Spring 2014: U.S. Intervention in Latin America
(Chc-Lat 150 / Hist 166 / IS 177D / Soc Sci 123A)

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)
Office hours: SST 705 / MWF 10:30-11:30 & by appt.
TA: Robert Nyenhuis (rnyenhui@uci.edu)

Course Description:
This course explores the political, economic, social, and cultural ties that bind Latin America to the United States. It focuses on the varied forms of US intervention from the early 19th century to the present day and the Latin American response to such contact. The class covers the development of relations in the context of expansionism, imperialism, the Cold War, and post-Cold War periods. Case studies include Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba, Chile, and Central America. Among the topics and themes are manifest destiny, trade, culture, race, drugs, immigration, and human rights. Students are expected to attend lectures, discussion sections, and read all assigned materials. Lectures are supplemented with videos.

Books:
Kyle Longley, In the Eagle's Shadow: The United States and Latin America (2nd ed., 2009)

Requirements:
Each class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and videos. Grading is based on a midterm (May 2 / 25%), one 5-6 page paper based on the readings (May 23 / 25%), a final (June 11 / 35%), 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:
March 31 Introduction: Themes in US - Latin American Relations
April 2      New Republics, Expanding Horizons

April 4      The Expansionist Impulse

**Readings:**

- Longley, pp. 1-40

**Week 2:**

April 7      Manifest Destiny and the War with Mexico

April 9      The Move towards Empire: Cuba and the United States

April 11     Establishing an Empire: the Spanish American War

**Readings:**

- Longley, pp. 42-114

**Week 3:**

April 14     Building a Canal

April 16     Business Expansionism

April 18     Taking Sides: US Intervention in Mexico

**Readings:**
Week 4:
April 21 1910s - 1920s: Interventions and Occupations
April 23 Good Neighbors, FDR, and WWII
April 25 Changing Priorities: the Cold War in Latin America

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 159-217

Week 5:
April 28 The Bolivian Revolution
April 30 Confronting Communism in Guatemala
May 2 Midterm Exam
Readings:

- Longley, pp. 217-227

Week 6:

May 5  Cuba I: Making a Revolution
May 7  Cuba II: Playa Girón
May 9  Cuba III: The Missile Crisis

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 235-248
- Sherwin, Martin J. "One Step from Nuclear War: The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50," Prologue Magazine, 44:2 (Fall 2012).

Week 7:

May 12  Containment and Economic Development
May 14  Containment and Authoritarian Regimes
May 16  Chile: Popular Unity, Allende, and Pinochet
Readings:

- Longley, pp. 227-235, 249-277

Week 8:

May 19  The Carter Interlude
May 21  Nicaragua: the Sandinista National Liberation Front
May 23  From Grenada to El Salvador

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 277-324

Week 9:

May 26  Memorial Day
May 28  End of the Cold War
May 30  The Drug War

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 324-345

Week 10:

June 2  Trade, NAFTA, and Neo-Liberalism
June 4  Immigration and Politics
June 6  Conclusions

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 345-369
- Selected articles