

Course name: History of Latin America

- ✓ *Hours of Instruction per Week: 4*
- ✓ *Total weeks: 15*
- ✓ *Total Hours of Instruction: 60*
- ✓ *Courses transferable to ECTS*
- ✓ *Courses transferable to U.S. System*
- ✓ *Recommendation: Advanced written and spoken English*

Course Description

This course studies the formation and evolution of societies in Latin America with a focus in Argentina. Using a comparative approach, the course begins with the aftermath of independence and goes on to tell the story of the complex ethnic and cultural components that impacted in the formation of Latin American societies. It will discuss the emergence of the Masses in the 20th Century, and their key role as political actors in the Mexican, the "Peronist," and the Cuban revolutions, among others. The general problem of economic inequality will be considered throughout the course with a special focus on Latin America's social structure as it relates to race and class.

Course Requirements

Methodology & Participation: Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class, and prepare assigned papers and/oral activities. In addition to this, each student will have to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue.

Group Presentation: In groups, students will organize a presentation on a contemporary issue in Latin America today for the last weeks of the course. Guidelines will be provided.

Papers: Students will prepare 1 (one) brief essays (1,000 words) connecting different texts and events covered during the course. They will need to address a key question, like how has the construction of race, gender, social position and political ideology affected people in Latin America? What social forces have been in opposition to each other in the region? Why has revolution been attempted or carried out so frequently? What forces have contributed to poverty in Latin America? What has been the relationship of Latin American nations to the U.S. and Spain? Guidelines will be provided.

Mid-Term Exam: will be in class.

Final Exam: The final exam will be on the last weeks of classes.

Attendance: A 75% attendance to classes is mandatory to keep the regular student status. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students have to slide an electronic card every class to comply with attendance policy.

Important note for oral presentations and response papers: it is strongly recommended that students read an article from our electronic library (such as JSTOR or / Wilson Web). Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for research. Any student caught plagiarizing will immediately be given a “no credit” for all courses taken in the semester.

Grading Policy

- Response Paper (1) 25%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Group Presentation 20%
- Final Exam 30%

Academic Calendar

Week 1

Latin America in 19th Century Introduction to the course. The legacies of Colonial Times

- After independence (KH: 179-192) Religion - Film: The Mission

Week 2

Decolonization and the Search for National Identities: 1821-1870

- The fruits of independence – General Overview (KH: 193-196)
- Mexico (KH: 196-204)
- Argentina (KH: 205-211)
- CR: Domingo Sarmiento, The City and the Countryside: Civilization versus Barbarism
- Patriarchy - Film: Camila

Week 3

The Triumph of Neocolonialism and the Liberal State (1870-1900)

- New Colonialism (KH: 243-246)
- Mexican Politics and Economy (KH:247-252)
- Argentine Politics and Economy (KH:252-255)
- Race, Nation, and Freedom in Cuba (KH: 231-235)
- CR: Jose Marti, Our America

Week 4

The Mexican revolution and the populist challenge

- The Great Revolution (KH: 313-325)
- Neocolonialism - Film: Viva Zapata

Week 5

Populist Leaders and their downfall

- Reconstructing the state (KH: 325-330)
- Mexico: Lázaro Cárdenas and the populist interlude (KH:330-333)
- Mexico: Big Bourgeoisie in Power (KH:333-338)
- Argentina: populism, the military and the struggle for democracy (KH:356-361)
- Argentina: Yrigoyen and the "infamous decade" (KH:356-368)

Week 6

The Perón Era (1945-1973)

- The First Peronismo (1945-1955) (KH: 368-373)

FIRST PAPER DUE

- In the shadow of Perón (1955-1973) (KH: 373-375)
- Film: La República Perdida 1930 – 1976

Week 7

Cuba: the revolutionary socialist alternative to populism

- Cuba: Independence, dependent development and popular struggle (KH: 376-388)
- Cuba: the Revolution (KH: 389-399)
- CR: Program Manifesto of the 26th of July Movement

Week 8

Deconstructing the state: Chile

- The Socialist alternative (1970-1973) (KH: 421-432)
- The Chilean Road to Socialism (KH:432-437)
- Military Dictatorship and Neoliberalism in Chile (KH:508-511)
- Revolution – Film: La República Perdida 1930 – 1976
- Historical Memory - Film: Missing

MID-TERM EXAM

Week 9 / Week 10

Military Dictatorship and Neoliberalism in Argentina (1976-1990)

- Argentina (KH: 511-514)
- CR: Never Again (read Prologue & Conclusion) at

http://www.desaparecidos.org/nuncamas/web/english/library/neveragain/neveragain_001.htm

- State Terrorism - Film: La República Perdida 1930–1976

Week 11

Revolution and Prolonged Popular War in Central America

- El Salvador (KH:457-467)
- Central America in 19th Century (KH:216-218; 265-268)
- CR: Archbishop Oscar Romero, The Last Sermon (1980)
- Nicaragua (KH:447-457; 520-522)
- CR: The Nicaraguan Revolution
- Mexico, NAFTA and Zapatistas (KH:514-520) CR: EZLN: Sixth Declaration of the Selva Lacandona (2005)

Week 12 / Week 13

Transcending Neoliberalism Dictatorship of Markets and Resistance

SECOND PAPER DUE

- Brazil (KH:523-529) Group Presentation
- Chile (KH-536-540) Group Presentation
- Argentina (KH:529-532) Group Presentation
- Mexico (KH:540-543) Group Presentation
- Bolivia (KH: 543-547) Group Presentation
- Ecuador (KH: 547-552) Group Presentation
- Neoliberalism - Film: Pixote - Estación central

Week 14

The Two Americas: USA-Latin America

- Towards a New World Order? (KH:587-592)

Week 15

Latin America Today - Current Latin America situation

- Film: South of the border

FINAL EXAM

Final Grade Sheet and signature of "Hoja de situación" (attendance is mandatory).