History 343: Latin America and the Cold War

Instructor: Oliver Dinius  
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Office Hours: Mondays, 4:30-5:30pm; Fridays, 2:30-3:30pm

Fall Semester 2010  
M, W, Fr, 1:00-1:50 pm  
Croft 107

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the history of Latin America’s place in the “Cold War”. The course covers the origins of the Cold War, focuses on the impact of the competition between the United States and the Soviet Union on Latin America from 1947 and 1991, and briefly considers the legacy of the Cold War in Latin America in the 1990s and beyond. A central question is why the Cold War affected Latin America so profoundly even though the Soviet Union never posed a military threat in the region (outside the island of Cuba). The course will explore the motives and consequences of the U.S. government’s actions to counter the perceived Communist threat, as successive administrations expanded intelligence gathering, increased military and economic aid, backed anti-communist governments in Latin America, and used U.S. troops in direct military interventions. We will focus on key conflicts that highlight the logic of overt and covert action: (1) the coup against the Arbenz government in Guatemala in 1954; (2) the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962; (3) the Dirty Wars under Latin American military regimes (1970s); (4) Cuba’s military engagement in Africa (1960s to 1980s); and (5) the counterinsurgency wars in Central America (1980-1986).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will get an overview of the events and major interpretations of the Cold War in Latin America. Students will refine their analytical writing skills in the long papers, develop research skills for the research paper, and sharpen critical thinking skills in the short exercises (source analysis; summarizing an argument as outline; concise presentation of information).

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites. No previous knowledge of Latin America history is assumed. All course materials are in English - knowledge of Spanish or Portuguese is not required.

GRADING

1) Map Quiz 80 points
2) Short assignments 120 points
3) Two essays on books @ 100 pts. each 200 points
4) Research paper 200 points
5) Participation 100 points
6) Midterm Exam 150 points
7) Final exam 150 points

TOTAL 1,000 points
For the final grade, 900 to 1000 points are an ‘A’, 800-899 a ‘B’, 700-799 a ‘C’, 600-699 a ‘D’, and less than 600 points an ‘F’. History majors should take note that no grade lower than "C" may be counted toward the 33 hour requirement.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Quizzes/Exams**

1) **Map Quiz:** A map quiz will be given on **Friday, September 10**. You will place geographic features in Latin America (from a pre-distributed list) on a blank map.

2) **Midterm Exam:** Covers the first part of the course. It will include essays and identifications.

3) **Final Exam:** Covers the second part of the course. It will include essays and identifications.

(NOTE: There will be no make-up quizzes or exams other than in cases of medical emergencies documented with a doctor’s note.)

**Short Assignments:** Students will complete three short assignments such as source analyses, fact sheets, chapter summaries, or pop quizzes (40 points each). I prefer not to give pop quizzes, but WILL do so if I notice that students are not doing the reading.

**Book Essays:** Students will write essays on the books by Cullather (Week 5) and Dinges (Week 9). The instructor will hand out questions/topics for these papers. These book essays have to be between 1400 and 1600 words in length (about five pages of text in 12-font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all four sides). Late essays can be turned in until 48 hours after the due date at a penalty of one full grade (10 points).

**Research Paper:** You will write a research paper on an aspect of the Central American Wars of the 1980s. A handout with instructions will be handed out on October 15. You will submit a bibliography on October 29. The research paper will be due on the day of your presentation (Week 13). It **cannot be submitted late**. The paper has to have at least 2000 words of text, not counting the required references (footnotes or endnotes) and the works cited page.

**Participation:** Counts for 10% of the grade. Note: Simply being in class does not earn you participation credit. You do have to contribute to class discussion!!

**Attendance:** Class attendance is expected. Roll will be taken, and students are responsible for signing the roll sheet. Absences due to documented emergencies will be considered excused (i.e. do not count for attendance). Bonus and penalty points will be allocated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Bonus/Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>25-point bonus (Note: No more than two excused absences.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10-point bonus (Note: No more than two excused absences.)</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>No bonus, no penalty.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>25-point penalty</td>
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<td>6-7</td>
<td>50-point penalty</td>
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<td>8-9</td>
<td>75-point penalty</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>100-point penalty</td>
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</tbody>
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*** Students who miss more than 11 classes will receive an automatic F for the course. ***
READINGS
The required books are available for purchase at the Ole Miss Bookstore and on reserve at the Williams Library. Other readings will be available as a course pack.

Required Texts


5) Course Pack: Readings marked with “***”.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings *before* the respective class period and come to class prepared to discuss them.

The SYLLABUS is subject to change. Lectures may be switched, readings may be added or substituted, and assignments may change. Any changes will be announced in class.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: BACKGROUND
M 8/23  Introduction to the Course & Latin American Geography

W 8/25  The United States in Latin America before the Cold War

F 8/27  The Origins of the Cold War
Video (in class): “Comrades, 1917-1945” (CNN Perspectives: Cold War, Part 1)

WEEK 2: FORCES OF COMMUNISM AND ANTI-COMMUNISM
M 8/30  Marxism, Soviet Influence, and Popular Fronts

W 9/1  Forces of Anti-Communism I: The United States
** Martha Huggins, “‘Good Neighbor’ Policing” and [part of] “From Policing Espionage to Suppressing Communism”, in *Political Policing: The United States and Latin America*, 41-66.

F 9/3  Forces of Anti-Communism II: The Vatican

SHORT ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE: PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS


**WEEK 3: THE COLD WAR CONTEXT**

**M 9/6**  
LABOR DAY HOLIDAY (no class)

**W 9/8**  
**Friends become Enemies**  
Video (in class): “The Iron Curtain, 1945-47” (CNN Perspectives: Cold War, Part 2)

**F 9/10**  
**The Cold War comes to Latin America**  
*** MAP QUIZ ***

**WEEK 4: HEMISPHERIC SECURITY**

**M 9/13**  
The United States Rediscover the Hemisphere  
** Martha Huggins, “From Policing Espionage to Suppressing Communism”, in *Political Policing*, 66-78.

**W 9/15**  
**Securing the Hemisphere (Class Discussion)**  

**F 9/17**  
A New Phase of the Cold War: From Containment to Roll-Back  
** Martha Huggins, “Policing Containment”, in *Political Policing*, 79-98.

**WEEK 5: COUP IN GUATEMALA (1954)**

**M 9/20**  
Democratization, Land Reform, and the United Fruit Company  

**W 9/22**  
The CIA in Action  
Cullather, *Secret History*, 38-104.

**F 9/24**  
The Lessons of the Coup in Guatemala (Class Discussion)  
Cullather, *Secret History*, 105-141 and Afterword.  
BOOK ESSAY #1 DUE

**WEEK 6: THE CUBAN REVOLUTION AND THE COLD WAR**

**M 9/27**  
Nationalist Revolution and the Road to Socialism  

**W 9/29**  
The Cuban Missile Crisis I: The History in Images  

**F 10/1**  
The Cuban Missile Crisis II: The History in Documents (Class Discussion)

SHORT ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE: PRIMARY SOURCE ANALYSIS

WEEK 7: EXPORTING THE CUBAN REVOLUTION
M 10/4 Revolution and Counterrevolution
1) ** Che Guevara, “The Foco Theory” and “Two, Three, Many Vietnams,” in Holden & Zolov, *Latin America and the United States*, 244-246 and 250-252;
2) ** John F. Kennedy, “On the Alliance for Progress.”

W 10/6 *** MIDTERM EXAM ***

F 10/8 The Cuban Revolution goes to Africa
*** NO CLASS - Instructor at LASA Conference ***

WEEK 8: CONTAINING THE CUBAN REVOLUTION
M 10/11 Defeat for the Guerilla: Che Guevara in Zaire (Class Discussion)

W 10/13 Military Coups and National Security Doctrine(s)

F 10/15 Violent Repression in the Southern Cone (Class Discussion)
** Archdiocese of São Paulo, “Torture in Brazil” (excerpts).

WEEK 9: DIRTY WARS AND THE OPERATION CONDOR
M 10/18 The Origins of Operation Condor

*** T 10/19 @ 7pm Presentation by John Dinges on "Secrets of the Past, Accountability in the Present: The Challenge for Journalism in Latin America."
(This is the week we'll be reading John Dinges's book, so you'll get a chance to see the author in person. Bonus: Attending this event will cancel one unexcused absence.) ***

W 10/20 International Security Cooperation and the Operation Condor

F 10/22 “Operation Condor” and the U.S. Role (Class Discussion)
BOOK ESSAY #2 DUE

WEEK 10: MILITARY REGIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS
M 10/25 Tracing the Origins of Latin American Counterinsurgency Strategies

W 10/27 Human Rights after the End of the Military Regime: Argentina
** Thomas C. Wright, "The Sinuous Path of Transitional Justice", in *State Terrorism in Latin America*, pp. 141-178.

F 10/29  ** Human Rights after the End of the Military Regime: Chile  
** Thomas C. Wright, "Chile: Impunity, Truth, and Justice in a Protected Democracy", in *State Terrorism in Latin America*, pp. 179-224.

** BIBLIOGRAPHY for RESEARCH PAPER due **

** WEEK 11: ANGOLA - A PROXY-WAR IN AFRICA **

M 11/1  ** The Foreign Policy of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger  

W 11/3  ** Angola, Soviets, Cubans, and Mr. Kissinger  

F 11/5  ** Cuba as Leader of the Third World (Class Discussion)  

** SHORT ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE: CHAPTER SUMMARY **

** WEEK 12: THE CENTRAL AMERICAN WARS OF THE 1980s - THE OFFICIAL VIEW **

M 11/8  ** U.S. Foreign Policy in Central America in the 1980s  

W 11/10  ** Civil War in El Salvador  
(1) ** Document: "Teaching Sabotage: The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency", pp.297-299  
(2) Meara, *Contra Cross*, pp.1-86 (ch. 1-5).

F 11/12  ** Civil War in Nicaragua (Class Discussion)  
Meara, *Contra Cross*, pp. 87-155 (ch. 6-14).


*** RESEARCH PAPER DUE ON DAY OF YOUR PRESENTATION ***

M 11/15  ** Student Presentations on Central American Wars: Part I  
W 11/17  ** Student Presentations on Central American Wars: Part II  
F 11/19  ** Student Presentations on Central American Wars: Part III

*** NOVEMBER 22-26 THANKSGIVING BREAK ***

** WEEK 14: LEGACIES OF THE COLD WAR **


** Old Warriors fighting New Wars


** Review: Questions & Answers in Preparation for Final Exam

*** FINAL EXAM: MONDAY, DECEMBER 6 @ 4 PM ***

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BEWARE of PLAGIARISM !!!!

PLAGIARISM means representing the writings or ideas of another person as your own. It is always unethical, frequently illegal, and raises serious doubts about the personal integrity of the offender.

PLAGIARISM includes:

a) Copying or paraphrasing information from a book, article, website, or other source without acknowledging the source of the quote or original idea. (Minor alterations to the copied or paraphrased text will not resolve the problem; it is still plagiarism.)
b) Letting someone else write even part of your paper for you

Avoid PLAGIARISM by:

a) Using quotation marks every time you use words from a source.
b) Providing citations after quotes and paraphrased ideas.

PENALTY for PLAGIARISM: A plagiarized assignment will automatically receive 0 points. The student will also forfeit any extra credit opportunity (including the attendance bonus) for the entire course. I reserve the right to impose further penalties (e.g. an automatic ‘F’ for the course) and to report cases of plagiarism to the college.

USE the WRITING CENTER !!!!

If you encounter difficulties writing papers, take your draft to the CENTER FOR WRITING AND RHETORIC (Suite 310 of the J. D. Williams Library). The staff will also be able to address any concerns about plagiarism.