

## Summer Session II 2014: Latin American Revolutions

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

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)  
Office: SST 705 / hours: MWF 10:00-10:30  
& by appt.



### **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)

**Required book:** Forrest Colburn, My Car in Managua (listed in bookstore under IS 177C)

### **Requirements:**

Each class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and videos. Grading is based on one 2-page paper (10% / August 15), a midterm (30% / August 20), one 4-5 page paper based on the readings (25% / September 3), and a final (35% / September 10). 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 classroom discussion.

## Course Schedule

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### Week 1:

- August 4) Introduction to the "Social Science" of Revolution
- August 6) The Background, Outbreak, & Direction of the Mexican Revolution
- August 8) Institutionalizing & Consolidating the Revolutionary State in Mexico

### Readings:

- Goldfrank, W.L. "Theories of Revolution and Revolution without Theory: the Case of Mexico," *Theory and Society* 8 (1979), pp.135-165.
  - 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.
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### Week 2:

- August 11) Bolivia: The "Incomplete" Revolution of 1952
- August 13) Guatemala's "Ten Years of Spring" / Cuba's Road to Revolution
- August 15) Mobilizing & Consolidating Support for the Cuban Revolution

### Readings:

- Zunes, Stephen. "The United States and Bolivia: The Taming of a Revolution, 1952-1957," *Latin American Perspectives* 28 (September 2001), pp. 33-49.
- 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 C. *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution* (Praeger Paperback, 2001), chapter 1, pp. 1-19.
- Ernesto Guevara, "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))

- López Segre, Francisco. "The Cuban Revolution: Historical Roots, Current Situation, Scenarios, and Alternatives," Latin American Perspectives, 38:2 (March 2011), pp. 3-30.
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### **Week 3:**

August 18) The U.S. & Latin American Response to Revolution in the 1960s

August 20) Midterm

August 22) *La via chilena al socialismo*: Social Revolution in Chile

### **Readings:**

- Wright, Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution, chapter 9, pp. 57-72.
  - 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.
  - Landsberger, Henry A. "Hypermobilization in Chile, 1970-1973," World Politics 28 (July 1976), pp. 502-541. (after midterm)
  - Mihelich, Kurt. "The Allende Administration and the Causes of the 1973 Chilean Coup," Swords and Ploughshares 8 (Spring 1999), pp. 1-13. (after midterm)
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### **Week 4:**

August 25) Somoza's Nicaragua & the Fight against Dictatorship

August 27) The Sandinista Revolution under Attack / The Price of Reform in El Salvador

August 29) Revolutionary Struggle & the Catholic Church

### **Readings:**

- Foroohar, Manzar. "Liberation Theology: The Response of Latin American Catholics to Socioeconomic Problems," Latin American Perspectives 13 (Summer, 1986), pp. 37-58.
  - *My Car in Managua (all)*
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### **Week 5:**

Sept 1) Labor Day

Sept 3) Gender: "The Revolution Within the Revolution" / Art in Revolution

Sept 5) Grenada: "The Big Revolution in a Little Island"

**Readings:**

- Chuchryk, Patricia M. "Women in the Revolution," in Thomas Walker, Revolution & Counterrevolution in Nicaragua (Westview Press, 1991), pp. 143-165.
  - 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.
  - Folgarait, Leonard. "Revolution as Ritual: Diego Rivera's National Palace Mural," Oxford Art Journal 14 (1991), pp. 18-33.
  - Heine, Jorge. "Introduction: A Revolution Aborted," in Jorge Heine, A Revolution Aborted: The Lessons of Grenada (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1990), pp. 3-26.
  - Zunes, Stephen. "The US Invasion of Grenada: A Twenty Year Retrospective," Foreign Policy in Focus, October 2003
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**Week 6:**

Sept 8) Post Cold War Revolution: The Shining Path, the EZLN, & the FARC

Sept 10) Final

**Readings:**

- Rochlin, James. Vanguard Revolutionaries in Latin America: Peru, Colombia, Mexico, (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003), chapter 2, pp. 23-53.
- 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.