Fall 2016: Latin America & the Caribbean
(Chc/Lat 139 / History 169 / IS 179 / Pol Sci 159)

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)

Office: SSPB 2215 / MWF 10:30-11:30 & by appt.

TA: Steven Schmidt (seschmid@uci.edu)

Course Description:

Latin America encompasses a vast region of diverse cultures, economies, and political actors. This course is designed to introduce students to the complexities of the region—its commonalities as well as its distinctiveness. We will examine Latin American history thematically with an emphasis on how history helps to understand and explain contemporary issues. Specifically, we will start with the colonial roots of Latin America and then proceed to investigate topics such as the environment, urbanization, social upheaval, economic development, and human rights. We will discuss these issues in terms of class, gender, and race. The course will reveal how choices made in the past continue to have repercussions today—a situation especially relevant in an age of increased globalization. Students are expected to attend lectures, attend discussion sections, and read all assigned materials. The lectures and assigned readings will be supplemented with videos.

Required books (listed under IS 179 in bookstore)


Carolina Maria de Jesus, Child Of The Dark: The Diary Of Carolina Maria De Jesus (Signet: 2003)

Jacobo Timerman, Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number (University of Wisconsin: 2002)

Requirements:

Each class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and videos. Grading is based on a midterm (25% / October 28), two short current news summaries (5% / TBA), one 4-5 page paper based on the readings (25% / November 21), a final (30% / TBA) 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:**

Sept. 23  Introduction: Why Latin America?
Sept. 26  Iberian Roots of Latin America
Sept. 28  Indigenous Roots of Latin America
Sept. 30  African Roots of Latin America

**Readings:**

- Green, pp. 13-20.

**Week 2:**

Oct. 3      Social Ecology, Deforestation, & Environmental Destruction
Oct. 5      The Urban Landscape: the Rise of Mega Cities
Oct. 7      The Rural Landscape: The “Haves and Have-Nots”

**Readings:**


Green, pp. 109-155.

**Week 3:**

Oct. 10  Continent on the Move

Oct. 12  Constructing Race in Latin America: Creating the “Indio”

Oct. 14  Constructing Race in Latin America: Afro-Latin Americans

**Readings:**

- *Child of the Dark*, (entire)


- Green, pp. 159-173.

**Week 4:**

Oct. 17  Latin American Gender in Historical Perspective

Oct. 19  The Changing Role of Women in Latin America

Oct. 21  Religious Identity in Latin America

**Readings:**


Week 5:
Oct. 24 Commodity Links, Trade, & the World Economy
Oct. 26 Growth vs. Development: the Case for Dependency
Oct. 28 Midterm Exam

Readings:
- Green, pp. 21-37.

Week 6:
Oct. 31 Social Upheaval: The Mexican Revolution
Nov. 2 Social Upheaval (revisited): The Cuban Revolution
Nov. 4 The FARC: Revolutionary Change in the 21st Century

Readings:
- Green, pp. 88-97.
**Week 7:**

Nov. 7    Authoritarianism: the Populists
Nov. 9    Authoritarianism: the Generals
Nov. 11   Veterans’ Day

**Readings:**

- *Prisoner without a Name* (entire)

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**Week 8:**

Nov. 14   Human Rights & Reconciliation
Nov. 16   Across the Divide: U.S. & Latin America, Part 1
Nov. 18   How a Cold War became “Hot”: U.S. & Latin America, Part 2

**Readings:**


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**Week 9:**

Nov. 21   The (Re) Democratization of Latin America in the 1990s
Nov. 23  Neo-liberalism & the Consequences of Globalization

Nov. 25  Thanksgiving

Readings:


- Green, pp. 38-63, 209-231.

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Week 10:

Nov. 28  Neo-Populism & the New Left

Nov. 30  Hugo’s Bolivarian Revolution

Dec. 2  Conclusions

Readings:


- Green, pp. 97-106.