Fall 2017: Revolution in Latin America
(Chc/Lat 151B, IS 177C, Hist 166D, Soc Sci 173N)

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Office hours: MWF 10:30-11:30 & by appt.
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Course Description:

Over the last century, Latin Americans have frequently mobilized and armed themselves to obtain fundamental political, economic, and social reform. Major revolutionary upheavals shook Mexico, Cuba, Bolivia, and Nicaragua while many more outbreaks have erupted albeit unsuccessfully. Non-violent attempts at social change have also occurred most notably in places like Guatemala and Chile. This course will take a comparative approach to the causes, development, and consequences of selected social revolutionary movements. Along the way, we will explore such topics as social justice, state formation, nationalism, leadership, 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 text:


Selected articles: available on the course website
Requirements:

Each class will be a mixture of lecture and discussion along with frequent videos. Grading is based on a midterm (25% / November 1), a final (35% / December 11), one 4 to 5-page paper based on the readings (25% / November 22), as well as attendance and participation in discussion section (15%). The exams will combine short identifications with longer essays based on the assigned readings and material covered in lecture. Success in the course, therefore, will depend on attending lectures, finishing all readings by the assigned date, and preparing for weekly discussion sections.

Course Schedule

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Week 1:

September 29) Introduction: Definitions & Parameters
October 2) The “Social Science” of Revolution
October 4) Part 1: Background to the Mexican Revolution
October 6) Part 2: Outbreak & Direction of the Mexican Revolution

Readings:


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Week 2:

October 9) Part 3: Consolidating the Revolutionary State
October 11) Part 4: Institutionalizing the Revolutionary State
October 13) Bolivia: Prelude to the National Revolution

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Readings:


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**Week 3:**

October 16) Bolivia: The “Incomplete” Revolution in Power
October 18) Guatemala’s Ten Years of Spring: Revolution or Reform?
October 20) Cuba’s Road to Revolution

Readings:


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**Week 4:**

October 23) Consolidating the Cuban Revolution
October 25) Institutionalizing the Cuban Revolution
October 27) The U.S. Response to Revolution

Readings:


Week 5:

October 30) The Latin American Response to Revolution

November 1) Midterm

November 3) The Parliamentary Revolution: Allende’s Chile

Readings:


Week 6:

November 6) Destabilizing the “Chilean Road to Socialism”

November 8) Somoza’s Nicaragua

November 10) Veteran’s Day

Readings:


Belli, The Country under My Skin (pp. 1-95)

Week 7:
November 13) Nicaragua’s Revolution against Dictatorship
November 15) The Sandinistas in Power & under Attack
November 17) The Price of Reform: Revolution in Salvador

Readings:
  o Belli, The Country under My Skin (pp. 96-369)

Week 8:
November 20) A Theology of Liberation: The Rise of Guerrilla Priests
November 22) Gender and Revolution
November 24) Thanksgiving

Readings:

Week 9:
November 27) Art and Revolution
November 29) The “Aborted” Revolution in Grenada

December 1) Why Grenada?

Readings:


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Week 10:

December 4) Post Cold War Revolution: Sendero Luminoso

December 6) Revolt in Chiapas: Globalization & the Zapatistas (EZLN)

December 8) The FARC and the Future for Revolution in Latin America

Readings:


