

Spring 2016: Revolution in Latin America

(Chc/Lat 151B, IS 177C, Hist 166D, Soc Sci 173N)

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Office hours: MWF 11:00-11:30 & by appt.
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Course Description:

Across Latin America, the twentieth century has been rightly dubbed an "age of revolution" as Latin Americans have frequently armed themselves in order to enact fundamental political, social, economic, and even cultural transformation. This course will present a comparative analysis of the causes, development, and consequences of selected revolutionary movements—both successful and not so successful. By focusing on individual revolutionary outbreaks in Mexico (1910), Bolivia (1952), Cuba (1959), Chile (1970), Nicaragua (1979), and Grenada (1979), the course will explore such topics as state formation, economic nationalism, social justice, gender, ethnicity, and the role of international affairs. The course will examine these case studies through lectures, discussions, videos, and primary / secondary source readings.

"Revolution is a rapid, fundamental and violent domestic change in the dominant values and myths of a society, in its political institutions, social structures, leadership and government activity and policies."

- Samuel Huntington, Political Order in Changing Societies (1968)

"Social revolutions are rapid basic transformations of a society's state and class structures, accompanied and in part carried out by class-based revolt from below."

- Theda Skocpol, States and Social Revolutions (1979)

Books:

Thomas Benjamin, La Revolución: Mexico's Great Revolution (University of Texas Press, 2000)

Gioconda Belli, The Country under My Skin (Anchor Books, 2003)

Selected articles: available on course website

Requirements:

Grading for the course is based on two 2-page papers (10% each / April 25 & May 27), a midterm (25% / April 29), one 5-6 page paper based on a selected reading (25% / May 20), and a final (30% / June 6). Exams will combine short identifications and longer essays based on the assigned readings and material covered in lecture. Students, therefore, must finish all readings by the assigned date. Classes will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and videos.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

- March 28) Introduction: Definitions & Parameters
- March 30) The "Social Science" of Revolution
- April 1) Part 1: Background to the Mexican Revolution

Readings:

- o Foran, John. "Theories of Revolution Revisited: Toward a Fourth Generation?," Sociological Theory 11 (March 1993), pp.1-20.
- o Goldfrank, W.L. "Theories of Revolution and Revolution without Theory: the Case of Mexico," Theory and Society 8 (1979), pp. 135-165.
- o Benjamin, Thomas. La Revolución: Mexico's Great Revolution, pp. 1-67.

Week 2:

- April 4) Part 2: Outbreak & Direction of the Mexican Revolution
- April 6) Part 3: Consolidating the Revolutionary State
- April 8) Part 4: Institutionalizing the Revolutionary State

Readings:

- o Benjamin, Thomas. La Revolución: Mexico's Great Revolution, pp. 68-165.
- o Knight, Alan. "Cardenismo: Juggernaut or Jalopy?," Journal of Latin American Studies 26:1 (1994), pp. 73-107.

Week 3:

April 11) Bolivia: Prelude to Revolution

April 13) Bolivia: The "Incomplete" Revolution in Power

April 15) Guatemala's Ten Years of Spring: Revolution or Reform?

Readings:

- Canessa, Andrew. "Forgetting the Revolution and Remembering the War: Memory and Violence in Highland Bolivia," *History Workshop Journal*, 68 (Autumn 2009), pp. 173-198.
 - Zunes, Stephen. "The United States and Bolivia: The Taming of a Revolution, 1952-1957," *Latin American Perspectives* 28 (September 2001), pp. 33-49.
 - Gleijeses, Piero. "The Agrarian Reform of Jacobo Arbenz," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 21 (October 1989), pp. 453-480.
 - Lehman, Kenneth. "Revolutions and Attributions: Making Sense of Eisenhower Administration Policies in Bolivia and Guatemala," *Diplomatic History* 21:2 (Spring 1997), pp. 185-213.
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Week 4:

April 18) Cuba's Road to Revolution

April 20) Consolidating the Cuban Revolution

April 22) Institutionalizing the Cuban Revolution

Readings:

- Wright, *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*, chapter 1, pp. 1-19.
- Guerra, Lillian. "'To condemn the Revolution is to condemn Christ': Radicalization, Moral Redemption, and the Sacrifice of Civil Society in Cuba, 1960," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 89 (Feb. 2009), pp. 73-109.
- Guevara, Ernesto. "Notes for the Study of the Ideology of the Cuban Revolution," "The Cadres: Backbone of the Revolution," & "Cuba: Historical Exception or Vanguard in the Anticolonial Struggle?" (www.marxists.org)
- López Segrera, Francisco. "The Cuban Revolution: Historical Roots, Current Situation, Scenarios, and Alternatives," *Latin American Perspectives*, 38:2 (2011), pp. 3-30.

Week 5:

- April 25) The U.S. Response to Revolution
- April 27) The Latin American Response to Revolution
- April 29) Midterm

Readings:

- Childs, Matt. "An Historical Critique of the Emergence and Evolution of Ernesto Che Guevara's Foco Theory," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 27 (1995), pp. 593-624.
 - Halperin, Ernst. "Ernesto 'Che' Guevara and the Reality of Guerrilla Warfare," in Michael Radu, *Violence and the Latin American Revolutionaries* (Transaction Books, 1988), pp. 37-55.
 - Harmer, Tanya. "Two, Three, Many Revolutions? Cuba and the Prospects for Revolutionary Change in Latin America, 1967-1975," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 45: 1 (2013), pp. 61-89.
 - Wright, *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*, chapter 9, pp. 57-72.
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Week 6:

- May 2) The Parliamentary Revolution: Allende's Chile
- May 4) Destabilizing the "Chilean Road to Socialism"
- May 6) Somoza's Nicaragua

Readings:

- Falcoff, Mark. *Modern Chile 1970-1989* (Transaction Publishers, 1989), pp. 251-286.
 - Landsberger, Henry A. "Hypermobilization in Chile, 1970-1973," *World Politics* 28 (July 1976), pp. 502-541.
 - Mihelich, Kurt. "The Allende Administration and the Causes of the 1973 Chilean Coup," *Swords and Ploughshares* 8 (Spring 1999), pp. 1-13.
 - John Booth & Thomas Walker, *Understanding Central America* (Westview Press, 1999), pp. 69-79, 82-100.
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Week 7:

- May 9) Nicaragua's Revolution against Dictatorship

- May 11) The Sandinistas in Power & under Attack
- May 13) The Price of Reform: Revolution in Salvador

Readings:

- o Belli, *The Country under My Skin* (all)
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Week 8:

- May 16) A Theology of Liberation: The Rise of Guerrilla Priests
- May 18) Gender and Revolution
- May 20) Art and Revolution

Readings:

- o Foroohar, Manzar. "Liberation Theology: The Response of Latin American Catholics to Socioeconomic Problems," *Latin American Perspectives* 13 (Summer, 1986), pp. 37-58.
 - o Chuchryk, Patricia M. "Women in the Revolution," in Thomas Walker, *Revolution & Counterrevolution in Nicaragua* (Westview Press, 1991), pp. 143-165.
 - o Lobao, Linda. "Women in Revolutionary Movements: Changing Patterns of Latin American Guerrilla Struggle," in M. J. Diamond, *Women and Revolution: Global Expressions* (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1998), pp. 255-290.
 - o Folgarait, Leonard. "Revolution as Ritual: Diego Rivera's National Palace Mural," *Oxford Art Journal* 14 (1991): 18-33.
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Week 9:

- May 23) The "Aborted" Revolution in Grenada
- May 25) Why Grenada?
- May 27) Post Cold War Revolution: Sendero Luminoso

Readings:

- o Heine, Jorge. "Introduction: A Revolution Aborted," in Jorge Heine, *A Revolution Aborted: The Lessons of Grenada* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1990), pp. 3-26.

- *Noguera, Pedro A. "Charismatic Leadership and Popular Support: A Comparison of the Leadership Styles of Eric Gairy and Maurice Bishop," Social and Economic Studies, 44:1 (March 1995), pp. 1-29.*
 - *Rochlin, James. Vanguard Revolutionaries in Latin America: Peru, Colombia, Mexico, (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003), pp. 23-53.*
 - *Ron, James. "Ideology in Context: Explaining Sendero Luminoso's Tactical Escalation," Journal of Peace Research, 38:5 (Sept. 2001), pp. 569-592.*
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Week 10:

- May 30) Memorial Day
- June 1) Revolt in Chiapas: Globalization & the Zapatistas (EZLN)
- June 3) Conclusions

Readings:

- *Muñoz, José A. "Protest and Human Rights Networks: The Case of the Zapatista Movement," Sociology Compass 2:3 (May 2008), pp. 1045-1058.*
- *Stahler-Sholk, Richard. "The Zapatista Social Movement: Innovation and Sustainability," Alternatives, 35:3 (Jul.-Sept. 2010), pp. 269-290.*
- *Lee, Chris. "The FARC and the Colombian Left: Time for a Political Solution?," Latin American Perspectives, 39:1 (Jan. 2012), pp. 28-42.*