The seminar examines the history of the “Cold War” (1947-1991) in Latin America. The Soviet Union never posed a military threat in the region outside the island of Cuba, but the Cold War nevertheless affected Latin America profoundly because the United States feared Communist threats. The first part of the course will be centered on readings that (1) provide an overview of the period, (2) explore the U.S. involvement in the region to fight real or imagined ‘Communism,’ and (3) analyze the Latin American role in the Cold War in response to US action. This includes a critical assessment of U.S. decisions to expand intelligence gathering, increase military and economic aid, back anti-communist governments in Latin America, and use troops in direct military interventions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
The main goal of the capstone seminar is to write a 25-page research paper that demonstrates the student’s ability to produce work that fulfills the formal standards of historical scholarship. Students will perform extensive research, both in the library and with academic online sources, and they will develop their academic writing skills. Moreover, the course provides training in summarizing arguments of scholarly works, presenting one’s own work to others, and critiquing the work of peers.

GRADING
1) Class Participation & Presentations 15%
2) Short Paper based in Primary Sources 10%
3) Midterm Exam 10%
4) Annotated Bibliography 10%
5) First Draft of Research Paper 15%
6) Final Research Paper 40%

RESEARCH PAPER: Students will write a 25-page research paper. Readings in the first few weeks, a primary source-based writing exercise, and a session with a reference librarian will familiarize students with (1) the difference between primary and secondary sources, (2) research strategies to identify proper sources, and (3) the correct use and citation of courses in a research paper.

Based on broad knowledge gained from the readings in the first weeks, students will formulate a research topic. The papers have to address an aspect of the Cold War in Latin America. Students are expected to research the Latin American perspective on the events based on available English-language sources. Topics that deal exclusively with U.S. policy-making will not be approved. The paper can focus...
on one of the major events related to the Cold War in Latin America or on less well-known aspects. Students will decide on a topic in close consultation with the instructor.

The research paper requires students to use both primary and secondary sources, and the process of writing the essay will be broken down in several steps: (1) prospectus, (2) annotated bibliography, (3) primary source analysis, (4) partial draft, (5) first full draft, and (6) final paper.

**MIDTERM EXAM:** The midterm exam will have two parts. The first will be a map quiz to test your knowledge of Latin American geography. You will receive (in advance) a list of terms including countries, cities, and major geographic features. In the exam, you will be expected to be able to place these geographic features accurately on a blank map of Latin America. The second part will be IDs and essays to test your knowledge of the Cold War in Latin America based on the class readings. Together with the midterm, I will administer a standardized assessment test given to all students enrolled in 400-level seminars. The assessment tests general skills such as distinguishing between primary and secondary sources, reading and interpreting a text, and recognizing plagiarism.

**ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:** You are expected to attend all seminar sessions, finish all assigned readings prior to class, and be prepared to participate actively.

**PRESENTATION:** Towards the end of the semester, you will give a presentation on the topic of your research to the entire seminar. This will be a 10-minute presentation in which you present on the results of your research (based on your full research paper draft) and provide conclusions that you have drawn from your work. In the same session, I will ask each of you to respond.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
The University of Mississippi has an Academic Discipline Policy that will be followed in this course. Students are expected to submit their own original work in all aspects of this course and behave in a respectful manner both toward the professors and other students in the class. Suspected violations will be subject to disciplinary action according to the University policy. If you have questions, please consult the University's M Book (Section II, I. A-G).

**READINGS**
The following books are required for this course and are available at the university bookstore and on reserve at the main library:


Additional **required** readings will be placed on electronic reserve as PDF files on the Blackboard website for INST 207. These readings are marked with a double asterisk (**) in the syllabus.

**Background Readings**

If you have never taken Latin American history and would like to do some background reading, I recommend you read the chronologically relevant chapters of a textbook on modern Latin American history. Two good options are:


For a more theoretically sophisticated interpretation of recent Latin American history, see:


**COURSE OUTLINE**
(Notes that the course outline and reading assignments may be subject to change.)

**Th 1/21**

**Introduction to Course**

Video: CNN Cold War Series: Backyard (1954-1990)

**Th 1/28**

**Overview: The US and Soviet Presence in Latin America**

Common Readings:


Individually Assigned Readings:


**Assignment: Prepare Chapter Summary**

**Th 2/5**

**Historiography: The Case of Guatemala**

Common Readings:


**Assignment: Outline a Historiographical Argument**

**Th 2/12 Getting Ready for Research**

**Part I (4-5pm): Introduction to Online Research Tools**
Taught by Ryan Johnson, Reference Librarian, Williams Library (Room TBA)

**Part II (5-6:30pm): Analyzing Primary Sources**

Common Reading:

Individually Assigned Reading:

**Assignment**: 1) Primary Source Analysis  
2) Preliminary Topic Proposal for Final Paper

**Th 2/19 Writing Based on Primary Sources: The Cuban Missile Crisis**

Common Reading:

Individually Assigned Readings:


**Assignment: Short Paper based on Primary Sources**

**Th 2/26 The Cold War on the Ground: Operation Condor**

Common Readings:
1) **J. Patrice McSherry**, *Predatory States: Operation Condor and Covert War in Latin America*, 1-68.

Individually Assigned Readings:
2) **J. Patrice McSherry**, *Predatory States: Operation Condor and Covert War in Latin America*, 69-255.
3) ** Ariel Armony, “Transnationalizing the Dirty War: Argentina in Central America”, in Gil Joseph, ed., In from the Cold: Latin America’s New Encounter with the Cold War, 134-168.


Assignment: Final Prospectus for Long Research Paper

Th 3/5 Latin America and Beyond: Cuba and the Global Cold War

Common Readings:


Individually Assigned Readings:


Assignment: Annotated Bibliography for Long Research Paper

Th 3/12 *** MIDTERM EXAMINATION***

**** MARCH 16-20 SPRING BREAK ****

Th 3/26 Research - Final Paper

Reading:

No class meeting.

Individual meetings with instructor.

Assignment: Outline of Final Paper

Th 4/2 Research - Final Paper

No class meeting.

Individual meetings with instructor.

Assignment:

Th 4/9 Research and Writing - Final Paper

Reading:
M.L. Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Research, 96-134 (consult as you write).

No class meeting.

Individual meetings with instructor.
Assignment: Partial Draft of Final Paper

Th 4/16  Research and Writing - Final Paper
No class meeting.
Individual meetings with instructor.

Tues., 4/21  Full Draft of Final Paper due to Instructor and Peer Reader
(@ 4pm)

Th 4/23  Presentation of Research & Peer Review
Class Meets!!!
Assignment: Peer Review of another Student’s Full Draft

Th 5/1  Research and Writing - Final Paper
No class meeting.
Individual meetings with instructor

FINAL DRAFT of RESEARCH PAPER DUE on MONDAY, May 4, @ 4pm