

**INST 207 Spring 2017**  
**Introduction to Latin American Studies**  
**The Croft Institute for International Studies**  
**University of Mississippi, Oxford**  
**Croft 204**  
**TTh 9:30 – 10:45**

Dr. Kate M. Centellas  
Office: Lamar Hall 561  
Office Hours: 1-3 TTh or by appointment  
Email: [kmcentel@go.olemiss.edu](mailto:kmcentel@go.olemiss.edu)  
Office Phone: 915-7129

**Course Description & Goals**

The course aims to provide a theoretical and substantive understanding of the people, cultures, politics and development of Latin America. We ask what defines Latin America as a region and examine key historical, cultural, and political trends from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> Century through the present. We will also analyze several countries representing major regions of Latin America to understand how they reflect and shape contemporary socio-historical processes. By the end of the term, students will possess:

- a) An understanding of the broad forces shaping the region and its people
- b) Detailed knowledge about the cultures, conditions, and politics in various countries
- c) An awareness of the diversity of Latin American experiences
- d) The ability to analyze contemporary events in socio-historical context

**Required Textbooks:**

**Chasteen, John Charles**

2016 Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York: Norton

**Chasteen, John Charles, ed.**

2016 Born in Blood and Fire: Latin American Voices, a Reader, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Norton.

These books are available at the bookstore or via Amazon

**There are assigned articles and other materials for the course.**

**These sources are indicated in the course schedule and available for download or linked to on Blackboard.**

I also highly recommend keeping track of current events in Latin America by reading some of the following publications: The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), L.A. Times ([www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com)), the BBC ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)), and Al Jazeera ([www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)). In Spanish, the national newspapers of most Latin American countries (ex. Mexico: El Universal ([www.eluniversal.com.mx](http://www.eluniversal.com.mx)); Chile: La Tercera ([www.latercera.cl](http://www.latercera.cl))). Bringing interesting and relevant articles to class may help your participation grade.

## Assignments & Grading

1. Participation + In Class Assignments
2. Quizzes (Map quiz + 4 quizzes to be taken on BB BEFORE class)
3. Film Review
3. 2 hybrid (in class + take home components) midterms
4. Final essay
5. Final exam

## Grading

For calculating the final course grade, the assignments will be given the following weights:

Participation: 10%

Quizzes: 15% (3% per quiz)

Film Review: 10%

Midterms: 30 % (15% each)

Essay: 15%

Final Exam: 20%

**This course is graded on the +/- scale.**

The scale is:

93-100: A

90-92: A-

87-89: B+

83-86: B

80-82: B-

77-79: C+

73-76: C

70-72: C-

69 and below: D

59 and below: F

If you are borderline, i.e. 89.5, the decision to round up or down will be based primarily upon your participation grade, which is itself 20% of your final grade. For instance, Sally has a 92 in participation and received a final grade of 89.5. Johnny has an 85 in participation and an 89.5 total. Johnny gets a B+ and Sally gets an A-.

## Technology Policy

In general, you retain more information if you write notes by hand in class – you wind up being more engaged with the material and the act of writing it seems to help you retain information better. I encourage you to try to make the class a technology free zone, though this is not required.

However, because they are often easier to haul around, you may use digital versions of the texts and you can take notes in class via iPad, tablet, or laptop. However, the use of technology in class is for class

purposes only. If I catch you texting, chatting, or watching Netflix in class I will a) ask you to leave and b) not allow you to use your device for the next class period.

### **Late Policy**

I do not accept late papers or requests for make-up midterms, quizzes, etc. The only exceptions are if you have a doctor's note or a note from your advisor.

### **Participation**

I do not provide extensions, make-ups, or any other considerations for absences unless you have cleared the absence with me IN ADVANCE or have a doctor's note or a note from your advisor. There are no exceptions.

This course is both discussion and lecture based. Your participation in class activities is vital for your understanding (and enjoyment) of the material. A good participation grade is based on engagement with course themes in class. I encourage you to bring in examples from your lives, to mention anything that made you think of course topics, and to use course ideas to broaden your understanding of the world around you. Evidence for this includes: asking questions about the material; answering questions posed by myself and other students; referencing interesting or puzzling popular examples such as magazine articles or T.V. shows in discussion; and respecting others' opinions.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Along with the course readings, assignments, and class attendance, you are expected to know and understand the material on the syllabus. I do not respond to questions that are clearly answered on the syllabus or on Blackboard (e.g. "what's the reading?") Also, if the question is "will this be on the test/essay?" the answer is yes. Anything discussed in class is part of course materials and you should know it. We will be discussing reading and study strategies with you as the semester proceeds.

Remember, always check Blackboard first if you have a question or need a reading/PowerPoint!

### **Statement on Accommodations**

I am happy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). SDS will then contact the instructor through the student by means of an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form.

### **Office Hours**

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the material come and talk to me. I prefer to work with students in person (not over email) whenever possible. I have an open door office hours policy, meaning you can come to our offices during these times with no appointment. If you cannot make these times, send an email and we can arrange an alternate time.

### **Blackboard and Email**

You are expected to check your email. I will send reminders and important notices to your Ole Miss account. I have posted the syllabus and additional readings on Blackboard. I will add PowerPoints and

handouts as the semester proceeds. There will also be quizzes on BB approximately every 2 -3 weeks. You may also check your running weighted grade total on BB.

A heads up: I do not keep the late hours many of you do! Therefore, if you email me at night (after about 8 PM) I probably not receive or respond to your email until the next day. Plan ahead!

### Changes to the Syllabus

Often during the course of a semester I may see new and interesting articles are the relevant to class. I will notify you when new materials are added to the readings. You are responsible for keeping track and reading (or watching/listening) to any new materials I add. Similarly, sometimes I have to change the order or dates of when we will be covering certain issues. I will inform you of these changes using various methods (email, announcement in class, etc).

### Course Schedule

Theme	Tuesday	Thursday	Additional Assignments & Materials
<b>1. Introduction: What is Latin America?</b>	<b>1/24</b> Introduction & syllabus	<b>1/26</b> Chasteen, Ch. 1	<b>Map quiz list &amp; blank map distributed Thursday</b>
<b>2. Encounter</b>	<b>1/31</b> Chasteen, Ch. 2 (Encounter & Countercurrents)	<b>2/2</b> Voices, Ch. 1 (all)	<b>MAP QUIZ in class on Thursday</b>
<b>3. Colonial Crucible</b>	<b>2/7</b> Chasteen, Ch. 3 (all)	<b>2/9</b> Voices, Ch 2 (all) Short film: <i>Minerita</i>	
<b>4. Independence</b>	<b>2/14</b> Serulnikov, Chs. 1-5, 11-17 (on BB)	<b>2/16</b> Chasteen, Ch. 4	<b>QUIZ on BB, due before class Thursday</b>
<b>5. Postcolonial Blues</b>	<b>2/21</b> Chasteen, Ch. 5	<b>2/23</b> Voices, Chs. 3 & 4	
<b>6. "Progress" &amp; Neocolonialism</b>	<b>2/28</b> <b>MIDTERM #1</b>	<b>3/2</b> Chasteen, Ch. 6	<b>MIDTERM IN CLASS TUESDAY</b>
<b>7. Neocolonialism, cont.</b>	<b>3/7</b> Chasteen, Ch. 7. Weber, Max. "Politics as a Vocation." (on BB)	<b>3/9</b> Voices, Ch 6.	

<b>8. SPRING BREAK</b>	<b>3/14</b>	<b>3/16</b>	
<b>9. Nationalism &amp; Revolution</b>	<b>3/21</b> Chasteen, Ch. 8 & 9	<b>3/22</b> Voices, Ch. 7 & 8	<b>Quiz on BB, due before class on Thursday</b>
<b>10. Revolution (finally) &amp; Reaction</b>	<b>3/28</b> Chasteen Ch.10	<b>3/30</b> Voices Ch. 9; Film in class (The Two Escobars)	
<b>11. Neoliberalism</b>	<b>4/4</b> <b>MIDTERM #2 IN CLASS</b>	<b>4/6</b> Chasteen Ch. 11, Goodale & Postero Ch. 1 (on BB)	<b>MIDTERM IN CLASS TUESDAY</b>
<b>12. Neoliberalism &amp; Postneoliberalism</b>	<b>4/11</b> Film in class (When Worlds Collide)	<b>4/12</b> Finish film, start dossier assignment	
<b>13. The contemporary landscape</b>	<b>4/18</b> <b>Dossier assignment in class</b> – the saga of El Chapo Guzmán	<b>4/20</b> Case Study: Contemporary Venezuela	<b>QUIZ before class on Thursday; Movie review due on Tuesday</b>
<b>14. New Forms of Citizenship</b>	<b>4/25</b> Migration, International Relations, and Conflict (readings TBD)	<b>4/27</b> NO CLASS	<b>ESSAYS DUE 4/25</b>
<b>15. Conclusion</b>	<b>5/2</b> Film TBD	<b>5/4</b> Film continued	<b>Quiz before class THURSDAY (open all week)</b>

**FINAL EXAM ON THURSDAY, MAY 11<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM.**