Historiography of Twentieth-Century Latin America

History 386K/ LAS 386
Prof. Seth Garfield
Spring 2018, Tues., 9:30-12:30
Office Hours, GAR 2.120, Thursday, 10-12 or by appointment

Course Description:

This graduate seminar explores key topics and trends in the historiography of twentieth-century Latin America: migration; agro-export economies; urbanization and industrialization, ideologies of race, gender and sexuality; consumerism and the middle class; development and the environment; U.S.-Latin American relations, political violence and the Cold War. Paired readings focus on case studies from discrete Latin American nations and are designed to introduce students to some of the primary topics of inquiry and methodological approaches for historians of the twentieth century.

Assignments:

On most weeks, students will write a short essay (2-3 pp.) in the format of a critical book review that highlights the author’s findings, research methodology, and historiographical contributions. Students are required to submit a total of 10 such reviews over the course of the semester. Each student will be responsible for leading class discussion at least once during the semester. S/he should present a brief overview of the author’s thesis and methodology and pose questions and/or critiques for further discussion.

The final paper will consist of a comparative essay that reviews at least five texts to analyze divergences or overlaps in the treatment of a given historical/historiographical theme. The selected topic may be one of those covered in class (and may make use of required readings as two of the five texts) or another of the student’s choosing. Students are encouraged to discuss their topics and bibliography with me in advance.

Readings will be available on 24-hr. reserve at the Benson Library.
Schedule:

Twentieth-Century History: Periodization, Characterization

January 16
Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space* (selections)
John McNeill, *Something New Under the Sun* (selections)

On the Move: International Migration and the Shaping of Latin America

January 23
José Moya, *Cousins and Strangers: Spanish Immigrants in Buenos Aires, 1850-1930*

January 30
Elliott Young, *Alien Nation: Chinese Migration in the Americas from the Coolie Era Through World War II*

In the Eagle’s Shadow: Imperial Formations and Nation-Building in the Caribbean Basin

February 6
Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*

February 13
Lauren Derby, *The Dictator’s Seduction: Politics and the Popular Imagination in the Era of Trujillo*

February 20
Jon Soluri, *Banana Cultures: Agriculture, Consumption, and Environmental Change in Honduras and the United States*

February 27
Alejandro de la Fuente, *A Nation for All: Race, Inequality, and Politics in Twentieth-Century Cuba*
Urbanization, Industrialization, Mass Consumerism

March 6
Ann Farnsworth-Alvear, *Dulcinea in the Factory: Myths, Morals, Men and Women in Colombia’s Industrial Experiment*

March 20

March 27

Development, Science, and the Environment

April 3
Emily Wakild, *Revolutionary Parks: Conservation, Social Justice, and Mexico’s National Parks, 1910-1940*

April 10
Eve Buckley, *Technocrats and the Politics of Drought and Development in Twentieth-Century Brazil*

April 17

Political Violence in Latin America

April 24
Sebastián Carassai, *The Argentine Silent Majority: Middle Classes, Politics, Violence and Memory in the Seventies*

May 1
Kristen Weld, *Paper Cadavers: The Archives of Dictatorship in Guatemala*

May 10
Final Paper Due