Fall 2018: Revolution in Latin America
(Chc/Lat 151B, IS 177C, Hist 166D, Soc Sci 173N)

Dr. Robert Duncan (rhduncan@uci.edu)
Office: 433 Social Science Tower / MWF 12:00-12:30 & 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% / October 31), a final (35% / December 10), one 4 to 5-page paper based on the readings (25% / November 21), 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

Week 1:

September 28) Introduction: Definitions & Parameters
October 1) The “Social Science” of Revolution
October 3) Part 1: Background to the Mexican Revolution
October 5) Part 2: Outbreak & Direction of the Mexican Revolution

Readings:


Week 2:

October 8) Part 3: Consolidating the Revolutionary State
October 10) Part 4: Institutionalizing the Revolutionary State
October 12) Bolivia: Prelude to the National Revolution
Readings:


Week 3:

October 15) Bolivia: The “Incomplete” Revolution in Power

October 17) Guatemala’s Ten Years of Spring: Revolution or Reform?

October 19) Cuba’s Road to Revolution

Readings:


Week 4:

October 22) Consolidating the Cuban Revolution

October 24) Institutionalizing the Cuban Revolution

October 26) The U.S. Response to Revolution

Readings:


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**Week 5:**

October 29) The Latin American Response to Revolution

October 31) Midterm

November 2) The Parliamentary Revolution: Allende’s Chile

**Readings:**


- Oppenheim, Lois. *Politics in Chile* (Westview Press, 2007), chapter 2, pp. 31-46. (read after midterm)

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**Week 6:**

November 5) Destabilizing the “Chilean Road to Socialism”

November 7) Somoza’s Nicaragua

November 9) Nicaragua’s Revolution against Dictatorship

**Readings:**


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

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**Week 7:**

November 12) Veteran’s Day

November 14) The Sandinistas in Power & under Attack

November 16) The Price of Reform: Revolution in Salvador

**Readings:**

- Belli, *The Country under My Skin* (pp. 96-369)

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**Week 8:**

November 19) A Theology of Liberation: The Rise of Guerrilla Priests

November 21) Gender and Revolution

November 23) Thanksgiving

**Readings:**


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**Week 9:**

November 26) Art and Revolution
November 28) The “Aborted” Revolution in Grenada

November 30) Why Grenada?

Readings:


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Week 10:

December 3) Post Cold War Revolution: Sendero Luminoso

December 5) Revolt in Chiapas: Globalization & the Zapatistas (EZLN)

December 7) The FARC and the Future for Revolution in Latin America

Readings:


