

Fall 2016: Latin America & the Caribbean

(Chc/Lat 139 / History 169 / IS 179 / Pol Sci 159)

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhoduncan@uci.edu)

Office: SSPB 2215 / MWF 10:30-11:30
& by appt.

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Course Description:

Latin America encompasses a vast region of diverse cultures, economies, and political actors. This course is designed to introduce students to the complexities of the region—its commonalities as well as its distinctiveness. We will examine Latin American history thematically with an emphasis on how history helps to understand and explain contemporary issues. Specifically, we will start with the colonial roots of Latin America and then proceed to investigate topics such as the environment, urbanization, social upheaval, economic development, and human rights. We will discuss these issues in terms of class, gender, and race. The course will reveal how choices made in the past continue to have repercussions today—a situation especially relevant in an age of increased globalization. Students are expected to attend lectures, attend discussion sections, and read all assigned materials. The lectures and assigned readings will be supplemented with videos.

Required books (listed under IS 179 in bookstore)

Duncan Green, Faces of Latin America (4th ed., Monthly Review Press: 2012).

Carolina Maria de Jesus, Child Of The Dark: The Diary Of Carolina Maria De Jesus (Signet: 2003)

Jacobo Timerman, Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number (University of Wisconsin: 2002)

Requirements:

Each class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and videos. Grading is based on a midterm (25% / October 28), two short current news summaries (5% / TBA), one 4-5 page paper based on the readings (25% / November 21), a final (30% / TBA) and attendance as well as participation in discussion sections (15%). Exams will combine short identifications and longer essays based on the assigned readings and material covered in lecture. Students, therefore, must attend lectures, finish all readings by the assigned date, and be prepared for discussion.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

- Sept. 23 Introduction: Why Latin America?
- Sept. 26 Iberian Roots of Latin America
- Sept. 28 Indigenous Roots of Latin America
- Sept. 30 African Roots of Latin America

Readings:

- Holloway, Thomas H. "Latin America: What's in a Name?," *A Companion to Latin American History* (Wiley/Blackwell, 2008), pp. 1-8.
 - Skidmore, Thomas. "Why Latin America," in *Modern Latin America* (Oxford University, 2010), pp. 3-11.
 - Eakins, Marshall. "Does Latin America Have a Common History?," *Vanderbilt e-Journal of Luso-Hispanic Studies* 1 (2004), pp. 29-49.
 - Eakins, Marshall. *The History of Latin America: Collision of Cultures* (Palgrave, 2007), pp. 26-48.
 - Green, pp. 13-20.
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Week 2:

- Oct. 3 Social Ecology, Deforestation, & Environmental Destruction
- Oct. 5 The Urban Landscape: the Rise of Mega Cities
- Oct. 7 The Rural Landscape: The "Haves and Have-Nots"

Readings:

- Gates, Marilyn. "Eco-Imperialism? Environmental Policy versus Everyday Practice in Mexico," in Lynne Phillips (ed.), *The Third Wave of Modernization in Latin America: Cultural Perspective on Neo-Liberalism* (SR Books, 1998), pp. 155-174.
- Johnson, Melissa A. "Ambivalent Landscapes: Environmental Justice in the US-Mexico Borderlands," *Human Ecology* 36:3 (2008), pp. 371-382.
- Rodgers, Dennis. "Latin American Urban Development into the 21st Century: Towards a Renewed Perspective on the City," *World Institute for Development Economics Research, Working Paper 2011/005*, (Jan. 2011), pp. 1-22.

- o Kay, Cristóbal. "The Agrarian Question and the Neoliberal Rural Transformation in Latin America," European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies 100 (Dec. 2015), pp. 73-83.
 - o Green, pp. 109-155.
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Week 3:

- Oct. 10 Continent on the Move
- Oct. 12 Constructing Race in Latin America: Creating the "Indio"
- Oct. 14 Constructing Race in Latin America: Afro-Latin Americans

Readings:

- o Child of the Dark, (entire)
 - o Whitten, Norman E. "The Longue Durée of Racial Fixity and the Transformative Conjectures of Racial Blending," Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology 12:2 (Nov. 2007), pp. 356-383.
 - o Green, pp. 159-173.
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Week 4:

- Oct. 17 Latin American Gender in Historical Perspective
- Oct. 19 The Changing Role of Women in Latin America
- Oct. 21 Religious Identity in Latin America

Readings:

- o Miller, Francesca. "Latin American Women and the Search for Social, Political, and Economic Transformation," in Sandor Halebsky, ed. Capital, Power and Inequality in Latin America (Westview, 1995), pp. 185-206.
- o Navarro, Marysa. "The Personal is Political: Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo," in Susan Eckstein, ed. Power and Popular Protest: Latin American Social Movements (University of California Press, 2001), pp. 241-258.
- o Selka, Stephen. "New Religious Movements in Brazil," The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religion 15:4 (2012), pp. 3-12.
- o Kramer, Eric W. "Spectacle and the Staging of Power in Brazilian Neo-Pentecostalism," Latin American Perspectives 32:1 (Jan. 2005), pp. 95-120.

- Green, pp. 174-194, 232-246.
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Week 5:

- Oct. 24 Commodity Links, Trade, & the World Economy
- Oct. 26 Growth vs. Development: the Case for Dependency
- Oct. 28 Midterm Exam

Readings:

- Topik, Steven & Wells, Allen. "Introduction," in Steven Topik & Allen Wells, eds., The Second Conquest of Latin America (University of Texas Press, 1998), pp. 1-28.
 - Klarén, Peter F. "Lost Promise: Explaining Latin American Underdevelopment," in Peter Klarén, ed. Promise of Development: Theories of Change in Latin America (Westview, 1986), pp. 3-33.
 - Green, pp. 21-37.
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Week 6:

- Oct. 31 Social Upheaval: The Mexican Revolution
- Nov. 2 Social Upheaval (revisited): The Cuban Revolution
- Nov. 4 The FARC: Revolutionary Change in the 21st Century

Readings:

- Goldfrank, W.L. "Theories of Revolution and Revolution without Theory: the Case of Mexico," Theory and Society 8 (1979), pp. 135-165.
 - Roberg, Jeffrey. "Cuba: Ideological Success or Ideological Failure?" Human Rights Quarterly 29:3 (2007), pp. 779-795.
 - LeoGrande, William. "Cuba's Perilous Political Transition to the Post-Castro Era," Journal of Latin American Studies 47:2 (May 2015), pp. 377-405.
 - Lee, Chris. "The FARC and the Colombian Left: Time for a Political Solution?," Latin American Perspectives 39:1 (Jan. 2012), pp. 28-42.
 - Renwick, Danielle. "Colombia's Civil Conflict," Council on Foreign Relations, Aug, 25, 2016.
 - Green, pp. 88-97.
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Week 7:

- Nov. 7 Authoritarianism: the Populists
- Nov. 9 Authoritarianism: the Generals
- Nov. 11 Veterans' Day

Readings:

- o Knight, Alan. "Populism and Neo-populism in Latin America, especially Mexico," Journal of Latin American Studies 30:2 (May 1998), pp. 223-248.
 - o Prisoner without a Name (entire)
 - o Green, pp. 67-87, 195-206.
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Week 8:

- Nov. 14 Human Rights & Reconciliation
- Nov. 16 Across the Divide: U.S. & Latin America, Part 1
- Nov. 18 How a Cold War became "Hot": U.S. & Latin America, Part 2

Readings:

- o Goes, Iasmin. "Between Truth and Amnesia: State Terrorism, Human Rights Violations and Transitional Justice in Brazil," European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies 94 (April 2013), pp. 83-96.
 - o Landman, Todd. "A Most Unlikely Case: Chile, Pinochet and the Advance of Human Rights," Política / Revista de Ciencia Política 51:2 (2013), pp. 37-55.
 - o DeLugan, Robin Maria. "Amnesty no more," NACLA, July 20, 2016.
 - o Blakeley, Ruth. "Still Training to Torture? US Training of Military Forces from Latin America," Third World Quarterly 27:8 (2006), pp. 1439-1461.
 - o Ryan, David. "Colonialism and Hegemony in Latin America: An Introduction," The International History Review 21:2 (1999), pp. 287-296.
 - o Sabatini, Christopher. "Rethinking Latin America: Foreign Policy is More Than Development," Foreign Affairs 91:8 (2012), pp. 8-13.
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Week 9:

- Nov. 21 The (Re) Democratization of Latin America in the 1990s

Nov. 23 Neo-liberalism & the Consequences of Globalization

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving

Readings:

- Weyland, Kurt. "Neoliberalism and Democracy in Latin America: A Mixed Record," Latin American Politics and Society 46:1 (2004), pp. 135-157.
 - Vesilind, Pamela A. "NAFTA's Trojan Horse & the Demise of the Mexican Hog Industry," The University of Miami Inter-American Law Review 43:1 (Fall 2011), pp. 143-163.
 - Krozer, Alice, et. al., "Inequality and minimum wage policy: Not even talking, much less walking in Mexico," Investigación Económica 74:293 (2015), pp. 3-26.
 - Green, pp. 38-63, 209-231.
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Week 10:

Nov. 28 Neo-Populism & the New Left

Nov. 30 Hugo's Bolivarian Revolution

Dec. 2 Conclusions

Readings:

- Sunkara, Bhaskar. "Hugo Chávez as Postmodern Perón," Dissent 59:1 (2012), pp. 22-24.
- Frajman, Eduardo. "Broadcasting Populist Leadership: Hugo Chávez and Aló Presidente," Journal of Latin American Studies 46:3 (August 2014), pp. 501-526.
- Hetland, Gabriel. "Chavismo in Crisis," NACLA Report on the Americas 48:1 (May 2016), pp. 8-11.
- Ellner, Steve. "Showdown in Venezuela," NACLA Report on the Americas 48:2 (July 2016), pp. 8-11.
- Nilsson, Martin. "The Latin American Left in the 2000s: Have We Seen This Before?," Asian Journal of Latin American Studies 24:2 (2011), pp. 91-112.
- Robinson, William I. "Latin America in the New Global Capitalism," NACLA Report on the Americas 45:2 (2012), pp. 13-18.
- Green, pp. 97-106.