

HIST 382 - Spring 2009

Latin America, 1910 to the Present

Instructor: Professor Carlos Aguirre

Office and Phone number: 369 McKenzie Hall, 346-5905

Office hours: Tuesday, 8 to 10 am, and Thursday 10 to 11 am.

E-mail: caguirre@uoregon.edu

Web page: <http://uoregon.edu/~caguirre/home.html>

GTFs:

Luis F. Ruiz

Office: McKenzie 340E

Phone 346-6170

Email: lruiz1@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Wednesdays, 10:30-12:30

Yun Xia

Office: McKenzie 340K

Phone: 346-6808

Email: yxia@uoregon.edu

Office hours:

Mondays, 10-12, and Wednesdays, 10-11.

David Orique

Office: 340S McKenzie

Phone: 541-346-2934

e-mail: dorique@uoregon.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10-11:30

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 encouraged and enforced by the instructor. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment--i.e. no talking, eating, or newspaper reading during lecture. Laptop computers are allowed only for note-taking purposes. Students that plan to use a laptop computer must seat in the front row(s). All other electronic devices (cell phones, i-pods, etc.) must be turned off during class time.
5. An "incomplete" grade will be granted only in cases of extreme need and only to those students that have an acceptable record of class attendance and get at least a C in all their grades. 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.

Evaluations

Course evaluations will include the following:

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

Make-up work: Student that miss the map quiz or one of the multiple-choice quizzes may take the **ONLY** make-up quiz we will allow, which is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1. **NO ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE-UP WORK WILL BE OFFERED UNLESS THE STUDENT PRESENTS CONCLUSIVE WRITTEN EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS.**

Extra-credit opportunities: Students may earn between up to 3 extra points by attending one or more film screenings in the series organized by the Latin American Studies Program (1 point per film). The full schedule of these films will be announced in class and posted online.

Required Readings

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

- Thomas Benjamin, *La Revolucion. Mexico's Great Revolution as Memory, Myth, and History* (University of Texas Press, 2000).
- Mariano Plotkin, *Mañana Es San Peron. A Cultural History of Peron's Argentina* (Scholarly Resources, 2003)
- Mark Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote* (Vintage Books, 1994)
- Thomas Wright, *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution* (Praeger, 2001)

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

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1

03/30 Introduction to the course / Overview of Latin America, 1910 to the present
04/01 MAP QUIZ / Mexico: The Revolutionary decade (1910-1920).

Reading: Benjamin, 1-97

Week 2

04/06 Change and continuity in post-revolutionary Mexico (1920-40)
04/08 Mexico, 1940-2000: The perfect dictatorship?

Readings: Benjamin, pp. 99-165; Williams, "Traversing the Mexican Odyssey" (BB)

Week 3

04/13 The era of populism, 1: Getulio Vargas and Estado Novo in Brazil
04/15 The era of populism, 2: Perón and Peronism in Argentina (QUIZ # 1)

Reading: Plotkin, ALL

Week 4

04/20 The Cold War and its impact in Latin America: Guatemala 1954.
04/22 Cuba: The making of a revolution

Readings: Wright, 1-19; Barrett, "Congress, the CIA and Guatemala" (BB)

Week 5

04/27 Cuba after 1960: The radicalization of a revolution
04/29 Cuba after the fall of the Soviet Union

Readings: Wright, 21-38; Perez, "Fear and Loathing of Fidel Castro" (BB); Sweig, "Fidel's Final Victory" (BB).

Week 6

05/04 The Heightening of Conflict: Che Guevara and Guerrilla Warfare /MIDTERM EXAM DUE

05/06 Socialist experiments in Peru (1968-75) and Chile (1970-73)

Readings: Childs, "An Historical Critique of the Emergence and Evolution of Ernesto Che Guevara's Foco Theory" (BB); Wright, 39-147.

Week 7

05/11 State-Terror in the Southern Cone: Brazil (1964-1985) / QUIZ # 2

05/13 Military regimes in Chile (1973-1990) and Argentina (1966-1983).

Readings: Wright, 149-164; McSherry, "Tracking the Origins of a State Terror Network" (BB).

Week 8

05/18 Revolution and Counter-Revolution in Central America: Nicaragua

05/20 (Cont.) Guatemala and El Salvador

Readings: Wright, 165-185; Danner, *El Mozote*, ALL

Week 9

05/25 Women's and Indigenous Social Movements

05/27 Zapatistas and Senderistas: Insurgency in Mexico and Peru / QUIZ # 3

Readings: Eber, "Seeking Our Own Food" (BB); Barmeyer, "The Guerrilla Movement as a Project" (BB); Starn, "Maoism in the Andes" (BB)

Week 10

06/01 Latin America today: Democracy and its challenges / MAKE-UP QUIZ

06/03 Discussion for final exam

Readings: Castaneda, "Latin America's Left Turn" (BB); Grandin, "Latin America's New Consensus" (BB).

Final exam: Tuesday, June 09, 2009, 10:15-12:15 am