

Modern Latin America Spring 2014

Listings: HIS 346L (Unique 39860); AFR 374E (Unique 30775); LAS 366 (Unique 40960)
Global Cultures Flag Room: CLA 0.128 MWF 10:00 am – 11:00am
Professor: Dr. Del Castillo Teaching Assistant: Chris Heaney
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Overview:

This course introduces students to the history of Latin America from the eve of the wars of independence to the present. Major issues to be covered include the breakdown of Spanish and Portuguese Empires, the struggle to form independent nation-states, the re-integration of the region into the world economy, the emergence of national politics and mass culture, Cold War cycles of revolution and counter-revolution, the promise of democracy in the region, and implications of immigration from the region to the United States. In addition to highlighting the political history of the past two centuries, the course readings and lectures will examine the importance of ethnicity, race, class, nationality, and gender in understanding the changing characteristics of Latin American societies. A combination of primary sources and scholarly works will shed light on the historical development of Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, and Argentina, among other countries.

Over the course of the semester, students will consider the following broad questions: how has Latin America come to be imagined as a particular kind of place? What elements went into forging the imagined national communities of the region? How have different ideas of “progress” and “modernization” been applied over time in Latin America and what impacts have they had in practice? Why have hierarchical social orders proved so durable in Latin America? What have been the motors of reform, revolution, and counter-revolution in the region? And finally, how has the relationship between the United States and Latin America changed over time?

Through weekly discussions, essays, group work, and examinations, students will hone their talents for historical interpretation, including their critical thinking and writing skills. In addition, the course provides tools for understanding present-day problems in the Americas from a broader historical perspective.

Grading Policy on Course Requirements and Assignments:

Map quiz (In class on Friday, January 31)	5%
Overall Attendance and Participation in Friday Discussions	15%
Mid-Term (In class on Friday, March 7)	25%
Paper (1200-1800 words due in class Friday, May 2)	25% (20% paper; 5% prep for paper)
Final Exam Tuesday, May 13, 9am-12 noon	30%

*****MISSED EXAM / LATE ESSAY POLICY*****:

A missed map quiz, midterm, or final exam (with no documented, acceptable excuse) will result in a deduction of 2 full grades (eg. a B on the make up becomes a D). Late written work will result in a deduction of one full grade per 24-hour period after the deadline (including weekends & holidays). Exceptions will be made ONLY in cases where students have a **documented** personal, university related, or health related excuse.

Note – All requirements must be met in order to pass this course. Not taking the map quiz, failing to turn in an exam, neglecting to turn in the paper, or scoring lower than a 7.5 on attendance & participation (without a documented, acceptable excuse for absences), will result in a failing grade for the entire class. I will not grant incompletes for this class—no exceptions.

Academic/Learning Goals:

Map quiz: One goal of this course is for you to become familiar with basic Modern Latin American political geography. The map quiz will help “place” our discussions.

Attendance, readings & participation: Attendance is required. This means that you must score at least 7.5/15 points on this grade to pass both the grade and the class. But attendance is not enough. Expect in class discussion questions every day class meets. The iclicker will register your attendance and answers to class discussion questions. You also must complete weekly readings, which are intended to complement and enhance class lectures, and participate in our discussions of them. Expect in-class quizzes on the week’s readings on discussion days (typically Fridays). Breakdown of 15% attendance/participation grade: 8.4% for attendance on non-“discussion” days (typically Mondays and Wednesdays; 3.75 for attendance on Fridays; and 3.75% for answering Friday discussion questions “correctly”. If you are experiencing problems keeping up with the pace of the class please come see me, or the TA, during our office hours.

Note on the paper: Your paper (1,200-1800 words) will consist of a “mini-historiography” on a topic that interests you about Modern Latin American History. You will select the topic. You then will research online (via JSTOR or other related search engine). You will select 3 articles from peer-reviewed scholarly journals that are based on original research (i.e. author uses primary sources; journal articles that review other scholarly works are NOT acceptable). You will discuss your topic in terms of what other scholars have written about it: what questions have they asked; what arguments have they made; what sources have they used; what conclusions have they drawn; which scholars are most convincing and why; and you will indicate where more work needs to be done to better understand your topic. The point of this assignment is to introduce students to how scholars go about selecting a new topic to research and to understand the ways scholarly debates emerge and take place. It also is intended to help students with their critical thinking and writing skills.

Note on exams: At the start of each lecture, students will be provided with a “study sheet” that outlines the lecture and that includes some “key terms” to be covered. These “key terms” will appear on the exams. On exam days, you are expected to provide a short, (4-6 sentence) explanation of why the terms are historically significant. You are expected to draw on lecture notes and assigned readings for your answers. Exams will be a combination of these “short answer” questions with an essay. The final exam is cumulative; i.e., it will cover material from the entire semester. Students may bring in ONE 3X5 index card with any and all information they can fit onto both sides for both the mid-term and for the final.

Note on Bonus Points: You may earn up to (but no more than) 3 bonus points on your final average for sharing with the class a video, song, document, object, etc. that connects with the week’s theme for discussion. 1 point for bringing in the “source”; 1 point for a presentation that is 5 minutes or less total (including the video); 1 point for connecting the source specifically to the theme of the week. Please let the professor or TA know at least 1 hour before class that you intend to present. Time is limited; only 1 presentation is possible per class day.

Required Materials (available from the UT Co-op)

John Charles Chasteen. *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. Second Edition (New York: Norton, 2011) ISBN: 0393911543

John Charles Chasteen & James Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations* Third edition (Rowman and Littlefield, 2009)

i>clicker remote for in class discussions

Occasional articles posted online via **Canvas**

Suggested Further Reading: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/chasteen/welcome.htm>

Course Schedule

Part I: Latin America's Long Nineteenth Century, 1780-1930

Week 1

Introduction

Jan. 13

Course Introduction

Jan. 15

What, Where, and When is Modern Latin America?

Jan. 17

Readings for Discussion:

Born in Blood and Fire: "Introduction," "Encounter," & "Countercurrents"

Week 2

Emergence and Fragmentation of Colonial Rule

Jan. 20

MLK DAY, NO CLASS

Jan. 22

Iberian Colonialism and the Rise of the Castas

Jan. 24

Readings:

Born in Blood and Fire: "Colonial Crucible" & "Countercurrents"

CANVAS: "Legacies of Colonialism" in *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, eds., Chasteen and Wood (SR Books, 2004)

Week 3

The Age of Revolutions

Jan. 27

The Caribbean: Haiti

Jan. 29

Napoleonic Invasion of Iberia

Jan. 31

Map Quiz & Discussion:

-----In Class Map Quiz TODAY FRIDAY Jan. 31-----

Readings:

CANVAS: Dubois and Garrigus, "Introduction: Revolution, Emancipation, and Independence" in *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean* (Bedford St Martin's 2006), 7-40 & documents 37, 44, & 45.

Week 4

The Brazilian Empire

Feb. 3

The Movable Portuguese Empire

Feb. 5

Brazilian Empire

Feb. 7

Discussion:

Problems, "Slave Culture & Reading images"

CANVAS: Emilia Viotti da Costa, "Independence: The Building of a Nation," in *The Brazilian Empire: Myths and Histories* (Chicago, 1985), 1-23.

Week 5

The Challenges of Independence

Feb. 10

Independent Mexico

Feb. 12

The Case of Gran Colombia

Feb. 14

Discussion:

Readings

Born in Blood and Fire: "Independence" & "Countercurrents"

Problems: “I. Independence and Its Consequences” & “Reading Images: 19th century travelers”

CANVAS: Marcela Echeverri, “Popular Royalists, Empire, and Politics in Southwestern New Granada, 1809-1819,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* 91 no. 2 (2011): 237-269.

Week 6

Feb. 17

Feb. 19

Feb. 21

Readings

The Role of Caudillos in a Postcolonial Order

Rise of the Caudillos

Movie Camila

Movie Camila continued.

Born in Blood and Fire, “Post-Colonial Blues” & “the Power of Outsiders”

Problems: “III. Caudillos”

CANVAS: Maria Luisa Bemberg, “Being an Artist in Latin America” in *An Argentine Passion*, 216-23.

Week 7

Feb. 24

Feb 26

Feb 28.

Readings

The Emergence of Latin America

Liberal Reforms: the Case of Mexico

Neo-colonial moves and the question of “Latin” vs “Anglo” races

Discussion:

Born in Blood and Fire: “Progress” & “International Wars”

Problems: “IV. Liberalism and the Catholic Church

CANVAS: Michel Gobat, “The Invention of Latin America: A Transnational History of Anti-Imperialism, Democracy, and Race,”

The American Historical Review 118, no. 5 (December 2013): 1345-1375.

Week 8

March 3

March 5

March 7

End of Slavery and Era of Oligarchic Republics

Slavery and Republicanism in Brazil and Cuba

The Era of Oligarchic Republics

Read:

Born in Blood and Fire: “Neo-Colonialism”

Problems: “V. Race and Nation building”

CANVAS: Schmidt-Nowara “Empires against Emancipation”

MID-TERM EXAM in Class March 7

PART II: From the Twentieth Century into the Millennium

Week 9

SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Week 10

March 17

March 19

March 21

Increasing US-Latin America Relations

United States’ growing influence on Latin America, 1898-1930

Pan-Americanism and the US as a bad American citizen

Discussion

In-class view of Disney Shorts

Problems, Reading Images: US LAT AM Relations

Canvas: Marixa Lasso, “Nationalism and Immigrant Labor in a Tropical Enclave: the West Indians of Colon City, 1850-1936,”

Citizenship Studies 7, no. 5 (2013): 551-565.

Week 11
 March 24 **The Mexican Revolution and 20th century transformations**
 March 26 The Mexican Revolution
 March 28 Migration, Urbanization & Gender at the Turn of 20th Century
 Discussion:
Born in Blood and Fire: “Countercurrents: New Immigration to Latin America” & “Nationalism”
Problems, VII Nationalism & VIII. Women and Social Change
 Canvas: Robert McCaa, “Missing Millions: The Demographic Costs of the Mexican Revolution”

Week 12
 March 31 **Populism in the Mid-Twentieth Century**
 April 2 Political Economy of Populism
 April 4 From Populists to Dictators, and Post-war Modernization
 Discussion: Populists vs Revolutionaries
Born in Blood and Fire, “Revolution and Countercurrents”
Problems: “IX. Populism and the working class”

-----Due April 4: Topic (worth 1 pt on final avg.)-----

Week 13
 April 7 **The Cold War**
 April 9 Cold War: Myths, Realities, and Proxy Armies
 April 11 From PBSUCCESS to the Cuban Revolution
 Discussion: Evaluating justifications for combating social revolution
Born in Blood and Fire, “Reaction and countercurrents”
Problems: “XI. Latin America, the US and the Cold War”

Week 14
 April 14 **Latin America’s 1960s-70s**
 April 16 A new political spectrum: New Left, New Center-Right & New Right
 April 18 Alliance for Progress and National Security Doctrine
 Discussion: Evaluating US intervention in the Region
 Chasteen & Wood, *Problems*, “X. Social Revolution”

-----Due April 18: Topic with Annotated biblio (worth 4 pts of final avg.)-----

Week 15
 April 21 **Debt and the Washington Consensus**
 April 23 Debt Crisis and the Washington Consensus
 April 25 “Free” Trade Agreements
 Discussion
Born in Blood and Fire: Neoliberalism
Problems: “XII. Globalization.”

Week 16
 April 28 **Drugs, Immigration, and Latin America’s turn to the Left**
 April 30 Illicit Flows
 May 2 The emergence of the Left
 Discussion and Final Exam Review
 Problems: “XIII/ The New Left Turn”

-----DUE May 2 in class – Paper -----

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 13, 9-12 noon in our classroom.

Useful Info and links:

Grades will be determined as follows:

93-100=A
90-92=A-
87-89=B+
83-86=B
80-82=B-
77-79=C+
73-76=C
70-72=C-
67-69=D+
63-66=D
60-62=D-
00-59=F

Global Cultures Flag

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Consider visiting the Undergraduate Writing Center located at FAC 211 for help with your papers. Call 512-471-6222, set up an appointment online, or drop in. The UWC uses a swipe card system at the check-in desk. Remember to bring your UT ID when you visit.
<http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/students/appointment>

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, [512-471-6259](tel:512-471-6259),
<http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Regarding academic dishonesty: UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) and an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism (Link to University Honor Code:
<http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>)

Regarding accommodations for religious holidays: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures: www.utexas.edu/emergency. Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation must inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): [512-232-5050](tel:512-232-5050)