University of Mississippi

INST 207: Introduction to Latin America

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Office Hours: W, 3:45-4:30pm and by appointment

Fall Semester 2016
M, W, 2:30-3:45 pm
Croft 204

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Latin America is a region whose geographic fragmentation, ethnic diversity, and long history of colonial rule make for a highly divided society. In contemporary Latin America, the results of these historical divisions are still felt in a legacy of gross social inequality and everyday violence, despite encouraging political and economic developments in the early 21st century. The course aims to help you understand this conflicted history and its connections to recent movements for political, economic, and social reforms.

The course opens with lectures that introduce you to the geography and history of Latin America, touching on the colonial experience, migrations, race, economic development, authoritarianism, and U.S.-Latin American relations. Our in-depth exploration of contemporary Latin America is subdivided into four units that use country case studies to illuminate broad themes: (1) Social Revolutions (Cuba & Venezuela), (2) Economic Development (Brazil), (3) Globalization (Mexico), and (4) Indigenous Movements (Bolivia).

First, we look at the cases of Cuba and Venezuela to understand a formative aspect of Latin American politics: social revolutions. Contrasting the 57-year old Cuban Revolution with the 17-year old Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela illuminates continuities and differences in ideology and policy. Next we study different facets of Mexico’s recent (and partial) transformation from a state capitalist economy to a market system. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), mass migration to the North, and the exploding drug trade are all important facets of this ‘globalizing’ Mexico. Then we look at the case of Brazil to understand the connections between economic policy and different forms of government. The rise of the Workers’ Party under its leader Luiz ‘Lula’ Inacio da Silva, Brazil’s President from 2003 to 2011, illustrates the changes the country underwent in the last 50 years. Last but not least, we study the Andes region and a political phenomenon of the last fifteen years: indigenous movements. In the case of Bolivia, one such movement defied the forces of global capitalism and carried Evo Morales, an indigenous leader, to the country’s Presidency.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course has three broad objectives. First, it introduces you to the history, politics, society, and culture of Latin America to provide you with a foundation for future coursework and/or research on the region. Second, it aims to dismantle common stereotypes and generalizations you might have about Latin America and help you see the diversity that exists across countries. Third, it strengthens your critical thinking skills analyzing the problems faced by each country and evaluating possible solutions.

The four research assignments will develop your research and writing skills. You will practice four different types of assignments: (a) critical media analysis; (b) quantitative analysis; (c) research report; and (d) policy paper. You will also practice public speaking and the use of PowerPoint in a class presentation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
<td>50 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Research Assignments</td>
<td>500 pts. (see below)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>250 pts.</td>
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* Your best two assignments will count up to 150 points each. The other two count up to 100 points each. Rewrites will never count for 150 points.
For the final grade, 93-100% are an A, 90-92% an A-, 87-89% a B+, 83-86% a B, 80-82% a B-, 77-79% a C+, 73-76% a C, 70-72% a C-, 60-69% a D, and less than 60% an F. A grade lower than "C" toward will not count towards the international studies major.

MAP QUIZ: The map quiz will test your knowledge of Latin American geography. You will receive a list of terms, countries, cities, and major geographic features, and you will be expected to be able to place these geographic features accurately on a blank map of Latin America.

PRESENTATION: In groups of two, students will prepare a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation on one of the countries that the course does not cover in depth: Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. The presentation needs to highlight one key theme that distinguishes the country and place it in context. The presenters have considerable freedom to define their own focus in consultation with the instructor, but they must discuss their proposed focus with the instructor well in advance. Short class readings (TBA) may be assigned at the request of the presenters.

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS: Each of the four country units culminates in a research assignment. The assignments all require critical thinking and polished, academic writing. The instructions will be distributed on the first day of the respective regional unit, and the assignment will be due on the last day of that unit. You must upload the finished assignment to Blackboard before class on the due date and bring a printed copy of your paper with you to class. Please note: You are required to be in class on time with your assignment. If you are late, the assignment will be considered late. Late assignments will lose a half-grade until midnight of the due date and an additional half-grade for each full day of lateness thereafter.

Spell-check and proofread your papers! Assignments with excessive spelling or grammar errors will be returned un-graded and must be re-submitted error-free. You will lose one letter grade on an assignment initially submitted in poor form. All papers must use appropriate citation and bibliographic formatting. Please see the citation guidelines posted under “Assignments” on Blackboard.

If you receive a B- or lower on an assignment, you will have the opportunity to rewrite your assignment to improve on content. Note that a rewrite is not simply a correction of formal errors or the addition of a few words, but a significantly changed and improved paper. Rewrites are due the class after the assignment was returned. The grades will be averaged. There is no guarantee that a rewrite will receive a better grade than the original paper.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: You are expected to attend all class sessions, finish all assigned readings prior to class, and be prepared to participate actively. Class sessions will include lectures, discussions, and small group activities, and they may involve short readings or short writing assignments.

FINAL EXAM: A comprehensive exam will be given on the university-designated final exam date and time. The exam will likely consist of short answer and essay questions. The purpose of the exam is to test your grasp of important concepts, your specific knowledge of Latin America and the countries we cover, and your ability to draw comparisons between the cases. Make-up exams will not be given except with a university-accepted excuse, and you must have approval from the instructor prior to the exam.

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).
University of Mississippi

READINGS
These books are required and are available at the university bookstore:


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. When you print them at Croft or the Honors College, please remember to use double-sided printing to save on paper!!

Useful general texts (especially for Latin American concentrators) include:


COURSE OUTLINE
(Note that the sequence and reading assignments may change. Any changes will be announced in class.)

M 8/22 Introduction to Course & Latin American Geography

PART I: LATIN AMERICA IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

W 8/24 Latin America before the Industrial Revolution
(1) "Early History," Vanden and Prevost, *Latin America: An Introduction*, 19-44 (chapter 2);
(2) "Democracy, Dictators, and Tío Sam," Vanden and Prevost, *Latin America: An Introduction*, 45-58 (first part of chapter 3).

M 8/29 Latin America in the 20th Century
** MAP QUIZ **

PART II: SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS - CUBA AND VENEZUELA

W 8/31 Latin American History and the Cuban Revolution
(2) ** Fidel Castro, “History will absolve me” (1953), excerpts. 

M 9/5 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

W 9/7 Fidelismo and Cuban Socialism
(1) ** Fidel Castro, “Creating Wealth with Political Awareness, Not Creating Political Awareness with Money or Wealth” (1968), in Fidel Castro Speaks, 406-424.
(2) Lievesley, *The Cuban Revolution*, 1-8 and 69-128 (Intro, chs.4 and 5).

**M 9/12 Social Revolution after the Cold War: Cuba and Venezuela**
(1) Lievesley, *The Cuban Revolution*, 161-184 (Conclusion)
(2) ** Jon Lee Anderson, "Castro's Last Battle" (The New Yorker, July 2006)

**W 9/14 Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution**

**M 9/19 An Attempt at Counterrevolution**
Film (in class): “The Revolution will not be Televised”

**W 9/21 Towards Twenty-First Century Socialism**
(1) ** "Social Aspects: Nine Years into the Bolivarian Project." (Slide Presentation in PDF form)
(3) ** Chris Carlson, “What the Statistics tell us about Venezuela in the Chavez Era.”

**RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE**

**PART II: THE POLITICS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - BRAZIL**

**M 9/26 From Plantation Economy to Import-Substituting Industrialization**
2) ** "Political Evolution", in Francisco Vidal Luna and Herbert Klein, *Brazil since 1980*, 6-36 (chapter 1).

**W 9/28 Brazil's Economic and Political Reforms since the 1980s**
Alfred P. Montero, *Brazil: Reversal of Fortune*, chapters 2 to 4 (pp. 21-100).

**M 10/3 The Rise of the PT**
2) ** President Lula’s Inauguration Address, January 1, 2003.
3) ** Election Victory Speech by Lula in 2006.
4) Video (in class): João Moreira Salles, *Entreatos: Lula a Dias do Poder* (excerpts)

**W 10/5 In-Class Skype Conversation with Alfred P. Montero, author of “Brazil: Reversal of Fortune”. Focus: The PT in Power: Managing the (Neo-)liberal Economy**
1) Montero, *Brazil: Reversal of Fortune*, chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 101-151)

**M 10/10 The PT in Crisis? Brazil in Crisis?**
1) ** President Dilma Rousseff’s Inauguration Speech, January 1, 2011
2) ** Lecio Morais and Alfredo Saad-Filho, “Brazil beyond Lula: Forging Ahead or Pausing for Breath?”, *Latin American Perspectives* Vol. 38, No. 2 (March 2011), pp. 31-44.
PART III: LATIN AMERICA AND THE IMPACT OF ‘GLOBALIZATION’ - MEXICO

W 10/12 The Unraveling of Mexico’s Revolutionary State
1) "The Political Economy of Latin America”, Vanden and Prevost, Latin America: An Introduction, 186-216 (chapter 8)
2) Dawson, First World Dreams, 1-95 (Chapters 1-4)

M 10/17 Migration to El Norte: Promise and Perils
1) Film (in class): De Nadie (Border Crossing)
2) Dawson, First World Dreams, 96-116 (Chapter 5).

W 10/19 Mexican Democracy and the Drug Trade in the Age of Neoliberalism
1) Dawson, First World Dreams, 141-170 (Conclusion).

M 10/24 NAFTA and the ‘Globalization’ of Mexico
1) Dawson, First World Dreams, 117-140 (Chapter 6).
Read at least one of the following depending on paper topic.

RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE

PART V: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

W 10/26 Groups 1-3: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic
Readings TBA

M 10/31 Groups 4-7: Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay
Readings TBA

W 11/2 Groups 8-10: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru
Readings TBA
PART VI: NEOLIBERAL REFORM AND INDIGENOUS MOVEMENTS - BOLIVIA

M 11/7  From Indigenous Roots to the Revolutionary State
1)  "The Other Americans", Vanden and Prevost, 88-112 (chapter 4).

W 11/9  Economic Crisis, Market Reform, and Social Movements

M 11/14  The Rise of Evo Morales
Film (in class): “Cocalero”
1)  Farthing & Kohl, Evo’s Bolivia: Continuity and Change, ch.8 (“The Sacred Leaf at the Center”);
3)  ** Daniel Kurtz-Phelan, “Coca is Everything Here: Hard Truths about Bolivia’s Drug War”, World Policy Journal 22:3 (Fall 2005), 103-112.

W 11/16  Presidente Evo: The Indigenous Movement in Power
Farthing & Kohl, Evo’s Bolivia: Continuity and Change, ch. 3-7 (pp. 35-127).

** F 11/18   RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT #4 DUE (ON BOLIVIA) **
Farthing & Kohl, Evo’s Bolivia: Continuity and Change, ch. 9 (pp. 144-161).

**** NOVEMBER 21-25 THANKSGIVING BREAK ****

PART VII: THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

M 11/28  Latin America after the Boom: The End of the Pink Wave?
Assignment: Each student find one (longish) article assessing the current state of Latin America and come prepared to present its main argument to the class. Please bring a printout of the article.

W 12/5  Latin America Today: Comparisons and Outlook

*** FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, December 8 @ 4pm ***