

HIST 382 - Spring 2014

Latin America, 1910 to the Present

Instructor: Professor Carlos Aguirre

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GTFs:

John Bedan (343 McKenzie; 6-6186). Office hours: MW, 11:30-13:00, and by appointment

Miles Wilkinson (340U McKenzie; 6-4827). Office hours: MU, 13:00-14:00, and by appointment

Description of the Course

This course is the third part of the Latin American History survey, covering the period from 1910 (the beginning of the Mexican Revolution) to the present. It pays particular attention to the political and social transformations that have affected the development of the region throughout the 20th century (revolutions, military dictatorships, social movements, democratic consolidation). Although this course gives special attention to a few countries (Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Nicaragua, and Peru), it does so while keeping a regional and comparative perspective. By the end of the term students will have a more sophisticated understanding of the historical roots behind both the challenges and promises that Latin American countries confront today.

Course policies

1. Students are expected to attend lectures consistently. A passing grade will be difficult to achieve without regular attendance. Students must also consistently read the assigned materials.
2. The course instructor and GTFs will hold regular office hours every week. Students are encouraged to visit them to discuss pertinent issues or get additional information about the course's themes, policies, and grades.
3. A common form of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students must become familiar with the University of Oregon rules about this issue. More information will be offered at the appropriate time.
4. An atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and fairness will be enforced by the instructor and GTFs. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment- i.e. no talking, eating, chatting, text-messaging, or newspaper reading during lecture. The use of electronic devices is not allowed during class. The only exception will be

students who need to bring a laptop computer or tablet to take lecture notes . If you plan to bring one you must seat in the front row and may not engage in internet browsing during class time. Failure to comply with this policy will force the instructor to ban the use of laptop computers and tablets in the classroom.

5. Course incompletes will be granted ONLY in cases of extreme need and ONLY to students that have an acceptable record of class attendance and get at least a C in the mid-term. Students that need an “incomplete” grade must make arrangements with the instructor on or before the last week of classes.

6. No late homework will be accepted, except in cases of health-related and other types of emergency that could be documented.

7. Students that miss one of the quizzes may use the only make-up quiz opportunity that will be offered, which is scheduled for June 4. NO ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE-UP WORK WILL BE OFFERED UNLESS THE STUDENT PRESENTS CONCLUSIVE WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS.

Evaluations

Course evaluations will include the following:

- Map quiz (10 points)
- 2 quizzes (10 points each, 20 points total)
- Midterm exam (30 points)
- Final exam (40 points)

What you can expect to learn in this course

- A basic knowledge of the history of Latin America between 1910 and the present, including major social processes and events such as immigration, urbanization, populism, military dictatorships, revolutions, economic trends, political struggles, and US intervention.
- How to think about history in terms of political, economic, social, and cultural forces and how they interact
- Some of the most important controversies surrounding Latin American history over the last century
- How to interpret primary sources
- How to think about Latin America as a region with its commonalities and differences

Required Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the U of O Bookstore and on reserve at Knight Library:

William H. Beezley & Colin M. MacLachlan, *Mexicans in Revolution, 1910-1946: An introduction* (University of Nebraska Press, 2009).

Mariano Plotkin, *Mañana Es San Peron. A Cultural History of Peron's Argentina* (Scholarly Resources, 2003).

Aviva Chomsky, *A History of the Cuban Revolution* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

Stephen G. Rabe, *The Killing Zone. The United States Wages Cold War in Latin America* (Oxford University Press, 2012).

In addition, a number of articles and primary documents will be available electronically through Blackboard (<https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>).

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1

03/31 Introduction to the course / Porfirian Mexico

04/02 MAP QUIZ / Mexico: The Revolutionary decade (1910-1920).

Reading: Beezley & McLachlan, 1-46; *Document 1: Plan de Ayala* (BB)

Week 2

04/07 Change and continuity in post-revolutionary Mexico (1920-40).

04/09 Mexico, 1940-2000: The perfect dictatorship?

Readings: Beezley & McLachlan, 47-171; Williams, "Traversing the Mexican Odyssey" (BB)

Week 3

04/14 The era of populism, part 1: Getulio Vargas and Estado Novo in Brazil

04/16 The era of populism, part 2: The rise of Perón in Argentina (QUIZ # 1)

Readings: Levine, "The Estado Novo, 1937-1945" (BB); Levine, "Populism, Vargas Style, 1945-1954" (BB); Plotkin, *Mañana es San Perón*, pp. 1-84.

Week 4

04/21 Perón and Peronism, 1945-1955

04/23 The Cold War and its impact in Latin America: Guatemala 1954.

Reading: Plotkin, *Mañana es San Perón*, pp. 85-202; *Document 2: The Twenty Truths of the Peronist Justicialismo* (BB); Rabe, *The Killing Zone*, 1-58.

Week 5

04/28 Cuba: The making of a revolution

04/30 Cuba after 1960: Radicalization and Reforms within the Revolution

Reading: Chomsky, *A History of the Cuban Revolution*, all; *Document 3: Cuba is a Socialist Nation* (BB)

Week 6

05/05 Take home midterm due / The Heightening of Conflict: Che Guevara and Guerrilla Warfare

05/07 Peru: Socialism From Above (1968-75)

Reading: Rabe, 59-84; *Document 4: Two, Three, Many Vietnams* (BB); Klaren, "The Military Revolution of 1968" (BB).

Week 7

05/12 Chile: The Socialist Experiment

05/14 State-Terror in the Southern Cone: An Overview (1964-1990) / Quiz # 2

Readings: Hite, "Chile's Revolutionary Generation" (BB); Rabe, 85-113.

Week 8

05/19 The Dirty War in Argentina

05/21 Pinochet's Chile, 1973-1990 [Guest lecturer: Professor Julie Weise]

Readings: Kornbluh, "Destabilizing Democracy" (BB); Rabe, 114-143; *Document 5: National Security Council Meeting (9/13/73)* (BB)

Week 9

05/26 No class. Memorial Day Holiday.

05/28 Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Central America

Reading: Readings: Rabe, 144-195; *Document 6: The Fear of Communism* (BB).

Week 10

06/02 The Shining Path of Peru

06/04 Latin America Today: Challenges and Promises / Review for final exam / Make-up Quiz

Reading: Starn, "Maoism in the Andes" (BB).

Final exam: Wed., June, 11, 10:15-12:15