so desire.

One short term paper (ca. 10-12 pages), plus a mid-semester exam and final exam.

Grading

Tentatively: term paper 30%; mid-semester exam 20%; discussion 15%; final exam 35%.

Readings

The following books have been ordered. They will be supplemented by several articles available in a xerox packet.

Gabriel García Márquez, The Autumn of the Patriarch (novel).

Marvin E. Gettleman et al., eds., El Salvador: Central America in the New Cold War.

Roger D. Hansen, The Politics of Mexican Development.

Jorge Icaza, The Villagers (Huasipungo) (novel).

Janice E. Perlman, The Myth of Marginality: Urban Poverty and Politics in Rio de Janeiro.

RIUS [Eduardo del Río], Cuba for Beginners.

Eric R. Wolf, Sons of the Shaking Earth: The People of Mexico and Guatemala...

Eric R. Wolf and Edward C. Hansen, The Human Condition in Latin America.

Ibero-American Studies

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Department of History

Spring, 1983

LATIN AMERICA: AN INTRODUCTION
(Interdisciplinary 260)

Professor Steve J. Stern
5105 Humanities Bldng.
263-1841

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Our goal will be to gain a multi-faceted, yet coherent and substantive, understanding of the human condition in Latin America. We will do so by addressing four themes in particular: the wounds and legacies of history; the elusive quest for economic development; contemporary social change and cultural innovation; the politics of revolution and counter-revolution. Our discussion of these themes will include specific case studies as well as general overviews.

Schedule (tentative)

Week 1: Introduction

Jan. 25 Stern Orientation to Course
Jan. 27 Stern Why Study Latin America?

Reading: Eric R. Wolf and Edward C. Hansen, The Human Condition in Latin America (New York, 1972), 3-69.

UNIT I. THE WOUNDS AND LEGACIES OF HISTORY.

Week 2: Heritage of Indian Civilization

Feb. 1 Salomon The Pre-Columbian Achievements of Andean Peoples
Feb. 3 Stern Native People Today

Reading: Eric Wolf, Sons of the Shaking Earth (Chicago, 1959), 1-20, 69-151 (skim 21-68).

FILM: THE PRINCIPAL ENEMY (tentatively Feb. 3, at 7 pm).

Week 3: The Legacies of Colonialism

Feb. 8 Stern Institutions of Colonial Domination
Feb. 10 Stern The Impact of Popular Struggle
Reading: Wolf, Sons of the Shaking Earth, 152-256.
Wolf and Hansen, The Human Condition, 71-117.

Week 4: The Poverty of Progress

Feb. 15 Stern The Transition to Capitalist Economies
Feb. 17 Stern Progress and Race Relations
Reading: Jorge Icaza, The Villagers (Huasipungo) (Carbondale, 1964), all.

UNIT II. THE ELUSIVE QUEST FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Week 5: Domestic and International Dimensions of Development

Feb. 22 Stern Introduction to Some Loaded Concepts
Feb. 24 Stallings Foreign Capital: Aid or Obstacle?
Reading: Wolf and Hansen, The Human Condition, 118-204.

ASSIGNMENT: A tentative one-page statement of term paper topic and sources is due by the discussion section of Week 5. I strongly urge you to consult with the TA's and me to define viable topics of interest before your statement is due.

Week 6: Domestic and International Dimensions (cont'd)

March 1 Stern Foreign and Local Capital: The Nexus
March 3 Felstehausen Plan Puebla and Rural Development: A Mexican Case Study
Reading: Roger D. Hansen, The Politics of Mexican Development (Baltimore, 1971), xi-xxix, 1-95.
FILM: IRACEMA (tentatively March 3, at 7 pm).

Week 7: The Politics of Economic Development

March 8 Stern The Politics of Economic Models
March 10 SEMESTER EXAM, covering materials through Week 7.
Reading: Hansen, Politics of Mexican Development, 97-131, 173-233 (skim 132-171).

UNIT III. SOCIAL CHANGE AND CULTURAL INNOVATION.

Week 8: Latin Americans as Migrants

March 15 Stern City, Countryside, and the Sociology of Migration
March 17 Stern Multiple Hats and "Cholo" Culture
Reading: Janice E. Perlman, The Myth of Marginality: Urban Poverty and Politics in Rio de Janeiro (Berkeley, 1976), xi-xxi, 1-191, 242-262 (skim 195-241).

Week 9: Woman and Man in Latin America

March 22 Stern Machismo: Historical Origins and Functions
March 24 Mallon The Women's Movement in Latin America
Reading: To be announced.
FILM: PORTRAIT OF TERESA (tentatively March 24, at 7 pm),

Week 10: The Artist and Society

April 5 Stern The Dilemma of the Intellectual
April 7 Gertel The Literature of García Márquez: An Assessment
Reading: Gabriel García Márquez, The Autumn of the Patriarch, all.

UNIT IV. THE POLITICS OF REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION,

Week 11: The Historic Revolutions: Mexico and Cuba

April 12 Stern Mexico: The Multiple Strands of Revolution
April 14 Stern Cuba: From Guerrilla Bands to Socialist Mobilization
Reading: RIUS [Eduardo del Río], Cuba for Beginners (New York, 1970), all.
Wolf and Hansen, The Human Condition, 294-349.

Week 12: The Crisis of Latin American Politics

April 19 Stern The Roots of Revolution
April 21 Skidmore Brazil, 1964: A Case Study in Political Polarization
Reading: Marvin E. Gettleman et al., eds., El Salvador: Central America in New Cold War (New York, 1981), 57-105, 157-203.
FILM: THANK GOD AND THE REVOLUTION (tentatively April 21, at 7 pm).

Week 13: The United States and Latin America

April 26 Stern Goals and Tactics of U.S. Foreign Policy: Origins
April 28 Stern Aid and Intervention in the Cold War Era
Reading: Gettleman et al., eds., El Salvador, skim 3-54, read 216-294, 351-379.

Week 14: Whither Central America?

May 3 Stern The Fragility of Revolution
May 5 Havens Nicaragua: Assessment of the Agrarian Reform
Reading: Gettleman et al., eds., El Salvador, 300-327, 380-389.
NOTE: TERM PAPERS DUE NO LATER THAN DISCUSSION SECTION OF WEEK 14.

Week 15: Latin America: Past, Present, Future

May 10 Stern Lagacies and Prospects (summary and overview)
May 12 To be announced.

Course Assignments and Grading

There are three requirements for successful completion of this course: participation in discussion, examinations, and a short term paper (10-12 pages).

Participation means contributing your presence and thoughts to weekly discussion sections. Doing this effectively requires keeping up with readings, films, and lectures, and thinking about issues posed by the week's material.

There will be two examinations which will ask you to offer your analysis of significant issues raised by the readings, films, lectures, and discussion. The semester exam, covering materials through Week 7, is scheduled for March 10. The final exam will cover the entire semester. We will discuss the format of the exams well in advance of exam dates.

The written assignment will be a short term paper (ca. 10-12 pages, and by no means more than 15 typewritten pages) on a topic of your choosing. Papers may use the assigned books/films as "building blocks" but students are expected to do a moderate amount of extra reading to pursue their theme of special interest in greater depth. Supplementary bibliographies will be available, and the TA's and I will be most willing to help you define topics, choose readings, etc.

On a 100-point system (i.e., 100 points is a perfect 100%), the grading will be weighed as follows:

semester exam -- 20 points	particip./dis. -- 15 points
term paper ----- 30 points	final exam ----- 35 points.