

History 364
Revolution and Radical Politics in Latin America

TR 10:30-11:45PM
Rob B124
Spring 2010

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Course Description:

During the twentieth century, Latin America has witnessed both peaceful political movements and violent revolutions aimed at redressing economic inequalities and creating a more just society. This course will consider several of these movements in comparative perspective: the Mexican Revolution, the Allende regime in Chile, the Cuban and Nicaraguan Revolutions. Among the questions we will consider are the following: What factors account for the emergence of these movements? What has determined their success or failure? What impact have they had on society? What role has the United States played in fomenting or preventing these radical political movements?

Books Required for Purchase:

Michael J. Gonzales, *The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940*
Jorge Castañeda, *Compañero: The Life and Death of Che Guevara*
Peter Winn, *Weavers of Revolution: The Yarur Workers & Chile's Road to Socialism*
Thomas Wright, *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*

Optional: Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, *Modern Latin America* (6th edition)

Note: This book is not required, but it is recommended for anyone who has no background in Latin American history.

*All books are available at the University Bookstore. All other readings are available on Blackboard.

Class Requirements:

Requirements include a midterm and final exams (both of which will be composed of essay questions and identifications) as well as a 6-8 page paper involving outside research (see assignment below). Late papers will be marked down one half grade per day unless an extension is requested and granted at least one week prior to the due date. Active participation in class discussions is required, and there will be three short multiple choice/short answer quizzes to assess whether students are keeping up with the reading. Quiz dates are listed in the class schedule below.

Grades will be determined as follows:

midterm

20%

final	35%
paper	30%
class participation and quizzes	15%

Class Schedule:

(Note: all reading assignments below are required except those from Skidmore and Smith, which are always optional.)

1/19 - Introduction: The Significance of Revolution in Latin American History

1/21 - The Challenge of Latin America: Inequality and Dependence

- Skidmore and Smith, 1-10, 42-52

Part I: Modernization and its Discontents

1/26, 1/28, 2/2 - The Mexican Revolution: Causes and Process

- Skidmore and Smith, 254-269
- Gonzales, 1-132
- "Plan of San Luis Potosí" and "Plan of Ayala"

2/4, 2/9, 2/11 - The Mexican Revolution: Who Won and How?

- Skidmore and Smith, 269-295
- Gonzales, 133-270

Quiz 1 on 2/9 (covers Gonzales, 133-270)

Part II: The Dawn of the Cold War

2/16 – Revolution and Counterrevolution in Guatemala

- Skidmore and Smith, 373-375, 389-395, 396-417
- Wright, xi-xiv

2/18, 2/23 – The Cuban Revolution: Origins and Triumph

- Skidmore and Smith, 296-309
- Wright, 1-19
- Castañeda, Compañero, 1-195
- Fidel Castro, "History will Absolve Me"

Quiz 2 on 2/23 (covers Castañeda, 1-195)

2/25, 3/2 – The Cuban Revolution in Power

- Wright, 21-38
- Castañeda, 196-275
- Skidmore and Smith, 309-327

3/4 - **MIDTERM EXAM**

[SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS, 3/8-3/14]

Part III: After Cuba

3/16, 3/18, 3/23, 3/25 – The Impact of the Cuban Revolution in Latin America and the U.S.

- Wright, 39-109
- Castañeda, 326-410
- Film (in class): *State of Siege* (Costa-Gavras, 1973)

Research Paper thesis and bibliography due, 3/18

3/30, 4/1, 4/6, 4/8, - Chile: A Peaceful Path to Socialism?

- Skidmore and Smith, 109-138
- Wright, 129-147
- Winn, whole book

Quiz 3 on 4/6 (covers Winn)

4/13, 4/15, 4/20, – Nicaragua: The Rise and Fall of the Sandinista Revolution

- Skidmore and Smith, 375-380
- Wright, 168-185

RESEARCH PAPER due in class on 4/20

4/22, 4/27, 4/29 – The Rise (and Fall?) of Neoliberalism

- Skidmore and Smith, 440-455
- Wright, 149-164, 187-206

5/6 - **FINAL EXAM** (10:30-1:15)

Research Paper Assignment
Due in class on Wednesday, April 16
(Preliminary Thesis and Bibliography due on Monday, March 24)

Pick a Latin American revolutionary movement that occurred in the past. You may NOT choose either the Mexican or Cuban Revolutions, but any other historical case is fair game, including the Nicaraguan, Guatemalan, and Chilean movements we are studying in this class.

Research this movement through the available scholarly literature. You must consult at least three significant scholarly books or articles that we have not read in class. (Textbooks, newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, and most websites are NOT scholarly works.)

Write a 6-8 page essay in which you make an historical argument about the movement you have chosen. In other words, your paper must do more than simply describe the movement or list its characteristics; you need to advance your own interpretation. Since you only have 6-8 pages to work with, you should focus on one particular aspect of the movement: its causes, its impact, the reasons for its success or failure or some other historical issue. Do NOT argue that the movement was simply good or bad. To give your paper a comparative dimension, you should draw on one or two of the class readings.

Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, spell-checked, proof-read, stapled, and page-numbered.

Below are several possible movements to explore, along with bibliographical recommendations. Feel free to choose a different movement and/or different readings. I will approve your choices when you hand in your thesis and bibliography on March 24.

1) Peru: Sendero Luminoso (the Shining Path)

David Scott Palmer, ed., *The Shining Path of Peru* (St. Martin's Press)

Orin Starn, "To Revolt against the Revolution: War and Resistance in Peru's Andes,"

Cultural Anthropology 10:4 (547-80).

Steve Stern, ed., *Shining and Other Paths: War and Society in Peru, 1980-1995* (Duke)

2) El Salvador: Communist movement of 1932

Roque Dalton, *Miguel Marmol* (Curbstone).

Jeffrey Gould, *To Rise in Darkness* (Duke)

3) El Salvador: FMLN (the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front)

Aldo Lauria-Santiago and Leigh Binford, eds., *Landscapes of Struggle*

4) Argentina: the Montoneros

Richard Gillespie, *Soldiers of Perón: Argentina's Montoneros* (Oxford)

5) Guatemala: Arévalo/Arbenz or the later guerrilla struggles

Piero Gleijeses, *Shattered Hope*

Cindy Forster, *The Time of Freedom*
Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre*