

## **Fall 2018: Revolution in Latin America**

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

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)

Office: 433 Social Science Tower / MWF 12:00-12:30 & 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% / October 31), a final (35% / December 10), one 4 to 5-page paper based on the readings (25% / November 21), 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

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### Week 1:

- September 28) Introduction: Definitions & Parameters
- October 1) The "Social Science" of Revolution
- October 3) Part 1: Background to the Mexican Revolution
- October 5) Part 2: Outbreak & Direction of the Mexican Revolution

### Readings:

- *Brush, Stephen. "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.*
- *Goldfrank, W.L. "Theories of Revolution and Revolution without Theory: the Case of Mexico," Theory and Society 8 (1979), pp. 135-165.*
- *Turner, John Kenneth. Barbarous Mexico (University of Texas Press, 1990 [1910]), pp. 27-37, 116-134.*
- *Knight, Alan. The Mexican Revolution: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2016), pp. 27-54.*

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### Week 2:

- October 8) Part 3: Consolidating the Revolutionary State
- October 10) Part 4: Institutionalizing the Revolutionary State
- October 12) Bolivia: Prelude to the National Revolution

### **Readings:**

- Benjamin, Thomas. *La Revolución: Mexico's Great Revolution* (University of Texas Press, 2000), pp. 99-136.
  - Knight, Alan. "The Myth of the Mexican Revolution," *Past & Present* 209:1 (2010), pp. 223-273.
  - Knight, Alan. "The Domestic Dynamics of the Mexican and Bolivian Revolutions Compared," in Merilee Grindle, *Proclaiming Revolution* (Harvard Press, 2003), pp. 54-90.
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### **Week 3:**

- October 15) Bolivia: The "Incomplete" Revolution in Power
- October 17) Guatemala's Ten Years of Spring: Revolution or Reform?
- October 19) Cuba's Road to Revolution

### **Readings:**

- Canessa, Andrew. "Forgetting the Revolution and Remembering the War: Memory and Violence in Highland Bolivia," *History Workshop Journal* 68 (2009), pp. 173-198.
  - 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.
  - Wright, Thomas. *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*, chapter 1, pp. 1-19.
  - 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](http://www.marxists.org))
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### **Week 4:**

- October 22) Consolidating the Cuban Revolution
- October 24) Institutionalizing the Cuban Revolution
- October 26) The U.S. Response to Revolution

### **Readings:**

- Guerra, Lillian. *Visions of Power in Cuba: Revolution, Redemption, and Resistance, 1959-1971* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012), Chapter 1, pp. 37-74.
  - Foran, John. "Theorizing the Cuban Revolution," *Latin American Perspectives* 36:2 (March 2009), pp. 16-30.
  - McCormick, Gordon. "Che Guevara: The Legacy of a Revolutionary Man," *World Policy Journal* 14:4 (Winter, 1997/1998), pp. 63-79.
  - Wright, Thomas. *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*, chapter 9, pp. 57-72.
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### **Week 5:**

- October 29) The Latin American Response to Revolution
- October 31) Midterm
- November 2) The Parliamentary Revolution: Allende's Chile

### **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.
  - Oppenheim, Lois. *Politics in Chile* (Westview Press, 2007), chapter 2, pp. 31-46. (read after midterm)
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### **Week 6:**

- November 5) Destabilizing the "Chilean Road to Socialism"
- November 7) Somoza's Nicaragua
- November 9) Nicaragua's Revolution against Dictatorship

### **Readings:**

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

- 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.
  - Booth, John & Walker, Thomas. Understanding Central America (Westview Press, 2010), chapter 5, pp. 81-109.
  - Belli, The Country under My Skin (pp. 1-95)
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### **Week 7:**

- November 12) Veteran's Day
- November 14) The Sandinistas in Power & under Attack
- November 16) The Price of Reform: Revolution in Salvador

### **Readings:**

- Belli, The Country under My Skin (pp. 96-369)
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### **Week 8:**

- November 19) A Theology of Liberation: The Rise of Guerrilla Priests
- November 21) Gender and Revolution
- November 23) Thanksgiving

### **Readings:**

- Foroohar, Manzar. "Liberation Theology: The Response of Latin American Catholics to Socioeconomic Problems," Latin American Perspectives 13 (1986), pp. 37-58.
  - Gonzalez-Perez, Margaret. "Guerrilleras in Latin America: Domestic and International Roles," Journal of Peace Research 43:3 (May, 2006), pp. 313-329.
  - 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.
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### **Week 9:**

- November 26) Art and Revolution

November 28) The "Aborted" Revolution in Grenada

November 30) Why Grenada?

**Readings:**

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

December 3) Post Cold War Revolution: Sendero Luminoso

December 5) Revolt in Chiapas: Globalization & the Zapatistas (EZLN)

December 7) The FARC and the Future for Revolution in Latin America

**Readings:**

- 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.
- Rovira Sancho, Guiomar. "From armed struggle to interaction with civil society: Chiapas' Zapatista National Liberation Army," in Véronique Dudouet, *Civil Resistance and Conflict Transformation* (Routledge, 2015), pp. 126-153.
- Lee, Chris. "The FARC and the Colombian Left: Time for a Political Solution?," *Latin American Perspectives* 39:1 (Jan. 2012), pp. 28-42.
- Ellner, Steve. "Introduction: Latin America's Radical Left in Power: Complexities and Challenges in the Twenty-first Century," *Latin American Perspectives* 40:3 (May 2013), pp. 5-25.