

Fall 2017: Revolution in Latin America

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

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Office hours: MWF 10:30-11:30 & by appt.
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Course Description:

Over the last century, Latin Americans have frequently mobilized and armed themselves to obtain fundamental political, economic, and social reform. Major revolutionary upheavals shook Mexico, Cuba, Bolivia, and Nicaragua while many more outbreaks have erupted albeit unsuccessfully. Non-violent attempts at social change have also occurred most notably in places like Guatemala and Chile. This course will take a comparative approach to the causes, development, and consequences of selected social revolutionary movements. Along the way, we will explore such topics as social justice, state formation, nationalism, leadership, 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)

Required text:

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

Selected articles: available on the course website

Requirements:

Each class will be a mixture of lecture and discussion along with frequent videos. Grading is based on a midterm (25% / November 1), a final (35% / December 11), one 4 to 5-page paper based on the readings (25% / November 22), as well as attendance and participation in discussion section (15%). The exams will combine short identifications with longer essays based on the assigned readings and material covered in lecture. Success in the course, therefore, will depend on attending lectures, finishing all readings by the assigned date, and preparing for weekly discussion sections.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

- September 29) Introduction: Definitions & Parameters
- October 2) The "Social Science" of Revolution
- October 4) Part 1: Background to the Mexican Revolution
- October 6) Part 2: Outbreak & Direction of the Mexican Revolution

Readings:

- o *Brush, Stephen G. "Dynamics of Theory Change in the Social Sciences: Relative Deprivation and Collective Violence," The Journal of Conflict Resolution 40: 4 (Dec., 1996), pp. 523-545.*
 - o *Goldfrank, W.L. "Theories of Revolution and Revolution without Theory: the Case of Mexico," Theory and Society 8 (1979), pp. 135-165.*
 - o *Turner, John Kenneth. Barbarous Mexico (University of Texas Press, 1990 [1910]), pp. 27-37, 116-134.*
 - o *Knight, Alan. The Mexican Revolution: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2016), pp. 27-54.*
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Week 2:

- October 9) Part 3: Consolidating the Revolutionary State
- October 11) Part 4: Institutionalizing the Revolutionary State
- October 13) Bolivia: Prelude to the National Revolution

Readings:

- o Benjamin, Thomas. *La Revolución: Mexico's Great Revolution* (University of Texas Press, 2000), pp. 99-136.
 - o Knight, Alan. "The Myth of the Mexican Revolution," *Past & Present*, 209:1 (2010), pp. 223-273.
 - o Canessa, Andrew. "Forgetting the Revolution and Remembering the War: Memory and Violence in Highland Bolivia," *History Workshop Journal*, 68 (2009), pp. 173-198.
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Week 3:

- October 16) Bolivia: The "Incomplete" Revolution in Power
- October 18) Guatemala's Ten Years of Spring: Revolution or Reform?
- October 20) Cuba's Road to Revolution

Readings:

- o Zunes, Stephen. "The United States and Bolivia: The Taming of a Revolution, 1952-1957," *Latin American Perspectives* 28 (September 2001), pp. 33-49.
 - o Gleijeses, Piero. "The Agrarian Reform of Jacobo Arbenz," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 21 (October 1989), pp. 453-480.
 - o Lehman, Kenneth. "Revolutions and Attributions: Making Sense of Eisenhower Administration Policies in Bolivia and Guatemala," *Diplomatic History* 21:2 (Spring 1997), pp. 185-213.
 - o Wright, Thomas. *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*, chapter 1, pp. 1-19.
 - o 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)
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Week 4:

- October 23) Consolidating the Cuban Revolution
- October 25) Institutionalizing the Cuban Revolution
- October 27) The U.S. Response to Revolution

Readings:

- o Guerra, Lillian. Visions of Power in Cuba: Revolution, Redemption, and Resistance, 1959-1971 (University of North Carolina Press, 2012), Chapter 1, pp. 37-74.
- o Foran, John. "Theorizing the Cuban Revolution," Latin American Perspectives, 36:2 (March 2009), pp. 16-30.
- o McCormick, Gordon H. "Che Guevara: The Legacy of a Revolutionary Man," World Policy Journal, 14:4 (Winter, 1997/1998), pp. 63-79.
- o Wright, Thomas. Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution, chapt.9, pp. 57-72.

Week 5:

- October 30) The Latin American Response to Revolution
- November 1) Midterm
- November 3) The Parliamentary Revolution: Allende's Chile

Readings:

- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Falcoff, Mark. Modern Chile 1970-1989 (Transaction Publishers, 1989), pp. 251-286. (read after midterm)

Week 6:

- November 6) Destabilizing the "Chilean Road to Socialism"
- November 8) Somoza's Nicaragua
- November 10) Veteran's Day

Readings:

- o Merom, Gil. "Democracy, Dependency, and Destabilization: The Shaking of Allende's Regime," Political Science Quarterly 105:1 (Spring, 1990), pp. 75-95.

- o Kim, Jaechun. "Democratic Peace and Covert War: A Case Study of the U.S. Covert War in Chile," Journal of International and Area Studies, 12: 1 (June 2005), pp. 25-47.
- o John Booth & Thomas Walker, Understanding Central America (Westview Press, 1999), pp. 69-79, 82-100.
- o Belli, The Country under My Skin (pp. 1-95)

Week 7:

- November 13) Nicaragua's Revolution against Dictatorship
- November 15) The Sandinistas in Power & under Attack
- November 17) The Price of Reform: Revolution in Salvador

Readings:

- o Belli, The Country under My Skin (pp. 96-369)

Week 8:

- November 20) A Theology of Liberation: The Rise of Guerrilla Priests
- November 22) Gender and Revolution
- November 24) Thanksgiving

Readings:

- o Foroohar, Manzar. "Liberation Theology: The Response of Latin American Catholics to Socioeconomic Problems," Latin American Perspectives 13 (1986), pp. 37-58.
- o Gonzalez-Perez, Margaret. "Guerrilleras in Latin America: Domestic and International Roles," Journal of Peace Research, 43:3 (May, 2006), pp. 313-329.
- 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.

Week 9:

- November 27) Art and Revolution

November 29) The "Aborted" Revolution in Grenada

December 1) Why Grenada?

Readings:

- o Desmond Rochfort, "The Sickle, the Serpent, and the Soil: History, Revolution, Nationhood, and Modernity" in Mary Kay Vaughan, ed., The Eagle and the Virgin: Nation and Cultural Revolution in Mexico, 1920-1940 (Duke University Press, 2006), pp. 43-57.
 - o Miller, Nicola. "A Revolutionary Modernity: The Cultural Policy of the Cuban Revolution," Journal of Latin American Studies 40:4 (Nov., 2008), pp. 675-696.
 - 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.
 - o 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.
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Week 10:

December 4) Post Cold War Revolution: Sendero Luminoso

December 6) Revolt in Chiapas: Globalization & the Zapatistas (EZLN)

December 8) The FARC and the Future for Revolution in Latin America

Readings:

- o Rochlin, James. Vanguard Revolutionaries in Latin America: Peru, Colombia, Mexico, (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003), pp. 23-53.
- o Ron, James. "Ideology in Context: Explaining Sendero Luminoso's Tactical Escalation," Journal of Peace Research, 38:5 (Sept. 2001), pp. 569-592.
- o Rovira Sancho, Guiomar. "From armed struggle to interaction with civil society: Chiapas' Zapatista National Liberation Army," in Véronique Dudouet, ed. Civil Resistance and Conflict Transformation (Routledge, 2015), pp. 126-153.
- o Lee, Chris. "The FARC and the Colombian Left: Time for a Political Solution?," Latin American Perspectives, 39:1 (Jan. 2012), pp. 28-42.
- o Figueroa-Ibarra, Carlos; Martínez-Zavala, Lorena; Ortega Breña, Mariano. "The Ejército Popular Revolucionario: Occupying the Cracks in Mexico's Hegemonic State," Latin American Perspectives, 40:5 (Sept. 2013), pp. 153-164.