War and Nationalism in Latin America

Instructor: Professor Carlos Aguirre
Office and Phone number: 369 McKenzie Hall, 346-5905
Office hours: Wed. 10-11 am; Friday 10-12 am.
E-mail: caguirre@uoregon.edu
Web page: http://uoregon.edu/~caguirre/home.html

Course Description

Wars --both internal and foreign--constitute recurrent and dramatic instances of historical change for most human societies. They reflect (but also alter) pre-existing power arrangements. They have profound and durable effects in the social, political, economic, and cultural configuration of a given society. And they have come to occupy a prominent place in the construction of collective memories. Since the wars of independence in the early nineteenth century, most—if not all—Latin American countries have been at one point or another involved in violent, frequently devastating military confrontations. They have produced enduring changes--territorial mutilation, economic devastation, radical social and political transformation, and so forth--, as well as powerful collective memories that have greatly contributed to the formation and consolidation of national forms of identity. In one way or another, present-day Latin American nation-states are the historical product of successive wars. This course surveys the relationship between wars and nationalism in modern Latin America by offering an overview of the causes and effects of war in many countries of the region and their relationship with the process of formation of nation-states.

Course Policies

1. Students are expected to attend lectures consistently. A passing grade will be difficult to achieve without regular attendance. Students must also consistently read the assigned materials.
2. The course instructor will hold regular office hours every week.
Students are encouraged to visit him to discuss pertinent issues or get additional information about the course's themes, policies, and grades.

3. A common form of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students must become familiar with the University of Oregon rules about this issue. More information will be offered at the appropriate time.

4. An atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and fairness will be enforced by the instructor. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment—i.e. no talking, eating, or newspaper reading during lecture.

5. An “incomplete” grade will be granted only in cases of extreme need and only to those students that have an acceptable record of class attendance and get at least a C in the mid-term. Students that need an "incomplete" grade must make arrangements with the instructor on or before the last week of classes.

Requirements

1. Two quizzes (20%)
2. Book review. Students will write a review of one of the assigned books (Ada Ferrer's Insurgent Cuba or Miguel Angel Centeno’s Blood and Debt) More details will be offered in class (20%)
3. Midterm exam (20%)
4. Final exam (40%)

Note: Both the midterm and the final exams will include questions directly related to the assigned readings. Students are strongly encouraged to read the materials each week and are expected to participate in class discussions.

Readings: The following books are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore, and have been placed on reserve at Knight Library.

Miguel Angel Centeno, Blood and Debt. War and the Nation-State in Latin America (University Park: Penn State University Press, 2002).

In addition, a number of articles and book chapters are available on electronic reserve.
Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1

Introduction to the course: War, States, and Nations in Theoretical and Comparative Perspective

Readings:


Week 2

Latin American War- and State-Making: An Overview


Week 3

War and Nationalism on the US-Mexico Border

Readings:

Week 4

The War of the Pacific and Confictive Nationalisms in Peru, Chile, and Bolivia / QUIZ # 1: April 26th.

Readings:


Week 5

The Commemoration of the War of the Pacific in Peru, Chile, and Bolivia / Midterm Exam: May 4th.

Reading: Patience Schell, “Exhuming the Past with the Future in Mind: History Exhibitions and Museums in late Nineteenth-Century Chile,” Relics and Selves, Iconographies of the National in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile (Birkbeck College, London)
http://www.bbk.ac.uk/ibamuseum/texts/Schell03.htm

Week 6

War on Indians: the "Conquest of the Desert" and the Remaking of the Argentine Nation / Midterm Exam

Readings:

Jens Andermann, “ Argentine Literature and the Conquest of the Desert, 1872-1896,” Relics and Selves, Iconographies of the National in Argentina, Brazil, and Chile (Birkbeck College, London)
(http://www.bbk.ac.uk/ibamuseum/texts/Andermann02.htm)
Week 7

War, Race, Nation, and Empire: Cuba 1868-1898


Week 8

Mexico: Revolution and the Remaking of the Nation / QUIZ # 2: May 25th.


Week 9

Malvinas or Falkland? War, Nation, and Memory in Argentina / Book review DUE: June 1st.

Readings:


Week 10

War, Nation, and Citizenship in Latin America

Final Exam: Tuesday, June 13, 1 p.m.