Spring 2016: U.S. Intervention in Latin America
(Chc-Lat 150 / Hist 166 / IS 177D / Pol Sci 142J)

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)
Office: SSPB 2215 / MW 1:00-2:00 & by appt.
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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 (April 29 / 25%), one 5-6 page paper based on the readings (May 23 / 25%), a final (June 8 / 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 28    Introduction: Themes in US - Latin American Relations
March 30 New Republics, Expanding Horizons

April 1 The Expansionist Impulse

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 1-40


Week 2:

April 4 Manifest Destiny and the War with Mexico

April 6 The Move towards Empire: Cuba and the United States

April 8 Establishing an Empire: the Spanish American War

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 42-114


Week 3:

April 11 Building a Canal

April 13 Business Expansionism

April 15 Taking Sides: US Intervention in Mexico

Readings:
Week 4:

April 18 1910s - 1920s: Interventions and Occupations
April 20 Good Neighbors, FDR, and WWII
April 22 Changing Priorities: the Cold War in Latin America

Readings:

o Longley, pp. 159-217


Week 5:

April 25 The Bolivian Revolution
April 27 Confronting Communism in Guatemala
April 29 Midterm Exam
Readings:

- Longley, pp. 217-227

Week 6:

May 2   Cuba I: Making a Revolution
May 4   Cuba II: Playa Girón
May 6   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 9   Containment and Economic Development
May 11  Containment and Authoritarian Regimes
May 13  Chile: Popular Unity, Allende, and Pinochet
Readings:

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

Week 8:

May 16    The Carter Interlude
May 18    Nicaragua: the Sandinista National Liberation Front
May 20    From Grenada to El Salvador

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 277-324

Week 9:

May 23    End of the Cold War
May 25       The Drug War

May 27       Trade, NAFTA, and Neo-Liberalism

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 324-345

Week 10:

May 30       Memorial Day

June 1        Immigration and Politics

June 3        Conclusions

Readings:

- Longley, pp. 345-369