

HISTORY OF MODERN LATIN AMERICA (164)

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Spring, 2005  
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Office Hours:  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

A historical survey of modern Latin American history from independence in 1825 through the neo-liberal led economic recovery and consolidation of democracy of the 1980s & 1990s. A problems approach emphasizing concepts and trends will focus on such topics as the authoritarian tradition, role of foreign capital, formation and consolidation of the state, the development of underdevelopment, oligarchical rule, the military, the church, revolutionary movements, democracy and dictatorship, populism and the current wave of democratization and neo-liberalism. The underlying theme of the course will be the problem of Latin American underdevelopment.

The methodological approach for the course combines analytical and narrative history, seeking to provide the historical context for understanding contemporary trends and prospects for the region. The two centuries of history covered will be "periodized," with country specific examples provided to illustrate the general characteristics and trends of each period. Obviously with some twenty distinct countries comprising the region, each with their own particular histories, students must read widely in order to supplement the lectures and discussion and to gain a fuller understanding of the diversity, scope and intricacies of the region's history. A series of video clips and an occasional guest lecture will supplement the general lecture/discussion format of the course. I will also encourage groups of 3-4 students to meet with me occasionally during my office hours to raise questions, pursue clarifications and/or raise pertinent issues regarding course readings and lectures. Please take advantage of these opportunities.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available GW bookstore)

Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire  
Chasteen & Wood, Problems in Modern Latin American History  
Lynch, Argentine Caudillo: Juan Manuel de Rosas  
Wright, Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution  
Guillermoprieto, LOOKING FOR HISTORY: a HEMISPHERIC HISTORY  
Fernandez-Armesto, The Americas: A Hemispheric History

RECOMMENDED

Clayton & Conniff, A History of Modern Latin America  
 Klaren & Bossert (eds.), Promise of Development: Theories of Change in LA  
 Klaren, Peru: Society & Nationhood in the Andes

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Midterm (@30% ca.) on March 8 and 2<sup>nd</sup> midterm on April on May 5). In addition students will be expected to write a 10 page commentary on Lynch, if available (if not a book of your choice approved by the instructor), approved by the instructor, and Guillermprieto, worth 30% of the grade. Commentaries, due April 21, must be word processed, page numbered and double spaced. Also students will be given a MAP QUIZ (5%), to locate on a blank map of the region each country, its population and capital city, some time during the semester. Finally, volunteers will be asked to form teams for a group presentation and discussion of Lynch and perhaps Fernandez-Armesto=s comparative history of the US & LA while individuals will occasionally be asked (again voluntary) to make short oral reports in class on a particular document in Chasteen and Wood. Extra Credit will accrue to those in the class who participate in these exercises and/or write an additional book review(s) of their choice, approved by the instructor, (3-4 pgs.) due anytime during the semester up to the last day of class.

#### Some Good Reads:

Che Guevara, Motorcycle Diaries  
 Rigoberta Menchu, I, Rigoberta Menchu  
 Georgeanne Geyer, Guerrilla Prince  
 Tad Sulcz, Fidel  
 Judith Hellman, Mexican Lives  
 Jorge Castaneda, Utopia Unarmed  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Companero: The Life & Death of Che Guevara  
 Gabriel Garcia Marquez, The General in His Labyrinth  
 Lester Langley, The Banana Men  
 \_\_\_\_\_, The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750-1850  
 Miguel Angel Asturias, The President  
 Levine & Meihy, The Unedited Diaries of Carolina Maria de Jesus  
 Kyle Longley, In the Eagle=s Shadow: The US & LA  
 Brian Loveman, For la Patria: Politics and the Armed forces of LA  
 Richard Gott, In the Shadow of the Liberator: Hugo Chavez  
 Thomas Paterson, Contesting Castro  
 Mitilde Zimmerman, Sandinista: Carlos Fonseca & the Nico rev  
 Alicia Dujovne, Eva Peron

Various LA novels can be found in translation.

Copies can be found at Gelman, Amazon. Com or PFK library.

Students with Disabilities: In order to receive accommodations on the basis of disability, a student must give notice and provide proper documentation to the Office of Disability, Support System, MC 436, tel-994-8250.

Student Responsibilities: Students who fail to notify the instructor prior to missing an exam or paper due date, for whatever reason, will be subject to a penalty on the final grade. Valid medical or other excuses must be documented by a physician or other source acceptable to the instructor.

In addition students are required to adhere to the following class code of conduct:

- \*come to class REGULARLY and on time (prolonged absences will adversely effect one's grade)
- \*refrain from eating or drinking during class
- \*turn off all cell phones while in class
- \*refrain from talking during lectures
- \*abide by the university rules against plagiarism

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS BY WEEKS (Subject to change)

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT (approximate)
1	Jan 18-20	INTRODUCTION Video: The Price of Freedom/Problems Independence  <u>Assignment:</u> Chasteen, chs 3-4, C & W, ch 2, Fernandez-Armesto, ch. 3
2	Jan 25-27	POST COLONIAL BLUES: Age of the Caudillos, 1825-1850  <u>Assignment:</u> Chasteen, ch 5; Lynch, 1 <sup>st</sup> half, C & W, ch 4; F-A, ch. 4
3	Feb. 1-3	POST COLONIAL BLUES: The Caudillos; team presentation of Lynch  <u>Assignment:</u> Chasteen, ch 6; Lynch, 2 <sup>nd</sup> half; C & W, chs 3 & 5
4	Feb 8-10	PROGRESS: Export-Led Growth & Modernization, 1870-1910  <u>Assignment:</u> Chasteen, ch 7; C & W, 6
5	Feb 15-17	CONSOLIDATION OF THE LIBERAL, OLIGARCHICAL STATE State & Nature of the Political System, 1870-1910  <u>Video clip:</u> Argentina, 1880-1930  <u>Assignment:</u> C & W, 7

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6 Feb 22-24 NATIONALISM: Social Change & the Emergence of the Middle Class of the Middle Class, 1910-1930

Video: The Mexican Revolution of 1910

Assignment: Chasteen, ch 8

7 March 1-3 RISE OF US HEGEMONY IN THE CARIBBEAN 1890-1930

Video clip: The Yankee Years

Assignment, Chasteen, ch 8, C & W, ch 8; F-A, ch. 6

NATIONALISM: The Era of National Populism: Origins & Characteristics, 1930-1960

Assignment: Chasteen, ch8;

C & W, ch, 10

8 March 8\*-10 NATIONAL POPULISM  
MIDTERM EXAM (Tues 8<sup>th</sup>\*)

Video clip: Peron's Argentina

Assignment: Guillermprieto, ch 1; C & W, ch 9

9 March 15-17 SPRING BREAK

10 March 22-24 NATIONAL POPULISM (cont.)

Video Clip: Mexico under Cardenas

Video clip: The Yankee Years: From the Good Neighbor to the Cold War, 1930-1959

Assignment: Guillermprieto, chs. 2,5

11 March 29-31 POST WORLD WAR II: Democratic Springtime to the Twilight of the Tyrants in the Context of Cold War

Guatemala & Bolivia: US Response to Rev (Jim Siekmeyer, Dept. State)

Democracy@s Progress in Chile, Venezuela, Colombia,  
Costa Rica

Assignment: Chasteen, ch. 9, C & W, ch 11

12 April 5-7 REVOLUTION #1: Cuba 1959 & Its Impact

Video: The Last Communist

Assignment: Chasteen, ch 9; C & W, ch 11  
Wright, chs 1-5; Guillermoprieto, chs 3-4

13 April 12-14 REACTION: The National Security State,  
1970s

Video clip: Argentina and the Dirty  
War/Brazil: Capital Sins

Assignment: Chasteen, ch10;  
Wright, chs 6-10

14 April 19-21 REVOLUTION #2: CENTRAL AMERICA

Videos: Fire in the Mind/Crisis in CA  
The Nicaraguan Revolution

Assignment: Wright, ch 4; C & W, ch 12

COMMENTARY DUE (thrs. 21<sup>st</sup>)

15 April 26-28 REDEMOCRATIZATION, NEO-LIBERALISM & THEIR  
PROBLEMS SINCE 1980

Assignment: Chasteen, ch 11; C & W, 13; F-A, 7;  
Guillermoprieto, ch. 6

16 May 3-5\* CONCLUSION & 2<sup>nd</sup> MIDTERM EXAM \* 5th)

