

HISTORY 256

Modern Latin America



St. Francis Xavier University
2008-2009

Dr. Chris Frazer

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
HISTORY 256 – MODERN LATIN AMERICA
Fall Term 2008-2009

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This three-credit course surveys the political, social, economic and cultural history of Latin America from independence to present. Topics and themes include: the struggles for independence, beginning with Haiti's slave revolution; the creation of new nations and societies; the abolition of slavery and the struggles of indigenous peoples; the achievements and limitations of modernization; the development of social classes and new ideas about ethnicity, gender and sexuality; issues related to neocolonialism, nationalism, revolution, and foreign intervention; and the impact of democratization and globalization. Instruction includes lectures, reading, class discussion, film screenings, and written assignments. It is very important that students attend class and keep up with assignments. In their written work, including exams, students will need to demonstrate familiarity with all course material.

EVALUATION:

Mid-term exam	15%	Research essay	35%
Final exam	40%	Class discussion	10%

REQUIRED:

Cheryl Martin and Mark Wasserman, *Latin American and its People, vol. II*.
Che Guevara, *The Motorcycle Diaries*.
Clorinda Matto de Turner, *Birds Without A Nest*.
John Charles Chasteen and James Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*.

RECOMMENDED:

William Kelleher Storey and Towser Jones, *Writing History: A Guide for Students*.

Due Dates for Assignments and Exams:

Midterm Quiz:	February 21	Last Class:	April 9
Research Essay:	March 31	Final Exam:	December TBA

Introduction

September 4

Imperial Crisis and Independence

September 8-11

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 8, (pp. 245-273)

Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 2, (pp. 23-48)

The New Nations: Instability and Conflict

September 15-18

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 9, (pp. 274-308)

Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 4, (pp. 77-101)

The New Nations: the Lived Experience

September 22-25

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 10, (pp. 309-339)

Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 3, (pp. 49-76)

The Liberal Era: Nation-States and Development

September 29-October 2

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 11, (pp. 340-354)

Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 5, (pp. 103-126)

Order and Progress: the Limits of Modernity

October 6-9

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 11, (pp. 354-369)

Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 6, (pp. 127-148)

Neocolonialism and *Nuestra América*

October 15-16

Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 7, (pp. 149-180)

The New Century: Between Reform and Revolution

October 20-24

No Readings

Midterm Exam October 23

The Rise of Nationalism and Populism...

October 27-30

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 11, (pp. 363-369)
Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 8, (pp. 181-201)

...And its Decline

November 3-6

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 12, (pp. 370-398)
Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 9, (pp. 203-226)

The Cold War: the USA and Latin America

November 10-13

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 13, (pp. 399-424)
Che Guevara, *The Motorcycle Diaries*, entire

The Revolutionary Option: Cuba and Beyond

November 17-20

Research Essay Due November 17

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 14, (pp. 425-436)
Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 11, (pp. 253-278)

Dictators and Yankees: The Military Takes Over

November 24-27

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 14, (pp. 436-457)
Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 12, (pp. 279-299)

Latin America Today: Globalization and Resistance

December 1-3

Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People: 2*, Chapter 15, (pp. 458-483)
Chasteen and Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, Chapter 13, (pp. 301-322)

Final Exam (Date TBA)

Policies

1. Research Papers: Basic Guidelines

I will not accept papers that do not meet the basic requirements set by me and the department of history. I may assign a failing grade or require you to re-write your paper. Research essays 10-12 pages in length need a bibliography with at least five sources (scholarly books and articles), all of which must be cited in a minimum of thirty footnotes or endnotes. Book reviews do not require sources beyond the book under review; however, they do require a minimum of thirty citations. In this course, students are required to use the Chicago style for their bibliography and citations. For more details see Storey and Jones, *Writing History*, pp. 38-46 or views the guidelines posted on the history department website <http://www.stfx.ca/academic/history/essayguide.html>.

2. Extended Deadlines on Assignments

It is your responsibility to organize your time and ensure that assignments are complete by the due date. I understand that you cannot anticipate emergencies and extenuating circumstances and will grant an extension if necessary. In such cases, you must provide proof of need for an extension (a note from a physician, employer, coach, instructor, the registrar, or student services). False requests for extensions are subject to academic discipline (see the university calendar, Academic Integrity Policy, 3.9.2, p. 14).

3. Late Penalties on Assignments

The penalty is 2 percent per weekday and 1 percent per weekend for students who submit their assignments late, without prior permission for an extension.

4. Attendance at Exams

It is your responsibility to ensure that you attend exams on the day, time, and location set by me or the registrar. There is no rule against three exams in 24 hours. In the case of an emergency, I will make arrangements to write make-up exams. Students must provide proof of an acceptable reason for not writing the exam. Travel plans for personal or non-academic purposes are not an acceptable reason. For more information, see the course calendar (Academic Regulations, Examination, 3.10, p. 14).

5. Plagiarism and Cheating

Neither the university nor I tolerates plagiarism or cheating. The university calendar describes "Plagiarism [as] the misrepresentation of another's work – whether ideas or words, intellectual or creative works, images or data, published or unpublished – as one's own" (St.FX 2007-2008 calendar, p. 14). Make sure you know what constitutes plagiarism and cheating. For more info visit the Writing Centre website and read the material at the following URL about plagiarism, <http://www.stfx.ca/resources/writingcentre/Plagiarism.htm>, as well as the StFX MacDonald library website at <http://library.stfx.ca/help/plagiarism.php>.

6. Class Equity Policy

For all members of our class to learn effectively, this class must be an inclusive and safe learning environment. To ensure this, my policy is that no one shall be discriminated against or harassed on the basis of age, race, colour, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, physical disability or mental disability, health status, ethnic, national or Aboriginal origin, family or marital status, income, or political belief. Discrimination is the distinctive treatment of a person on the basis of one or more of the above characteristics, which imposes a burden, obligation or disadvantage, or

withholds benefits or disadvantages from such individuals. Harassment, including sexual harassment, is offensive and objectionable conduct or comment toward another person or persons.