Spring 2015: U.S. Intervention in Latin America  
(Chc-Lat 150 / Hist 166 / IS 177D / Soc Sci 123A)

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)  
Office: SSPB 2215 / MWF 10:30-11:30 & by appt.

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 two 2-page papers (10% each / April 27 & June 1), a midterm (May 1 / 25%), one 5-6 page paper based on the readings (May 22 / 25%), and a final (June 10 / 30%). 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 30 Introduction: Themes in US - Latin American Relations
April 1       New Republics, Expanding Horizons
April 3       The Expansionist Impulse

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 1-40

Week 2:

April 6       Manifest Destiny and the War with Mexico
April 8       The Move towards Empire: Cuba and the United States
April 10      Establishing an Empire: the Spanish American War

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 42-114

Week 3:

April 13      Building a Canal
April 15      Business Expansionism
April 17      Taking Sides: US Intervention in Mexico

Readings:
Longley, pp. 114-159


O'Brien, Thomas F. The Century of U.S. Capitalism in Latin America (University of New Mexico Press, 1999), pp. 36-56.


---

**Week 4:**

April 20 1910s - 1920s: Interventions and Occupations

April 22 Good Neighbors, FDR, and WWII

April 24 Changing Priorities: the Cold War in Latin America

**Readings:**

Longley, pp. 159-217


---

**Week 5:**

April 27 The Bolivian Revolution

April 29 Confronting Communism in Guatemala

May 1 Midterm Exam
Readings:

- Longley, pp. 217-227

Week 6:

May 4  Cuba I: Making a Revolution
May 6  Cuba II: Playa Girón
May 8  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 11  Containment and Economic Development
May 13  Containment and Authoritarian Regimes
May 15  Chile: Popular Unity, Allende, and Pinochet
Readings:

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

---

Week 8:

May 18  The Carter Interlude

May 20  Nicaragua: the Sandinista National Liberation Front

May 22  From Grenada to El Salvador

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 277-324

---

Week 9:

May 25  Memorial Day
May 27  End of the Cold War

May 29  The Drug War

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 324-345

Week 10:

June 1  Trade, NAFTA, and Neo-Liberalism

June 3  Immigration and Politics

June 5  Conclusions

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 345-369
- Selected articles