

**INST 207**  
**Introduction to Latin American Studies**  
**The Croft Institute for International Studies**  
**University of Mississippi, Oxford**  
**Croft 107**  
**TuThu 1:00-2:15 PM**

**Instructors**

Dr. Kate M. Centellas

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**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-20<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 regional 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

**Course Readings**

**There are required texts for the course.**

**Modern Latin America**

Skidmore, Thomas, Peter Smith & James Green

**The Motorcycle Diaries**

Guevara, Ernest Che

**The Condor Years**

Dinges, John

## **El Alto, Rebel City**

Lazer, Sian

These books are available at the bookstore or via Amazon

### **There are assigned articles for the course.**

These articles are indicated in the course schedule and are available for download on Blackboard.

We 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)), and 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**

1. Participation
2. Map and Information Quiz
3. In-Class Midterm
4. 2 Take-home analytic essays
5. Film Review
6. Final Exam

### **Grading**

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

**Participation:** 15% (we may give pop quizzes or discussion questions in class!)

**Map & Info Quiz:** 5%

**Midterm:** 15%

**Papers:** 2 X 15%

**Film Review:** 10%

**Final:** 25%

### **Make-Up Policy**

There will be **no** make-up exams for unexcused absences. Certain circumstances may necessitate a make-up exam. You need to provide documentation from a physician or advisor for a make-up an exam or discuss your conflict with us **in advance**.

### **Participation**

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. We encourage you to bring in examples from your lives, to mention anything that made you think of course themes, and try to expand course ideas to 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. We **do no 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**

We are happy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities when necessary. 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 us. We prefer to work with students in person (not over email) whenever possible. We 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 one of use an email and we can arrange an alternate time.

### **Blackboard and Email**

You are expected to check your email. We will send reminders and important notices to your Ole Miss account. We have posted the syllabus on Blackboard and additional readings on Blackboard. We will add PowerPoints, additional materials, and handouts as the semester proceeds.

A heads up: We do not keep the late hours many of you do! Therefore, if you email us late at night (after about 8 PM) we 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 we become aware of new and interesting articles that are relevant to class. We will notify you via email and Blackboard when new materials are added to the class. You are responsible for keeping track and reading (or watching/listening) any new materials we add. Similarly, sometimes we change the order or dates of when we will be covering certain issues. We will inform you with any changes to the class schedule.

## Course Schedule

Week & Unit	Tuesday	Thursday	Assignments Due
1. Introduction	8/24	8/26 Skidmore Ch 1 & 2	
2. Cultural History & Conquest	8/31 "1491" Chs 1 & 3	9/2 Skidmore Ch 14	MAP QUIZ IN CLASS ON THURSDAY
3. Independence and Nation-States	9/7 Skidmore Chs 12, 13  Weber, Max. "Politics as a Vocation"	9/9 Required: Ouweneel, Arij. "From tlahtocayotl to gobernadoryotl"  Suggested: Gose, Peter. "The State as a Chosen Woman"	
4. Social Change and Incipient Radicalism	9/14 Skidmore Ch. 9 & 6	9/16 Motorcycle Diaries (first half)	
5. Social Change and Incipient Radicalism	9/21 Motorcycle Diaries (second half)	9/23 FILM Motorcycle Diaries	Analytic Essay #1 DUE in class on Thursday
6. Dictatorships & American Interventionism: Chile	9/28 Skidmore Ch. 10  Condor Years Ch. 1-4	9/30 Condor Years Ch 5-11	
7. Dictatorships & American Interventionism: Chile	10/5 Condor Years 12-end  Gordillo, Gastón. "The Crucible of Citizenship."  Eddie Avila Talk	10/7 No Class	
8. Mexico: Borders, Trafficking, and Interdependency	10/12 Skidmore Ch 3  Botello, Nelson Arteaga "Everything in this job is Money."	10/14 Finnegan, W. "Silver or Lead."  Andres, Peter. "Border Games" Chapter.  LISTENING ASSIGNMENT Bobian, J. on Mexico's Drug War (NPR)	

9. Mexico: Borders, Trafficking, and Interdependency	10/19 Popular Press Dossier  <i>Required: John Dinges Talk</i>	10/21 MIDTERM	
10. Central America and Cuba: Dependent Economies and U.S. Intervention	10/26 Skidmore Ch. 4  Sweig, Julie. "Cuba After Castro."  Miroff, Nick. Global Post Articles. TBD.	10/28 Vandegrift, D. "This isn't paradise, I work here!"	
11. Brazil: Inequality, Development, and Violence	11/2 Skidmore Ch 11  Hunter, Wendy and Timothy J. Power. "Rewarding Lula"	11/4: Anderson, John Lee "Gangland"  Holston, James. "Insurgent Citizenship"  Penglase, Ben. "States of Insecurity"	Required: Evening Showing of <i>Ciudade de Dios</i>
12. The New Left A. Populism in Venezuela	11/9 Skidmore Ch 8  Rosenberg, Tina. "The Perils of Petrocracy."  Hawkins, Kirk. "Populism in Venezuela"	11/11 Valencia Ramírez, C. "Venezuela in the Eye of the Hurricane."	
13. The New Left B. Bolivia: Indigenous Populism & Resource Wars	11/16 Film: "Cocalero"  Article: Wright, L. "Lithium Dreams"	11/18 El Alto Rebel City Intro, Ch 1, 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Analytic Essay DUE Tuesday
NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	11/23	11/25	
14. Summary, review	11/30 EARC Chs 3, 4	12/02 Review/wrap up	Film Review DUE Thursday

FINAL EXAM

Noon, Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>