This course offers an introduction to the history of Latin America from the late colonial period to the end of the twentieth century. Students will become familiar with political, economic, social, and cultural conditions that have produced conflict, change, and continuity in Latin America over the last two hundred years.

REQUIRED READING:


COURSE ASSESSMENT:
1. 15% Map quiz, section quizzes on the content of the readings, class attendance, and participation in section.
2. 15% In-class mid-term exam.
3. 25% Written Project No. 1 (six pages).
4. 25% Written Project No. 2 (six pages).
5. 20% In-class final exam.
COURSE SCHEDULE:

**Week #1**  
**An Introduction to the Course**  
Orientation, expectations, map of Latin America

**Week #2**  
**The Colonial Legacy**  
*Readings for Week #2:*

- MLA: Chapter 1: “Why Latin America?”
- PMLA: 1-44.

Lecture #1  
What is Latin America?

Lecture #2  
The Colonial Legacy

**Week #3**  
**Paths to Independence**  
*Readings for Week #3:*

- David Bushnell, *Simón Bolívar: Liberation and Disappointment (entire book).*
- Toussaint L’Ouverture, “Memoir of General Toussaint L’Ouverture, Written by Himself, 1802.” (See MLA website).
- Simón Bolívar, “Letter from Jamaica,” 1815. (See MLA website).
- President James Monroe, “From President James Monroe's seventh annual message to Congress,” December 2, 1823. (See MLA website).

Lecture #3  
The Haitian Revolution and Rebellions in Spanish Latin America

Lecture #4  
Brazil: From Colony, to Empire, to Nation  
*Map Quiz*

Time TBA:  
**Discussion Section #1** on assigned readings.  
Topic: “The Colonial Legacy and Independence”

**Week #4**  
**Caudillos, Conflicts, and Continuity**  
*Readings for Week #4:*

- MLA: Chapter 13: “Brazil: The Awakening Giant” through section Economic Growth and Social Change

Lecture #5  
The Consolidation of States, 1820s-1850s

Lecture #6  
Slavery and Abolition
Week #5  Order and Progress  
*Readings for Week #5:*
*PMLA: 45-48; 103-148.*

No classes

Lecture #7  Liberalism, Conservatives, Race, and Gender

Time TBA:  Discussion Section #2 on assigned readings.
Topic: “The legacies of the nineteenth century”

Week #6  Export-Import Development and Neo-Colonialism  
*Readings for Week #6:*
- MLA: Chapter 6: “The Andes: Soldiers, Indians, and Oligarchs”
- MLA: Chapter 12: “Strategies for Economic Development”
- PMLA: 149-174.

Lecture #8  Nation Building and the International Market, 1850s-1880s

Mid-term exam

Week #7  The “American Century”  
*Readings for Week #7:*
- Louis A. Pérez Jr., *A. The War of 1898* (entire book)
- MLA: Chapter 4: “Central America and the Caribbean: Within the U.S. Orbit.”
- PMLA: 175-180.
- President Theodore Roosevelt, “Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, 1904. (See MLA website).

Lecture #9  The War of 1898

Lecture #10  “Send in the Marines”

Time TBA:  Discussion Section #3 on assigned readings.
Topic: “What are the major arguments of *The War of 1898?*”

Week #8  The Emergence of New Social and Political Actors  
*Readings for Week #8:*
- MLA: Chapter 9: “Argentina: Progress and Stalemate”
Lecture #11  Anarchists, Socialists, and Nationalism

Paper #1 due at beginning of class

Lecture #12  Suffragists, Feminists, and Restructuring patriarchy

Week #9  Revolutionary Latin America
Readings for Week #9:
- MLA: Chapter 3: “Mexico: The Taming of a Revolution”
- PMLA: 227-249.

Lecture #13  The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1917

Lecture #14  The Great Depression and Early Populism

Time TBA:  Discussion Section #4 on assigned readings.
Topic: Was the Mexican Revolution a revolution?

Week #10  Nationalism and Populism in Power
Readings for Week #10:
- MLA: Chapter 11: Brazil: The Awaking Giant” (20th century).
- MLA: Chapter 13: “Dynamics of Political Transformation.”
- PMLA: 279-299.
- President Lázaro Cárdenas, “Speech to the Nation,” March, 18, 1938. (See MLA website).

Lecture #15  Modernism and Cultural Nationalism

Lecture #16  World War II and Import Substitution

Week #11  The United States and the Cold War in Latin America
Readings for Week #10:
- Greg Grandin, The Last Colonial Massacre : Latin America In The Cold War (entire book)
- MLA: Chapter 5: “Cuba: Key Colony, Socialist State”

Lecture #17  Turning Back the “Tide of Communism”

Lecture #18  The Cuban Revolution

Time TBA:  Discussion Section #5 on assigned readings.
Topic: The Cuban Revolution and its influence in Latin America
Week #12  Revolution and Counter-revolution

Readings for Week #11:
- MLA: Chapter 10: “Chile: Repression and Democracy”
- Secretary of State Dean Rusk, “Outgoing Telegram Department of State to Ambassador Lincoln Gordon,” March 31, 1964. (See MLA website).

Lecture #19  Kennedy, The Alliance for Progress, Modernization and Development

Paper #2 due at beginning of class

Lecture #20  Revolutionary Movements and Repressive Reactions

Week #13  Re-democratization, Denationalization, and Accommodation

Readings for Week #13:
- MLA: Chapter 7: “Colombia: Civility and Violence”

Lecture #21  Torture, Human Rights, and the Return to Democratic Rule

Lecture #22  The End of the Cold War and the Washington Consensus

Time TBA:  Discussion Section #6 on assigned readings.
Topic: What paths forward for Latin America?

Week #14  Readjustments and Realignments

Readings for Week #14:
- MLA: Chapter 8: “Venezuela: The Perils of Prosperity”
- PMLA: 301-322
- President Barack Obama, “Address to the Fifth Summit of the Americas,” Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago,” April 17, 2009. (See MLA website).

Lecture #23  Neoliberal Policies and Globalization

Lecture #24  Chávez, Morales, and the Rise of a New Left

Week #15  Exam Period

Final exam
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:

Course Readings and Lectures

The textbook *Modern Latin America* is organized to offer analytical narratives about the history of countries or regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, with additional chapters on economic development, political transformations, and culture and society. At times you will be assigned to read an entire country chapter in order to become familiar with the sweep of history in a given country over a long time frame even though we will be covering a specific time period in the lectures that week. This means that you will use the chapter as a context for the history of the country and the specifics of the period or issues under consideration.

*Problems in Modern Latin America* contains essays, historical documents, and other material that will supplement the textbook and our lecture. In addition, there are materials posted on the *Modern Latin America* website that you will be assigned to read.

Three additional history books are required reading. You should read them carefully prior to the discussion section. What are the main arguments of the author? How has s/he presented those points? What historical sources were used? Are the arguments convincing?

Classroom lectures are designed to complement the readings. The six section discussions are intended to deepen your understanding of the lectures while focusing on assigned readings.

1. **15% Map quiz, section quizzes, class attendance, and participation in the discussion section**
   You will have a pass-fail map quiz on the map material handed out in the first two lectures. You will need to be able to identify countries and name their capitals, as well as significant rivers, mountain ranges, etc. We will review the map in class prior to the quiz. You will also have two quizzes in your section discussion sessions based on the reading. *(You must always come prepared for the section discussion.)* I will be taking attendance in the lectures. You cannot receive an A in this class if you fail to attend lectures.

2. **15% Mid-term**
   You will have an in-class mid-term exam covering all of the material and lectures from the beginning of the semester the lecture prior to the exam. The exam will consist of two essay questions from among a greater selection and short identifications.

3. **25% Written Project #1**
   Choose among the five options below.

4. **25% Written Project #2**
   Choose another different option from those listed below.

**Option #1: An essay analyzing foreign travelers’ accounts of Latin America**

You will write a six-page essay about an outsider’s view of Latin America. You will select and read a travelogue or travel narrative by someone who traveled to Mexico, Central America, South America or the Caribbean in the nineteenth or early twentieth century. *(You may choose someone from the region traveling to another area).* Your essay should critically assess the tone, style, content, and perspectives of the traveler’s account. For examples of essays, see the *Latin American Travelogues Project*, a Brown Faculty Digital Initiative. [http://dl.lib.brown.edu/travelogues/](http://dl.lib.brown.edu/travelogues/)
You can find different travel accounts by searching under the Library of Congress subject headings, i.e.:

- Brazil—Description and travel
- Buenos Aires (Argentina)—Description and travel
- Cuba—Social life and customs
- Travelers—Chile—Diaries

The paper should be six pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, with an appropriate original title, page numbers, citations, and references.

**Option #2: An essay based on Problems in Modern Latin America or a document on the class website**

Choosing one of the selections (documents, speeches, essays, etc.) from Problems in Modern Latin American History, go to the original source cited at the end of the essay. I want you to read that entire source and choose a topic to write about inspired by that source. For example, if it is a book, you may do a review of the book. If it is an historical document, you may discuss that document in relationship to the topic and other questions raised by that source. I do not want you simply to summarize the document, speech, essay, article, or book. Rather, I want you to write an essay that relates the material to the overall themes that we have discussed in the class. Your essay must have an argument, and you must develop that argument throughout the essay. You may cite other books and sources to develop your arguments or points. The paper should be six pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, with an appropriate original title, page numbers, citations, and references.

**Option #3: An essay analyzing two historical and/or documentary films**

You will choose and view on your own two films about Latin America and the Caribbean that focus on an historical topic or a contemporary issue with political, social, economic, or cultural significance. In your essay about the films, you might want to consider some of the following issues: (1) In what historical moment were the film made? (2) Who are the directors and what are her/his political or ideological viewpoints? (3) To what extent are the films a metaphor for another social or political moment in that country’s history? (4) In what ways are the films based on historical research? (5) How are the historical periods portrayed? If one or both of the films are documentaries on a contemporary situation, you might want to consider some of the following issues: (1) What is the political context in which the documentary was made? (2) Who is the intended audience? (3) What are the main arguments of the filmmaker? (4) How effective is she or he in communicating the documentary’s point of view? (5) After seeing the documentary, did you think that you received an accurate portrayal of the situation being treated in the film?

*Note:* This is not a summary of the films or an analysis of the quality of the acting, script, and production value, unless it relates to the overall topic of analyzing the film as a vehicle for thinking about or understanding a given moment in Latin American history or in addressing contemporary issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Suggested films can be found on the course website. The paper should be six pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, with an appropriate original title, page numbers, citations, and references.

**Option #4: An essay analyzing economic development and/or political transformation**

Using the theoretical frameworks outlined in Modern Latin America Chapter 12: “Strategies for Economic Development” and/or Chapter 13: “Dynamic of Political Transformation,” analyze the history of a given country or region during a specific historical period. You should compliment the information from the country chapters with additional sources. (See Suggestions for Further Readings on the Modern Latin America website). How do the different theoretical frameworks apply to the period that you are analyzing? Your essay should be an interpretative rendering of the
specific period, movement, phenomenon, process, or system that you are analyzing. The paper should be six pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, with an appropriate original title, page numbers, citations, and references.

**Option #5: An essay analyzing cultural production within an historical context**

Using Chapter 14, “Society and Culture” in *Modern Latin America* as a guideline, choose a novel, play, artist, poet, genre, or style and examine that cultural expression within an historical context. This essay should not be a literary analysis of a novel or an aesthetic critique of a painter, musician or writer, but a discussion of that person’s production within the specific historical moment and its impact on the society in which it was produced, as well as larger audiences. If you choose a novel or play, for example, do not merely summarize the context but present a clear thesis and arguments about the work and its political and social context. You might choose to analyze independence poetry, Afro-Brazilian music and dance, Mexican muralists’ paintings, or modernist architecture. If you have also selected Option #3 (films or documentaries), you may not use that genre for this essay. The paper should be six pages, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins, with an appropriate original title, page numbers, citations, and references.

**6. 20% In-class Final.**
The final will include some short identifications and three essay questions. The exam will cover material from the second half of the course.