

Key Ideas and Issues in Latin America

LAS 301/ HIS 306N
Unique 40715/ 39575
Fall 2013
T/TH 3:30-5:00
WAG 201

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Course Description

This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to the study of Latin America. With 20 nations and a total population of over 500 million, Latin America is an area of fascinating cultural diversity as well as troubling socioeconomic inequality. The course aims to acquaint students with the richness, complexity and diversity of historical experiences and cultural practices in Latin America through an array of source materials that include historical monographs, ethnography, fiction, music, film, and documentaries. Through case studies culled from throughout the region, the course will shed light on the processes, structures, and forces that have shaped Latin America. Topics include: pre-Columbian civilizations, Iberian expansionism and the Conquest of Latin America; the Church in colonial Latin America; sugar plantations in Brazil and the trans-Atlantic slave trade; Independence movements; agro-export economies; U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean Basin; populism, urbanization, and import-substitution industrialization; popular culture, art, literature and music; revolutionary alternatives; the Cold War in Latin America and state-sponsored violence; transnational flows of capital and labor.

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. Assignments cover the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Course Requirements

Students' final grade will be computed according to the following criteria:

- Attendance and Participation in Class Discussion (20%*)
- Participation in Blackboard Debate and Discussion (10%**)
- Take-Home Midterm Exam (30%***)
- Take-Home Final Exam (40%***)

Plus and minus grades will be used for final course grades.

*Sign-up sheets will be passed around within the first five minutes of lecture. Students with no more than two unexcused absences from lectures will automatically receive at least an A- for this segment of their grade. Students with more than four unexcused absences from lecture can expect to receive a lower grade for attendance and participation. Students who leave lecture early without advance permission from the instructor and/or teaching assistant will not receive credit for attendance.

**Students are required to respond to a minimum of five blackboard posts, which will appear intermittently over the course of the semester. Students will have up to one week after the posting to respond to the prompt.

***Take-home examinations will be in the format of essay questions and will be graded according to the following rubric: Analysis, Use of Evidence, Organization, and Writing. Late papers will be penalized.

Required Readings:

Course Packet available at Speedway Copies, 715 West 23 St. (478-3334)
Course Packet is also on 2-hour reserve at the Benson Latin American Library.

Schedule:

August 29

Introduction: The Idea of Latin America

I. Colonial Latin America

Sept. 3 Pre-Columbian Civilizations: The Aztec Empire and the Spanish Conquest of Mexico

Derek Lomax, "Spain During the Reconquest," pp. 15-19

Excerpts from *People and Issues in Latin America History: The Colonial Experience*, eds. Lewis Hanke and Jane Rausch:

Bernal Diaz de Castillo, *The True History of the Conquest of Mexico*, pp. 105-12

Miguel Leon-Portilla, ed., *The Broken Spears: The Aztec Account of the Conquest of Mexico*, pp. 113-22

Ross Hassig, "The Conquest of Mexico was not the Victory of a Spanish Juggernaut," pp. 123-26

Sept. 5 The Inca Empire and The Conquest of Peru

Guest Lecturer: Christopher Heaney, Department of History, University of Texas, author of *Cradle of Gold: The Story of Hiram Bingham, a Real-Life Indiana Jones, and the Search for Machu Picchu*

John Murra, "Andean Societies Before 1532," in Leslie Bethell, ed., *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 59-90.

Garcilaso de la Vega, "The Incas Had Attained. . ." pp. 75-81.

Mark A. Burkholder and Lyman L. Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 50-58; 110-12.

Sept. 10 The Catholic Church in Colonial Latin America

John Schwaller, "Introduction," in Schwaller, ed., *The Catholic Church in Colonial Latin America*, pp. xi-xxiii

Inga Clendinnen, *Ambivalent Conquests*, pp. 72-92

Sept. 12. Film: *The Mission*

Sept. 17. *The Mission* (continuation) and Discussion

September 19. Colonial Brazil

Excerpt from *Borzoi Anthology of Latin American Literature*: Pero Vaz de Caminha, "Letter," pp. 11-13

Mark Burkholder and Lyman Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 131-33; 250-52

Katia Mattoso, *To Be a Slave in Brazil*, pp. 33-44.

September 24 **Class Discussion:** Analysis of Primary Source Documents on Slavery in Colonial Brazil in Robert Conrad, ed., *Children of God's Fire: A Documentary History of Black Slavery in Brazil*, pp. 53-62; 163-74.

September 26 **The Columbian Exchange**

Alfred Crosby, Jr., *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492*, pp. 64-121.

October 1. **Gender and Colonial Society**

Susan Socolow, *The Women of Colonial Latin America*, pp. 60-77; 112-29

Excerpt from *The Mexico Reader*: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz “On Men’s Hypocrisy,” pp. 156-59.

Oct. 3 and Oct. 8 Film: *The Maid* (Chile)

Class Discussion on Oct. 8

Oct. 10. **Race and Mestizaje in Colonial Latin America**

Mark A. Burkholder and Lyman L. Johnson, *Colonial Latin America*, pp. 50-58; 110-12.

In-class Discussion of Casta Paintings

II. Independence and Nation-Building in the Nineteenth Century

Oct. 15 Independence and the Challenges of Nineteenth-Century Nationhood

David Bushnell and Neil Macaulay, *The Emergence of Latin America in the Nineteenth Century*, pp. 13-37

Take-Home Midterm Examination Distributed

October 17. **Slavery and Abolition in Brazil**

Emilia Viotti da Costa, “The Masters and the Slaves” in the *Brazilian Empire*, pp. 125-71

Documentary (Excerpt): *Bahia: Africa in the Americas*

October 22. **Liberalism and Agro-Export Economies (c. 1880-1930)**

(Bananas)

George Black, *The Good Neighbor*, pp. 31-36

John Soluri, “Banana Cultures: Linking the Production and Consumption of Export Bananas, 1800-1980,” in Striffler and Moberg, eds., *Banana Wars*, pp. 48-79

(Henequen)

Gilbert Joseph, *Revolution from Without: Yucatan, Mexico, and the United States, 1880-1929*, pp. 33-41

(Rubber)

E. Bradford Burns, “Manaus 1910: Portrait of a Boom Town,” *Journal of Inter-American Studies* (July 1965).

Take-Home Exam Due in Class

III Economic and Cultural Nationalism in Latin America

October 24. **Nationalism, Populism, Industrialization, (c. 1930- 1955): Perón and Cardenas**

Daniel James, "The Peronist Political Vision," in Chasteen and Woods, eds., *Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 229-36

Maryssa Navarro, "Evita's Charismatic Leadership," in Michael Conniff, ed., *Latin American Populism in Comparative Perspective*, pp. 47-66.

"Cardenas Carries the Revolution to the Left," in Michael Meyer, William Sherman, and Susan Deeds, *The Course of Mexican History*, pp. 444-53.

October 29. In-Class Activity: The Trial of Juan and Eva Perón

Excerpt: *Evita: The Woman Behind the Myth*

October 31. **Urban Growth and Inequality**

Alan Gilbert, *The Latin American City*, pp. 79-101

Documentary Film: *The Americas: Continent on the Move* (excerpt)

November 5. **Popular Culture and Nationalism in Latin America**

Excerpts from Chasteen and Woods, eds., *Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 183-93: Gilberto Freyre, "Mestizo Pride"; Ciro Alegria, "The Power of Indigenous Communities"; Pablo Neruda, "The Poetry of Anti-Imperialism."

Joseph Arben and David LaFrance, "Introduction" in *Sport in Latin America and the Caribbean*, pp. xi-xxxi

Julie Sellers, *Merengue and Dominican Identity: Music as National Unifier*, pp. 1-7

Nov. 7 **Race and Public Policy in Contemporary Latin America**

Documentary Film: *Brazil in Black and White*

IV. The Cold War in Latin America: Revolutions and National Security States

Nov. 12 **Revolutionary Movements: Cuba (1959-)**

Readings: TBA

November 14 **Counterinsurgency and the National Security State: Argentina (1976-82) and Chile (1973-89)**

Tina Rosenberg, "The Good Sailor," in *Children of Cain*, pp. 79-141

Steve Stern, *Remembering Pinochet's Chile*, pp. 39-51

November 19: **Resistance to Military Rule**

Film: *Threads of Hope* (Chile)

V. Neoliberalism and Globalization in Latin America

Nov. 21 The Maquila Industry

Norma Iglesias Prieto, *Beautiful Flowers of the Maquiladora: Life Histories of Women Workers in Tijuana*, pp. 19-45

Film: *Zoned for Slavery*

Nov. 26. Environmental Conflicts in Latin America

Mark London and Brian Kelly, *The Last Forest: The Amazon in the Age of Globalization*, pp. 113-83

Nov. 28 Thanksgiving

Dec. 3 Transnational Labor Flows, Immigration, and the Remaking of Latino-America

Justin Akers Chacon and Mike Davis, *No One is Illegal: Fighting Racism and State Violence on the U.S.-Mexico Border*, pp. 155-70

Charles Ramirez Berg, *Latino Images in Film: Stereotypes, Subversion, and Resistance*, pp. 66-77

Samuel Huntington, *Who are We?: The Challenges to America's National Identity*, pp. 221-56

In Class Activity: Students' Life Stories and Reflections

Dec. 5 Contemporary Political Issues in Latin America

Christie Mount, "Brazil's Defiant AIDS Program: A Model for the Developing World" www.coha.org/brazils-defiant-aids-program-a-model-for-the-developing-world

Pamela Izaguirre, "Narco-Politics: How Mexico Got There and How it Can Get Out," [www.coha.org/narco-politics-how-mexico-got-there-and-how-it-can-get](http://www.coha.org/narco-politics-how-mexico-got-there-and-how-it-can-get-out) -out

Dec. 5 Final Exam Distributed

Final Exam Due Thursday, December 12 by 5PM at History Department Office, Garrison 101.