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Hist 169 / IS 179 / Pol Sci 159
Fall 2012
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Latin America & the Caribbean

Latin America encompasses a vast region of diverse cultures, economies, and political actors. This course is designed to introduce students to the complexities of the region—its commonalities as well as its distinctiveness. We will examine Latin American history thematically with an emphasis on how history helps to understand and explain contemporary issues. Specifically, we will start with the colonial roots of Latin America and then proceed to investigate topics such as the environment, urbanization, social upheaval, economic development, and human rights. We will discuss these issues in terms of class, gender, and race. The course will reveal how choices made in the past continue to have repercussions today—a situation especially relevant in an age of increased globalization. Students are expected to attend lectures, attend discussion sections, and read all assigned materials. The lectures and assigned readings will be supplemented with videos.

Required books (listed under IS 179)

Duncan Green, Faces of Latin America (Latin America Bureau: 2006).

Carolina Maria de Jesus, Child Of The Dark: The Diary Of Carolina Maria De Jesus (Signet: 2003)

Jacobo Timerman, Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number (University of Wisconsin: 2002)

Articles on library course reserves (listed under IS 179)

Alvarez Herrera, Bernardo. "Revolutionary Road? Debating Venezuela's Progress," Foreign Affairs 87:4 (July/August 2008):158-162.

Black, Jan Knippers. Latin America: Its Problems and Its Promise (Westview, 2005), pp. 41-58, 78-100.

Blakeley, Ruth. "Still Training to Torture? US Training of Military Forces from Latin America," Third World Quarterly 27:8 (2006):1439-1461.

Chelala, César. "The Challenges of Urbanization in Latin America," Américas 62:6 (2010):58-60.

Cleary, David. "Towards an Environmental History of the Amazon: From Prehistory to the Nineteenth Century," Latin American Research Review 36:2 (2001): 64-96.

Cypher, James M. "Mexico Since NAFTA: Elite Delusions and the Reality of Decline," New Labor Forum 20:3 (2011):60-69.

Eakin, Marshall. The History of Latin America: Collision of Cultures (Palgrave: 2007), pp. 26-48.

Esquivel, Gerardo. "The Dynamics of Income Inequality in Mexico since NAFTA," Economía 12:1 (2011):155-188.

- Gates, Marilyn. "Eco-Imperialism? Environmental Policy versus Everyday Practice in Mexico," in Lynne Phillips (ed.), The Third Wave of Modernization in Latin America: Cultural Perspective on Neo-Liberalism (SR Books, 1998), pp. 155-174.
- Goldfrank, W.L. "Theories of Revolution and Revolution without Theory: the Case of Mexico," Theory and Society 8 (1979):135-165.
- Holloway, Thomas H. "Latin America: What's in a Name?," A Companion to Latin American History (Wiley/Blackwell, 2008), pp. 1-8.
- Johnson, Melissa A. "Ambivalent Landscapes: Environmental Justice in the US-Mexico Borderlands," Human Ecology 36:3 (2008):371-382.
- Klarén, Peter F. "Lost Promise: Explaining Latin American Underdevelopment," in Peter Klarén, ed. Promise of Development: Theories of Change in Latin America (Westview, 1986), pp. 3-33.
- Knight, Alan. "Populism and Neo-populism in Latin America, especially Mexico," Journal of Latin American Studies 30:2 (May 1998):223-248.
- McSweeney, Kendra. "Beyond Rainforests: Urbanisation and Emigration among Lowland Indigenous Societies in Latin America," Bulletin of Latin American Research 26:2 (2007):159-180.
- Miller, Francesca. "Latin American Women and the Search for Social, Political, and Economic Transformation," in Sandor Halebsky, ed. Capital, Power and Inequality in Latin America (Westview, 1995), pp. 185-206.
- Navarro, Marysa. "The Personal is Political: Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo," in Susan Eckstein, ed. Power and Popular Protest: Latin American Social Movements (University of California Press, 2001), pp. 241-258.
- Nilsson, Martin. "The Latin American Left in the 2000s: Have We Seen This Before?," Asian Journal of Latin American Studies 24:2 (2011):91-112.
- Palmer, David Scott. "Terror in the name of Mao," in Robert J. Art, ed. Democracy and Counter-terrorism: Lessons from the Past (United States Institute of Peace Press, 2007), pp. 195-220.
- Pérez Firmat, Gustavo. "Latunes: An Introduction," Latin American Research Review 43:2 (2008):180-203.
- Roberg, Jeffrey. "Cuba: Ideological Success or Ideological Failure?" Human Rights Quarterly 29:3 (2007): 779-795.
- Robinson, William I. "Latin America in the New Global Capitalism," NACLA Report on the Americas, 45:2 (2012):13-18.
- Rodríguez, Francisco. "An Empty Revolution: The Unfulfilled Promises of Hugo Chávez," Foreign Affairs 87:2 (March/April 2008):49-62.
- Ryan, David. "Colonialism and Hegemony in Latin America: An Introduction," The International History Review 21:2 (1999): 287-296.
- Sabatini, Christopher. "Rethinking Latin America: Foreign Policy is More Than Development," Foreign Affairs 91:8 (2012):8-13.

Selka, Stephen. "New Religious Movements in Brazil," The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religion 15:4 (2012):3-12.

Skidmore, Thomas. "Why Latin America," in Modern Latin America (Oxford University, 2010), pp. 3-11.

Sunkara, Bhaskar. "Hugo Chávez as Postmodern Perón," Dissent 59:1 (2012):22-24.

Stark, Rodney. "Pluralism and the Churching of Latin America," Latin American Politics and Society 54:2 (2012):35-50.

Topik, Steven & Wells, Allen. "Introduction," in Steven Topik & Allen Wells, eds., The Second Conquest of Latin America (University of Texas Press, 1998), pp. 1-28.

Weyland, Kurt. "Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record," Latin American Politics and Society 46/1 (2004):135-157.

Whitten, Norman E. "The Longue Durée of Racial Fixity and the Transformative Conjunctions of Racial Blending," Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology 12:2 (Nov. 2007):356-383.

Requirements:

Each class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and videos. Grading is based on a midterm (25% / November 2), two short current news summaries (5% / TBA), one 5-6 page paper based on the readings (25% / November 21), a final (30% / December 10, 1:30-3:30) and attendance as well as participation in discussion sections (15%). Exams will combine short identifications and longer essays based on the assigned readings and material covered in lecture. Students, therefore, must attend lectures, finish all readings by the assigned date, and be prepared for discussion.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

September 28	Introduction: Why Latin America?
October 1	Iberian Roots of Latin America
October 3	Indigenous Roots of Latin America
October 5	African Roots of Latin America

Readings:

- Holloway, "Latin America: What's in a Name?," pp. 1-8.
- Skidmore and Smith, "Why Latin America," pp. 3-11.
- Black, pp. 41-58, 78-100.
- Eakin, pp. 29-48.
- Green, pp. 5-11.

Week 2:

October 8	Social Ecology, Deforestation, & Environmental Destruction
October 10	The Urban Landscape: the Rise of Mega Cities
October 12	The Rural Landscape: The "Haves and Have-Nots"

Readings:

- Cleary, "Towards an Environmental History," pp. 64-96.
 - Gates, "Eco-Imperialism?" pp. 155-174.
 - Johnson, "Ambivalent Landscapes," pp. 371-382.
 - McSweeney, "Beyond Rainforests," pp. 159-180.
 - Chelala, "The Challenges of Urbanization in Latin America," pp. 58-60.
 - Green, pp. 89-132.
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Week 3:

October 15	Continent on the Move
October 17	Constructing Race in Latin America: Creating the "Indio"
October 19	Constructing Race in Latin America: Afro-Latin Americans

Readings:

- *Child of the Dark*, (entire)
 - Whitten, "The Longue Durée," pp. 356-383.
 - Green, pp. 135-148.
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Week 4:

October 22	Latin American Gender in Historical Perspective
October 24	The Changing Role of Women in Latin America
October 26	Religious Identity in Latin America

Readings:

- Miller, "Latin American Women," pp. 185-206.
- Navarro, "The Personal is Political," pp. 241-258.
- Selka, "New Religious Movements in Brazil," pp. 3-12.
- Stark, "Pluralism and the Churching of Latin America," pp. 35-50.
- Green, pp. 148-166, 200-215.

Week 5:

October 29	Commodity Links, Trade, & the World Economy
October 31	Growth vs. Development: the Case for Dependency
November 2	Midterm Exam

Readings:

- *Topik & Wells, "Introduction," 1-28.*
 - *Klarén, "Lost Promise," pp. 3-35.*
 - *Green, pp. 12-27.*
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Week 6:

November 5	Social Upheaval: The Mexican Revolution
November 7	Social Upheaval (revisited): The Cuban Revolution
November 9	Authoritarianism: the Populists

Readings:

- *Goldfrank, "Theories of Revolution," pp. 135-165.*
 - *Roberg, "Cuba: Ideological Success or Ideological Failure?," pp. 779-795.*
 - *Knight, "Populism and Neo-populism in Latin America," pp. 223-248.*
 - *Palmer, "Terror in the name of Mao," pp. 195-220.*
 - *Green, pp. 71-79.*
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Week 7:

November 12	Veterans Day
November 14	Authoritarianism: the Generals
November 16	Human Rights & Reconciliation

Readings:

- *Prisoner without a Name (entire)*
 - *Green, pp. 51-71, 166-176.*
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Week 8:

November 19	Across the Divide: U.S. & Latin America, Part 1
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November 21	How a Cold War became “Hot”: U.S. & Latin America, Part 2
November 23	Thanksgiving

Readings:

- *Blakeley, “Still Training to Torture?,” pp. 1439-1461.*
- *Ryan, “Colonialism and Hegemony in Latin America,” pp. 287-296.*
- *Sabatini, “Rethinking Latin America,” pp. 8-13.*
- *Green, pp. 179-200.*

Week 9:

November 26	Transnational Culture
November 28	The (Re) Democratization of Latin America in the 1990s
November 30	Neo-liberalism & the Consequences of Globalization

Readings:

- *Pérez Firmat, “Latunes: An Introduction,” pp. 180-203.*
- *Weyland, “Neoliberalism and Democracy,” pp. 135-157.*
- *Cypher, “Mexico Since NAFTA,” pp. 60-69.*
- *Esquivel, “The Dynamics of Income Inequality in Mexico,” pp. 155-188.*
- *Green, pp. 28-48.*

Week 10:

December 3	Neo-Populism & the New Left
December 5	Hugo’s Bolivarian Revolution
December 7	Conclusions

Readings:

- *Nilsson, “The Latin American Left in the 2000s,” pp. 91-112.*
- *Rodríguez, “An Empty Revolution,” pp. 49-62.*
- *Alvarez Herrera, “Revolutionary Road?” pp. 158-162.*
- *Sunkara, “Hugo Chávez as Postmodern Perón,” pp. 22-24.*
- *Robinson, “Latin America in the New Global Capitalism,” pp. 13-18.*
- *Green, pp. 80-86.*