

Description: A survey of the modern history of Latin America. The course covers the Independence period (1810-1826), the post-independence period of nation building (1825-75), the subsequent age of export booms and busts (1860-1930), Latin America's experiments with national development during the crisis in the global system (1920-1955), and Latin America in the Cold War (1947-1989).

In the course, we will focus on the difficulty Latin American countries have had in creating liberal political systems. As a result, we will cover issues such as the rule of law, free trade, democracy and individual rights. Three major themes will recur through the course:

Political Instability

Problems of Economic Development

Power Relations Across Divisions of Race and Class

Although every Latin American country has its own history, this course will emphasize the similarities more than the differences. These countries are blessed (and cursed) with complex, multicultural societies. We cannot look at every facet of such complex cultures nor account for all the changes that have taken place. The major themes will simply provide a road map for understanding the problems and turning points of modern Latin American history. With this road map, students will be prepared to understand the particular history of individual Latin American nations should they choose to undertake further study of the region.

Learning Goals For the Course:

Learning Related to Latin America

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Explain the basic periodization of Modern Latin American History
- Explain how and why conflicts between Liberals and Conservatives affected Latin American nations during the nineteenth century
- Explain how the Transportation Revolution, the Great Depression, and the Cold War affected Latin America

Skills Related to Historical Analysis

By the end of the semester, you should have refined your ability to:

- Examine primary sources critically and in context in order to use them to provide evidence for arguments
- Identify how historical arguments are framed within an existing historiography
- Analyze and comment on how historical arguments make use of evidence and make their case

Writing Skills

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Create an argument in response to an historical debate
- Structure an introduction for a longer paper
- Assemble a longer paper out of shorter segments

Required Books

Burns, *The Porvery of Progress* (California, 1984)
Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire* (Norton, 2011)
Knight, *The Mexican Revolution* (Oxford, 2016)
Rosenberg, *Children of Cain* (Wm. Morrow, 1991)
Sarmiento, *Facundo* (Penguin, 1998)
Wasserman, *Everyday Life in Mexico* (New Mexico, 2000)
Wright, *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution* (Praeger, 2001)

Recommended Books

The Craft of Research (Chicago, Second or Third Edition)
Williams, Style (Chicago, 1995)

Assignments:

Map Quiz (16 September), Midterm (19 October), Final (Wednesday, December 18, 9 a.m.), a Research Paper, and various short assignments/quizzes. Several of these assignments represent different stages of the paper.

Turn in assignments late at your own risk. If assignments are handed in late, they probably won't get graded on time to help you and that will make it that much harder to finish the next assignment. You know the due dates and assignments well ahead of time. Plan accordingly.

Grading:

I will determine grades on the basis of the paper, the midterm, the final, map quiz, class participation, and in-class quizzes.

The approximate breakdown is as follows: paper (25%), the midterm(12%), the final(25%), map quiz(3%), class participation (30%), and in-class quizzes (5%).

Note: I really do grade on class participation. If you do not participate regularly, you will get a lower grade. To avoid letting absences affect your grade, you may turn in a 500 word essay on the day's assignment before the class meets. You might want to model that essay on the research paper source assignment.

Research Paper Stages:

Stage 1: Choose a paper topic. I want you to write a research paper about a specific topic in Modern Latin American history. Try to find a topic that accords with your interests. Also consider what you will be asked to do in stages 2 through 6. Think about whether the library has much material on your topic, or whether you can get more information through inter-library loan. If you don't know where to start looking, come see me as soon as possible. In terms of concrete work for this stage, you only have to do one thing: write a paper that describes your topic and explains why it is worth a paper. Due Friday, 20 September. See the assignment sheet.

Stage 2: Bibliography. Describe the secondary and primary works that you currently believe are the most relevant to your topic. Explain why you think they are relevant. Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and should be accompanied by a title page. It is due 11 October. See the assignment sheet for more details.

Stage 3: Source Analysis. Analyze one of the main arguments that scholars have made on your topic. Due 1 November. See the assignment sheet for more details.

Stage 4: Argument. In two pages, summarize your argument. What is your main claim and how can you support that claim? It is due November 15. See the assignment sheet for more details.

Stage 5: Introduction. Write a clear introduction for your paper. See the assignment sheet for more details. Your introduction should be 1-2 pages in length and should be accompanied by a title page. It is due 27 November.

Stage 6: Final Draft. This might appear self-explanatory, but I want you to do some specific things. Your final version is due on December 19.

Readings:

Introduction and Overview (week 1)

Friday, 30 August What is Latin America? Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, pp. 1-46.

Monday, 2 September How was Latin America colonized and how did it become independent?
Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, pp. 49-147.

Wednesday, 4 September What are the contours of Latin America's 19th Century?
Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, pp. 149-233.

Friday, 6 September What are the contours of Latin America's 20th Century?
Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, pp. 233-316.

Section 1. Tumultuous New Nations (weeks 2-3)

Monday, 9 September How Did Latin American Independence Happen? One View
Andrews, "Spanish American Independence." Online.

Wednesday, 11 September How Did Latin American Independence Happen? Another View
Rodriguez, "The Process of Spanish American Independence," on e-reserve.

Friday, 13 September So What was the Problem? An Example of Deep Divisions
Adelman, "The Rites of Statehood." Online.

Week 3

Monday, 16 September How did Independence give rise to the age of Caudillos? Mexico
Map Quiz
Wasserman, 3-90.

Wednesday, 18 September How did Independence give rise to the age of Caudillos, in general?
Wright, "The Age of Caudillos," on e-reserve.

Friday, 20 September What did Argentine Liberals Think?
Facundo, 9-70.
Paper Topics are Due.

Section 2. Building Order (weeks 4-5)

Week 4

Monday, 23 September What did Argentine Liberals Think?
Facundo, 71-176.

Wednesday, 25 September Why did the turmoil matter? An Economic Perspective.
Coatsworth, "Obstacles to Economic Growth." Online.

Friday, 27 September

How did Mexican Liberals Adjust? Reread Chasteen, 98-100, 106-7.
Mexican Liberalism Documents, e-reserves.

Week 5

Monday, 30 September How did Colombian Liberals Adjust?
Colombian Liberals vs. Conservatives, on Blackboard.

Wednesday, 2 October

How did Argentine Liberals Adjust?
Argentine Federales vs. Unitarios, on Blackboard.

Friday, 4 October

How did Mexico Recover?
Wasserman, pp. 93-157.

Section 3. Export Booms and Busts (weeks 6-7)

Week 6

Monday, 7 October How did Latin America Boom?
Reread Chasteen, pp. 149-211.

Wednesday, 9 October

How did Latin America Boom?
Glade, on e-reserve.

Friday, 11 October

How did Mexico Boom?
Wasserman, pp. 161-232.

Paper Bibliographies are due. Remember to include a title page.

Week 7

Monday, 14 October

What was the Downside? I
Burns, The Poverty of Progress, Chaps. 1-4.
Reread Chasteen, "Neocolonialism."

Wednesday, 16 October

What was the Downside? II
Burns, The Poverty of Progress, Chaps. 5-7.

Friday, 18 October

MIDTERM EXAM

Fall Break, 19 October to 27 October

Section 4. National Development 1914-47 (weeks 8-9)

Week 8

Monday, 28 October How and Why did Latin America Change Direction? Nationalism
Reread Chasteen, "Nationalism."
Muratorio, "Images of Indians."

Wednesday, 30 October How and Why did Latin America Change Direction? Revolution
Knight, Mexican Revolution, 1-54.

Friday, 1 November How and Why did LA Change Direction? Urbanization & Mobilization
Knight, Mexican Revolution, 55-103.
Source Assignment, Due in Class.

Week 9

Monday, 4 November How and Why did LA Change Direction? New Racial Thinking
Turda & Gillette, chapter will be on e-reserve.

Wednesday, 6 November How and Why did LA Change Direction? New Racial Thinking
The Cosmic Race on e-reserve.

Friday, 8 November How and Why did LA Change Direction? The Great Depression
Kindleberger, on e-reserve.
Diaz-Alejandro, on e-reserve.

Week 10

Monday, 11 November Why Was the End of the Boom Such a Problem?
Barham & Coomes, on JStor.

Wednesday, 13 November Who were the Populists?
Wolfe, "Populism and Developmentalism," on e-reserve.
Knight, Mexican Revolution, 104-116.

Friday, 15 November What was Populism's Appeal?
Peronism documents, on blackboard.
Argument Summaries are Due by 5 PM.

Section 5. National Development During the Cold War 1947-1990 (weeks 11-14)

Week 11

Monday, 18 November How did the Cold War Change Things? Round 1.
Bethell & Roxborough, "Between the Second World War and the Cold War."

Wednesday, 20 November In this Context, how could Cuba go Communist?
Wright, Latin America in the era ..., pp. xi-38.

Friday, 22 November What was the impact?
Wright, Latin America in the era ..., pp. 39-109.

Week 12

Monday, 25 November What was the impact of the Cuban Revolution?
Reread Chasteen, "Revolution."
Wright, Latin America in the era ..., pp. 111-147.

Wednesday, 27 November How did Elites React?
Reread Chasteen, "Reaction."
Wright, Latin America in the era ..., pp. 149-164.
Introductions are Due. Remember to include a title page and your previous stages.

Friday, 29 November Thanksgiving Break, No Class

Week 13

Monday, 2 December What did the Reaction Look Like? The Southern Cone
Children of Cain, 77-141, 331-388.

Wednesday, 4 December What did the Reaction Look Like? Central America
Children of Cain, 217-272.

Friday, 6 December What about Colombia?
Children of Cain, 23-76.

Week 14

Monday, 9 December Is Nicaragua an exceptional case?
Wright, Latin America in the era ..., pp. 165-185.
Children of Cain, pp. 273-329.

Wednesday, 11 December What has Happened Since?
Reread Chasteen, "Neoliberalism."

Friday, 13 December Conclusion and Review
We will discuss preparation for the Final Exam.

Wednesday, 18 December

Final Exam at 9 a.m.

Thursday, 19 December Your Final Draft is due. Remember to include a title page and all the previous stages that I have looked at.