

Syllabus

Modern Latin America History 318 (Fall Term, 3 credits)

Pablo Rubio Hall 7
T, Th, 2:00-3:15

Professor: Stephen O'Brien
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Telephone: 693-757-025
Office Hours: Friday, 1:00-3:00 (site to be announced)

This course is designed to give students a rich understanding of Latin American history from the early 19th century to the present. Through readings, lectures and discussion, the political and cultural development of Latin American nations will be examined. We will first consider the independence movements of Latin American countries in the early 1800s and their subsequent national development, while also paying special attention to the case of Cuba, as it remained a Spanish colony until 1898. For the 20th century, we will focus on the rise of the popular classes, revolution, and the role of the U.S. in Latin America. The general problem of economic inequality will be considered throughout the course with a special focus on Latin America's social structure as it relates to race and class.

During the semester, students will write a 4-5 page paper, take a mid-term examination, and complete a take-home final requiring extensive writing on a number of questions. Additionally, there will be a map quiz to ensure basic knowledge of the region. Finally, there will be two pop quizzes on the reading given randomly during the course.

Grades are calculated as follows:

4-5 page paper:	30%
Mid-term:	20%
Final Exam:	30%
3 class quizzes, (5% each):	15%
Class Participation:	5%

Coming to class is mandatory and missing more than two classes, excused or otherwise, will result in a lowering of the final grade, e.g., from B to B-. Only under very specific and serious cases, such as a long illness like pneumonia, will this policy be modified. Also, plagiarism will not be tolerated and full academic honesty is expected.

Schedule

9/04/2008

Lecture: Independence in Spanish America and the Colonial Legacy

9/09/2008

No class

9/11/2008

Lecture: Brazilian Independence

9/16/2008

Lecture: The New Republics in Latin America and the Centrality of Armed Force

Reading Due: Keen and Haynes, *History of Latin America*, Preface, Introduction, pp. 177-206, 209-216, 234-241

Last Day to Add/Drop

9/18/23

Lecture: The Formation of Brazilian Society

9/23/2008

Lecture: Liberals and Conservatives

Reading Due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 251-264; Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, Preface and pp. 17-57

9/25/208

Lecture: Cuba and the Slave System

9/30/2008

War and Liberalism in 19th century Mexico

Reading due: Barnet, pp. 61-156

10/02/2008

Lecture: Liberalism in Nicaragua and Colombia

10/07/2008

Lecture: The Struggle for Cuban Independence and the Spanish-American War

Reading due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 206-209, 424-436; Barnet, pp. 157-208

10/09/2008

Lecture: Argentina: Consolidating the State

10/14/2008

Lecture: The Porfiriato: Prelude to Revolution

Reading due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 217- 234, 241-250, 264-266, 282-308

Paper due:

10/16/2008

The Mexican Revolution

10/21/2008

Lecture: Central America in the Early 1900s and U.S. Power

Reading Due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 463-468, 477-484, 521-536

10/23/2008

Mid-term:

10/28/2008

Lecture: Guatemala: The Rise of Labor, Land Reform, and the Coup of 1954

Reading Due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 454-459;

Recommended Reading: Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer, *Bitter Fruit*, all.

10/30/2008

Institutionalizing the Mexican Revolution

11/4/2008

Lecture: Brazil in the Time of Vargas

Reading due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 268-281, 364-394, 318-334

Last Day to Drop with W

11/6/2008

Lecture: Labor, Populism, and Urban Development in Argentina

Spring Pre-registration

11/11/2008

Lecture: The Cuban Revolution

Reading due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 436-453,

11/13/2008

Documentary Film: To be Announced

11/18/2008

Lecture: Argentina and the Dirty War

Reading due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 334-363, 395-423

11/20/2008

Lecture: The Fall of Democracy in Brazil and Chile

11/25/2008

Lecture: Civil Strife in Central America and the Costa Rican Exception

Reading due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 459-463, 468-477, 484-490, 536-554

11/27/2008

Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)

12/2/2008

Colombia and Peru at the end of the 20th century

Reading due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 491-520

12/04/2008

Transformations in Venezuela and Bolivia

12/09/2008

Latin America in the 21st century

Reading due: Keen and Haynes, pp. 308-318, 555-593

12/15-18, Final Exam due

The reading assignments outlined are required. On-line reading may also be assigned during the course to broaden your understanding of trends in Latin America.

Course Texts:

Miguel Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave* (Willimantic, CT: Curbstone Press, 1994).

Benjamin Keen and Keith Haynes, *A History of Latin America*, 7th edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1993).

Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer, *Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala*, expanded edition (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard, 1999).

As you read, here are some questions to consider. How has the construction of race, gender, social position and political ideology affected people in Latin America? What social forces have been in opposition to each other in the region? Why has revolution been attempted or carried out so frequently? What forces have contributed to poverty in Latin America? What has been the relationship of Latin American nations to the U.S. and Spain?