

Northern Arizona University
Department of History
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Spring 2006
T,TH, 3-4:30; Credits: 3
Office: LA 123
Office Hours: W, 2:30-4:30,
or by appointment

SYLLABUS

History 281: Latin American Independence to Present



Course Prerequisites: No Prerequisites Required

Liberal Studies Requirements:

Distribution Block: Cultural Understanding

Course Description: In general, this course examines Latin America's struggle for independence and problems of national development from 1810 to the present. More specifically, this course is based on the premise that one can not understand the history behind Latin American independence and its current struggles for development without examining the literature of Latin America. By combining history with Latin American literature, one is able to understand, and hopefully develop, a Latin American perspective when examining this region's social, political, and cultural history.

Student Learning Expectations/Outcomes for this Course

As a result of participation in this course students will:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify where Latin American countries are on a map and be able to discuss the government of each country.

2. Students will be able to identify and discuss Latin American authors who wrote about the struggle for independence and the region's relationship with imperialism.
3. Students will develop a Latin American perspective that will aid them in examining this region's history.
4. Students will be able to combine evidence from secondary and primary sources in a research paper that describes the complexities of social, political, and cultural life in Latin America through the incorporation of a work of fiction.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of Latin American authors and history through an oral presentation.

Course Structure/Approach:

The format of this course consists of lectures, informal discussions and student presentations. Students are encouraged to raise questions and make comments throughout the course.

Textbook and Required Materials

Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 5th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001).

Available on Course Reserves:

Selections from the following works will be read during the course:


Simón Bolívar, *Selected writings*; compiled by Vicente Lecuna, edited by Harold A. Bierck, Jr., translation by Lewis Bertrand (New York: Banco de Venezuela - Colonial Press, 1951), 2. vols. (Read: Jamaica Letter , 1815; Angostura Address, 1819; Message to the Congress of Bolivia, 1826; and A Panoramic View of Spanish America, 1829.) (ER)



Guevara, Ernesto, Brian Loveman, and Thomas M. Davies. 1985. *Guerrilla warfare*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Marti, Jose, and Philip S. Foner. 1977. *Our america : Writings on latin america and the struggle for cuban independence*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Cockcroft, James D., Andre G. Frank, and Dale L. Johnson. 1972. *Dependence and underdevelopment: Latin america's political economy*. Garden City, N.Y: Anchor Books.

Course Outline

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	Introduction/Colonialism	Skidmore and Smith 1-26	
2	Independence 	Skidmore and Smith 26-36	
3	Bolivarian Dream	Bolívar's, <i>Jamaica</i>	Write a 500 word

		<i>Letter (1815), Angostura Address (1819), Message to the Congress of Bolivia (1826), and A Panoramic View of Spanish America (1829).</i>	essay summarizing Bolivar's vision of an independent Latin America. (Due Thursday by 5:00)
4	Socio-economic Challenges: Phases of Economic Development.	Skidmore and Smith 36-67/ Begin reading Garcia's <i>100 Years of Solitude</i>	
5	 <p>Mexico: Reform, Intervention, and the <i>Pax Porfiriana</i>.</p> <p>Liberal, Conservatives, and <i>Caudillismo</i>.</p>	Skidmore and Smith, pp. 217-232	
6	The Mexican Revolution	Skidmore and Smith, pp. 233-258	
7	Review/Mid-Term Test		
8	World Systems Theory	Skidmore and Smith, pp. 233-258	
9	Economic Dependency and the Theory of Underdevelopment	Read Cockcroft and Frank, pp. 1-64.	Write a 500 word essay summarizing comparing Wallerstein's World System's Theory and Frank's Theory of Underdevelopment. (Due Thursday by 5:00)
10	Argentina and Brazil: The tactics of repression.	Skidmore and Smith, pp. 68-155	
11	 <p>U.S. Imperialism and The Cuban Revolution</p>	Read Guevara's <i>Guerrilla Warfare</i> pp. 1-47	Write a 500 word essay explaining the tenets of Guevara's <i>Guerrilla Warfare</i> .
12	U.S. Imperialism Case Studies on Guatemala, Chile and El Salvador	Skidmore and Smith, 120-135, 348-354 (and review pp. 89-97, 166-172, and 376-387).	
11	Magical Realism and anti-	Finish Reading <i>100</i>	Write a 500 word

	imperialism	<i>Years of Solitude</i>	essay explaining how Garcia used magical realism to explain the consequences of foreign corporate interests.
12	Revolutions in Central America	Skidmore and Smith, 316-348	
13	Revolutions: El Salvador a Case Study	Review Skidmore and Smith, 316-348	
14	Revolutions: Nicaragua a Case Study	Review Skidmore and Smith, 316-348	
15	The Future of Latin America: The Left reemerges	Skidmore and Smith, 399-421	
16	Student Presentations		Final Project Due on Thursday May 14 by 5:00

Assessment of Outcomes

The course uses *four* types of instruments to assess your achievement of the learning objectives listed above: a mid-term examination (30% of the total points for the course), four short essays (30% of the total points for the course) and a final project (40% of the total points for the course). The mid term examination will test you on your geographical and political understanding of Latin America. The short essays are designed to introduce you to influential theorists in Latin American history and to assess your ability to examine primary sources. At the end of the term you will write a 3000 word paper that explores how Latin American authors have written about issues such as colonialism, imperialism, economic dependency, and state sponsored repression. Finally, during the last week of class, you will present your paper to the class.

Assignments and Exams

I. *Essays*: Periodically throughout the course you will be asked to read primary sources and a novel. Afterwards, you will write a 500 word essay relating these works to broader themes (see course outline for more detail). Written assignments will be distributed to the class during the semester.

II. *Mid-Term Exam*: This exam will test your knowledge of Latin American geography and political systems.

III. *Final Paper*: The final assessment for this class will be a 3000 word essay that compares a piece of literary work to the actual history this work uses as its subject (See recommended readings for a list of books).

IV. *Final Presentation*: During the last week of class, you will present a piece of literature and its implications for understanding Latin American history.

Grading System

Grades for the course will be determined according to the following criteria:

Essays 30%
 Mid-Term Exam 30%
 Final Paper 35%
 Final Presentation 5%

TOTAL FOR COURSE 100%

The grading scale for the course will be as follows:

90%+ = **A**; 80 - 89%= **B**; 70-79%= **C**; 60-69%= **D**; below 60%= **F**.

Course Policies

Written assignments must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the day they are due. Because students have the luxury of knowing when assignments are due on the first day of class, there will be no acceptance of late papers.

PLEASE NOTE: I do not give extensions, incompletes, or make-up exams, except in cases allowed for by University Policy.

Plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any of the assignments, and will result in failing the course. Please consult the section on "Academic Integrity" in the *NAU Policy Statements* appended to this syllabus for further details. **IT IS THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO FAMILIARIZE HERSELF/HIMSELF WITH THESE MATTERS AS DEFINED BY THE UNIVERSITY.**

Attendance and Punctuality

As an undergraduate student it is your choice to come to class. If you choose not to attend, you assume the responsibility for missing important information that you will be held accountable for. Because of this, I encourage you to work in study groups or with other individuals that will help you learn the material.

Recommended optional materials/references:

Non-Fiction

Anderson, Jon L. 1997. *Che guevara : A revolutionary life*. New York: Grove Press.

Anderson, Thomas P. 1971. *Matanza; el salvador's communist revolt of 1932*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

Bolivar, Simon, and David Bushnell. 1970. *The liberator Simon Bolivar; man and image*. New York: Knopf.

Hanke, Lewis, and Jane M. Rausch. 1990. *People and issues in latin american history. from independence to the present : Sources and interpretations*. New York: M. Wiener Pub.

Hopkins, Terence K., and Immanuel M. Wallerstein. 1982. *World-systems analysis : Theory and methodology*. Beverly Hills, Calif: Sage Publications.

Selbin, Eric. 1993. *Modern latin american revolutions*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Fiction

Allende, Isabel. 1988. *Eva luna*. New York: Knopf.

Arenas, Reinaldo. 1993. *Before night falls*. New York, N.Y., U.S.A: Viking.

Carpentier, Alejo. 1989. *The chase*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux.

- Esquivel, Laura. 1992. *Like water for chocolate : A novel in monthly installments, with recipes, romances, and home remedies*. New York: Doubleday.
- Fuentes, Carlos, and Sam Hileman. 1964. *The death of artemio cruz*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- García Márquez, Gabriel. 1990. *The general in his labyrinth*. New York: A.A. Knopf : Distributed by Random House.
- García Márquez, Gabriel. 1988. *Love in the time of cholera*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- García Márquez, Gabriel. 1970. *One hundred years of solitude*. New York: Harper & Row.
- García Márquez, Gabriel, Gabriel García Márquez, and Funerales de la Mamá Grande. English. 1968. 1968. *No one writes to the colonel, and other stories*. New York: Harper & Row.
- García Márquez, Gabriel, and Miguel Littín. 1987. *Clandestine in chile : The adventures of miguel Littín*. New York: H. Holt.
- Neruda, Pablo, and Nathaniel Tarn. 1967. *Alturas de macchu picchu. the heights of macchu picchu. [poem]*. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.
- Partnoy, Alicia. 1986. *The little school : Tales of disappearance & survival in argentina*. Pittsburgh, PA: Cleis Press.
- Paz, Octavio. 1962. *The labyrinth of solitude: Life and thought in mexico*. New York: Grove Press.
- Sarmiento, Domingo F. 1960. *Life in the argentine republic in the days of the tyrants; or, civilization and barbarism*. New York: Hafner Pub. Co.
- Vargas Llosa, Mario. 1984. *The war of the end of the world*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux.

University Policies:

- NAU Handbook – <http://www4.nau.edu/stulife/StudentHandbook/TableofContents.htm>
- Safe Working and Learning Environment – <http://www.nau.edu/ombuds/Safe%20Policy.htm>
- Students with Disabilities – <http://www2.nau.edu/dss>
- Institutional Review Board – <http://www2.nau.edu/ovprg/irbindex.htm>
- Academic Integrity Policy – <http://www3.nau.edu/StudentHandbook/AcademicDishonesty.htm>