

Fall Semester 2019

## History 309. The United States and Latin America

As the saying goes, Latin America lies too far from God and too close to the United States. This proximity has affected Latin American economics, demographics, culture, and politics. The seminar will begin with common readings. This year those common readings will begin by looking at various ways the United States has tried to "improve" Latin America. From there, the course will turn towards the production of seminar papers. These papers could focus on any one of a number of issues that were central to US-Latin American relations such as hemispheric security, economic affairs, democracy, and socialism.

### Required Books

Booth, *Craft of Research*

Shoultz, *In Their Own Best Interests*

Grow, *U.S. Presidents and Latin American Interventions*

### Grading:

Only two things are required for the class: the seminar paper and active class participation. The two will carry approximately equal weight in my evaluation of final grades.

Your paper should express your own ideas. You must footnote not only paraphrases from the texts, but also ideas borrowed, for example, from the introductions to the texts; not to do so is plagiarism. Be sure to keep a print copy for yourself to insure against the possibility of a lost paper. No extensions are given for papers except for documented health reasons (documented through a physician) or a legitimate personal reason (documented through the Office of Student Affairs).

A common feature of all history seminars is the seminar paper. The department explicitly aims to graduate students who are able to complete, "independent research on historical questions and successfully mount an argument based on that research." We further ask that this ability "be demonstrated in a seminar paper of substantial length in which the student takes a discernible position on an historical question and supports that position with relevant evidence." For this seminar you are being asked to use historical primary sources related to US-Latin American affairs to write a substantive, analytical paper. For purposes of the class I have set down particular steps that all students in the class must take as they work on their papers. I have assigned *The Craft of Research* in order to provide you guidance as you set about your task.

**Stage 1: Choose a paper topic.** I want you to write a research paper about a specific topic in the history of US-Latin American relations. Try to find a topic that accords with your interests. Also consider what you will be asked to do in stages 2 through 5. In particular, focus on finding appropriate primary sources that can serve as the basis for an analytical paper. 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 20 September. See the assignment sheet.

**Stage 2: Primary Source Description.** Describe the collection of primary sources that you will be working on. Explain how the collection might shed light on the important analytical questions you have identified. Your paper should be 2-3 pages in length and should be accompanied by a title page. It is due October 4 and should be accompanied by a revised topic assignment dated October 4. See the assignment sheet for more details.

**Stage 3: Primary Source Analysis.** Provide an analysis of the collection of primary sources that you will be working on. Explain how the collection sheds light on the important analytical questions you have identified. Your paper should be 2- 3 pages in length and should be accompanied by a title page. It is due November 1. See the assignment sheet for more details.

**Stage 4: Argument.** In a page or two, summarize your argument. What is your main claim and how can you support your claim. It is due in week 9 or 10 (exact date will be determined before spring break). 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 1-4 pages in length and should be accompanied by a title page. It is due week 11 or 12 (exact date to be determined before spring break).

**Stage 6: First Draft.** This is almost self explanatory. Week 13 or Week 14 (exact date to be determined before spring break). See the advice sheet.

### Section 1. Common Readings (weeks 1-7)

**Thursday, 29 August**      **Why has the US cared about Latin America?**  
*In Their Own Best Interest*, 1-42.

**Tuesday, 3 September**      **How did the US try to improve Latin Americans?**  
*In Their Own Best Interest*, 42-136.

**Thursday, 5 September**      **How did things change with the Cold War?**  
*In Their Own Best Interest*, 137-195.

**Tuesday, 10 September**      **How did Cuba change things?**  
*In Their Own Best Interest*, 196-288.

**Thursday, 12 September**      **What is Schoultz's Overall Take?**  
*In Their Own Best Interest*, 289-304.

**Tuesday, 17 September**      **How did other actors matter?**  
Pettina, "Adapting to the New World."  
Rivarola & Appelqvist, "Prebisch and Myrdal."

**Thursday, 19 September**      **How did other actors matter?**  
Petersen, "The rise and fall of the Argentine Third Position"

**Friday, 20 September**      **Preliminary Paper Topics are Due.**

**Tuesday, 24 September**      **How else did the Cold War affect Latin America?**  
Joseph, "*Latin American Cold War Studies*."  
Kirkendall, "*The Revolution that Wasn't and the Revolution that Was*."

**Thursday, 26 September**      **How else did the Cold War affect Latin America?**  
Franco, "The Cold War and Culture," on e-reserve

**Tuesday, 1 October**      **Back to interventions: What is the Right Way to think about this?**  
US Presidents, ix-74.

**Thursday, 3 October**      **Who is the Right Actor to think about?**

**Friday, 4 October**      **Descriptions of your source collections are Due.**  
US Presidents, 75-136

**Tuesday, 8 October**      **Who's the Right Actor to Focus on?**  
*US Presidents*, 137-194.

**Thursday, 10 October**      **What Role has the US played?**  
McCormick, "*U.S. Democracy Promotion in latin America*."  
Schenoni & Mainwaring, "*US Hegemony and Regime Change*."

**Tuesday, 15 October**      **Readings on Your Topics?**  
TBD.

**Thursday, 17 October**      **Readings on Your Topics?**  
TBD.

**Fall Break, 19 to 27 October**

**Section 2. Research Projects (weeks 8-14)**

**Tuesday, 29 October**      **So how are the projects going?**  
We will meet today to assign workshop dates.

Everyone will meet individually with me this week to discuss their project. Otherwise, we will have no other class meetings this week.

**Friday, 1 November**      **Primary Source Assignments are due.**

**Tuesday, 5 November**      **Arguments**  
Two of you will meet with me.

**Thursday, 7 November**      **Arguments**  
Two of you will meet with me.

**Tuesday, 12 November**      **Arguments**  
Two of you will meet with me.

**Thursday, 14 November**      **Arguments**  
Two of you will meet with me.

**Tuesday, 19 November**      **Introductions**  
Two of you will meet with me.

**Thursday, 21 November**  
Two of you will meet with me.

**Tuesday, 26 November**      **Introductions**  
Two of you will meet with me.

**Thursday, 28 November**      **Introductions**  
Two of you will meet with me.

**Tuesday, 3 December**      **Draft Review**  
Two of you will meet with me: Before drafting your paper read pp. 185-221, 263-282 of The Craft of Research.

**Thursday, 5 December**      **Draft Review**  
Two of you will meet with me: Before drafting your paper read pp. 185-221, 263-282 of The Craft of Research.

**Tuesday, 10 December**      **Draft Review**  
Two of you will meet with me: Before drafting your paper read pp. 185-221, 263-282 of The Craft of Research.

**Thursday, 12 December**      **Draft Review**  
Two of you will meet with me: Before drafting your paper read pp. 185-221, 263-282 of The Craft of Research.

**Tuesday, 18 December**      **Final Draft Due at 5 pm**

Last Modified: August 28, 2019