

**HIST 2372-Latin American History Since 1820**  
**University of Houston**



Emiliano Zapata



Frida Kahlo



Che Guevara and Fidel Castro



Evo Morales

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 Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 3-4 p.m. or by app.

Class meetings: Agnes Hall 201  
 M-W 4.00-5.30 p.m.  
 Section: 32634



Mine Workers in 1950s Chile



Landless Movement, Brazil



United Fruit Company Workers in Guatemala

**Course Description**

This course examines the history of modern Latin America by analyzing key processes in the development of the region: the formation of modern states after independence, the end to slavery, the consolidation of populist regimes, the expansion of revolutionary movements, the establishment of military dictatorships, the return to democracy, and the current expansion of neo-liberal reforms and globalization. By analyzing these processes, this course explores crucial aspects of modern Latin America including the Mexican Revolution, Peronism, and guerrilla warfare; investigates key historical actors such as Emiliano Zapata, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Eva Perón, Augusto Sandino, Augusto Pinochet, and Hugo Chavez; and reflects on the role of the political elites, women, workers, peasants, students, and racial and ethnic groups in the construction of modern history. The course also presents a variety of conceptual categories in a historical perspective, including nationalism, postcolonialism, populism, liberalism, socialism, imperialism, neo-liberalism, and globalization.



Juan and Eva Perón

Rigoberta Menchú

1960s demonstration in Rosario, Argentina

### Learning Objectives

1. Increase students' knowledge of the modern history of Latin American countries
2. Reflect on the role of diverse social actors, especially political elites, women, students, peasants, workers, and racial and ethnic groups in the development of key historical processes in Latin America
3. Deepen conceptual and historical understanding of gender, race, and class in modern Latin American history
4. Stimulate independent and critical thinking
5. Relate historical issues with contemporary problems

### Course Requirements

Map Quiz: 50 points

Short Answers: 100 points

Essay Question 1: 100 points

Essay Question 2: 100 points

Attendance and Class Participation: 100 points

Midterm Exam: 250 points

Final Exam: 300 points

**Total: 1000 points**

All exams and assignments will be taken in class with the exception of essay question 2. The question for essay 2 will be announced before the screening of The Take on November 16. The essay is due on November 18.

No make-up exams or assignments will be given except in extraordinary cases that can be documented.

Classes combine lecture with discussion. Students are required to complete the readings before class to be prepared to engage in informed discussions. Students are expected to take notes beforehand of questions they might have to ask in class, to share their comments and opinions, and to listen attentively to their fellow students.

Students are expected to attend class daily and to arrive on time. Students should not engage in any other behavior that disrupts class—talking during the lectures, arriving late, leaving early, reading newspapers, etc.

Please turn off all electronic devices before the beginning of class, including cell phones, iPods, pagers, etc. Voice recorders are not allowed. **Laptop computers may be used only for taking notes.**

Students with a disability or other condition that requires special treatment must advise the instructor so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

<b>Readings</b>
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E. Bradford Burns and Julie A. Charlip, Latin America: An Interpretative History (Pearson, 2007) [Eight Edition]

Course Packet is available through Electronic Reserves. [www.library.uh.edu](http://www.library.uh.edu), UH-Main, Course Reserves, hist2372



The Flower Seller (Diego Rivera)



Unemployed (Antonio Berni)



Getulio Vargas

<b>Course Schedule</b>
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**Week 1:**

**8/24: Introduction**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 1: Land and People

**8/26: The Colonial Order and the Coming of Independence**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 2: From Conquest to Empire and Chap. 3: Independence

**Week 2:**

**8/31: The New Republics: Instability and Change**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 4: New Nations

Sarah Chambers, “What Independence Meant for Women” in John Chasteen and James Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations (Wilmington: SR Books, 2004), pp. 37-44

Brian Hammett, “The Juárez Law and the Lerdo Law” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 117-20

Emilia Viotti da Costa, “Brazilian Paternalism was a Myth,” Lewis Hanke and Jane Rausch eds., People and Issues in Latin American History: From Independence to the Present (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2006), pp. 162-68

Gilberto Freyre, “Mestizo Pride” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 183-86

**9/2: Caudillos**

**Assignment 1: Map Quiz.**

John Lynch, Argentine Caudillo: Juan Manuel de Rosas (Wilmington: SR Books, 2001), pp. 15-20, 40-53, 75-78

Ariel de la Fuente, “Caudillos as Culture Heroes” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 87-92

**Week 3:**

**9/7: Labor Day Holiday**

**9/9: The Building of the Modern State: Liberalism, Positivism, and Progress**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 5: The Emergence of the Modern State

Sarmiento, Domingo Faustino, “The Human Background of Dictatorship, the Gaucho,” in Hanke and Rausch eds., People and Issues in Latin American History, pp. 48-54

-----, “Civilization and Barbarism,” in Julie Charlip ed., Consider the Source: Documents in Latin American History (New Jersey: Pearson, 2007), pp. 48-55

-----, “Civilization versus Barbarism” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 132-34

**Week 4:**

**9/14: U.S- Latin American relations in the early 1900s: Neocolonialism and the United States as Caliban**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 6: New Actors in an Old Stage, pp. 156-66

José Martí, “Our America,” in Charlip ed., Consider the Source, pp. 102-108

“Platt Amendment,” in Charlip ed., Consider the Source, pp. 109-11

Carlos Fuentes, “Ariel is still an essential Book in the Latin American Search for Identity,” in Hanke and Rausch eds., People and Issues in Latin American History, pp. 241-250

**9/16: Social Changes: New Social Classes and European Immigration**

**Assignment 2: Short Answers**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 6: New Actors in an Old Stage, pp. 166-78

José Moya, “Conventional Lies,” in Cousins and Strangers: Spanish Immigrants in Buenos Aires, 1850-1930 (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1998)

**Week 5:**

**9/21: The Mexican Revolution**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 7: The Mexican Explosion

**9/23: Central American Dictators and Popular Resistance. Sandino’s Nicaragua**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 8: From World Wars to Cold War, pp. 207-22

**Week 6:**

**9/28: Nationalism and Reform: Arbenz and Paz Estenssoro**

**Assignment 3: Essay Question 1**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 8: From World Wars to Cold War, pp. 223-29

Pablo Neruda, “The Poetry of Anti-Imperialism” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 190-93

**9/30: Populism in South America**

Juan Domingo Perón, “Declaration of Worker’s Rights” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, 234-36

Julie Taylor, “The Lady of Hope and the Woman of the Black Myth” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 214-19

**Week 7:**

**10/5: The Cuban Revolution**

Burns and Charlip: Chap. 9: The Revolutionary Option, pp. 230-42

Fidel Castro, “The Duty of a Revolutionary is to Make the Revolution: The Second Declaration of Havana,” in Lewis Hanke and Jane Rausch eds., People and Issues in Latin American History: From Independence to the Present (Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2006), pp. 315-26

-----, “History Will Absolve me,” Castro Internet Archive, [www.marxists.org](http://www.marxists.org)

**10/7: Midterm exam**

**Week 8:**

**10/12: Revolution and Guerrillas**

Greg Grandin, The Last Colonial Massacre (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004), pp. 173-79

Ernesto “Che” Guevara, “Essence of Guerrilla Warfare” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 253-58

Paul Dosal, Comandante Che: Guerrilla Soldier, Commander, and Strategist, 1956-1967 (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003), 305-16

**10/14: The Fight for Change: The Left, Liberation Theology, and the Armed Struggle**

Burns and Charlip: Chap. 9: The Revolutionary Option, pp. 242-49

**Week 9:**

**10/19: The Chilean Road to Socialism**

Burns and Charlip: Chap. 9: The Revolutionary Option, pp. 250-52

Salvador Allende, “The Chilean Road to Socialism” in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 269-74

**10/21: The Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua**

Burns and Charlip: Chap. 9: The Revolutionary Option, pp. 252-59

**Week 10:**

**10/26: War in Central America and Popular Resistance**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 10: Debt and Dictatorship, pp. 270-80

Rigoberta Menchú and Elisabeth Burgos-Debray, I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala (London: Verso, 1984) [Excerpts, pp. xi-xxi, 122-30, 172-82]

**10/28: Military Dictatorships**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 10: Debt and Dictatorship, pp. 260-70

**Week 11:**

**11/2: The Disappeared**

Never Again: A Report by Argentina’s National Commission on Disappeared People (London and Boston: Faber and Faber, 1986) (Introduction by Ernesto Sábato, pp. 1-6)

Munú Actis et al., That Inferno: Conversations of Five Women Survivors of an Argentine Torture Camp (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2006), pp. 27-30, 241-44

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 10: Debt and Dictatorship, pp. 280-83

#### 11/4: Transition to Democracy and Neo-populism

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 10: Debt and Dictatorship, pp. 283-87

#### Week 12:

#### 11/9: Cuba's Adjustment to the Post-Cold World. Colombia, the U.S, and the Drug Trade

Lilian Guerra, "Elián González and the "Real Cuba" of Miami: Visions of identity, Exceptionality and Divinity," Cuban Studies, Vol. 38 (2007), pp. 1-25.

"Flirting with Cuba, Courting an Hemisphere," The New York Times, 04/19/09

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 11: Forward Into the Past, pp. 299-302

#### 11/11: Recession and Neo-liberalism

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 11: Forward Into the Past, pp. 288-91

James Petras, "Unemployed Workers' Movement in Argentina," Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 36, No. 45 (Nov. 10-16, 2001), pp. 4265-70.

#### Week 13:

#### 11/16: Workers contest Neo-liberalism

Screening of The Take, directed by Avi Lewis (2004)

**Assignment 4: Essay Question 2 due on 11/18**

#### 11/18: NAFTA and the EZLN

**Due Date for Essay 2**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 11: Forward Into the Past, pp. 291-95

Thomas O'Brien, "Globalization and Its Discontents, 1993-2006" in Making the Americas: The United States and Latin America from the Age of Revolutions to the Era of Globalization (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2007), pp. 287-318

"NAFTA and the U.S Economy: The Clinton Administration," in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 312-15

Zapatista National Liberation Army, "First Declaration from the Lacandon Jungle" in Chasteen and Wood eds., Problems in Modern Latin American History, pp. 315-17

**Week 14:**

**11/23: Latin America Swings to the Left**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 11: Forward Into the Past, pp. 296-98

Jon Lee Anderson, “Fidel’s Heir: The Influence of Hugo Chávez,” The New Yorker, 6/23/08.

Michael Shifter and Vinay Jawahar, “Latin America’s Populist Turn” in Hanke and Rausch eds., People and Issues in Latin American History, pp. 365-70

Jennifer McCoy, “Demystifying Venezuela’s Hugo Chávez,” in Hanke and Rausch eds., People and Issues in Latin American History, pp. 371-80

Hugo Chávez, “Globalization Has Brought an Increase in Dependency,” in Hanke and Rausch eds., People and Issues in Latin American History, pp. 381-85

**11/25: Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Week 15:**

**11/30: Globalization and Hybrid Cultures**

Burns and Charlip, Chap. 11: Forward Into the Past, pp. 302-309

Jeffrey Pilcher, “The Globalization of Mexican Cuisine,” History Compass 6/2 (2008), pp. 529-51

**12/2: Final Overview**

**12/14: Final Exam, 5-8 pm**



Madres de Plaza de Mayo



Coffee seeds



Augusto Sandino



Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín