Historiography of Twentieth-Century Latin America
History 386K/ LAS 386.
Prof. Seth Garfield
Fall 2011, Fri., 1-4.
Office Hours, SRH 3.104A, Th, 10-12 or by appointment

Course Description:

This graduate course explores key topics in the historiography of twentieth-century Latin America: "modernity" and technological innovation; agro-export economies and foreign consumption; urbanization, industrialization, and the rise of the welfare state; disease, public health policies and eugenics; constructions of crime and social deviance; U.S. intervention in the Caribbean basin; revolutionary alternatives and Cold War counterinsurgency; the (trans)formation of racial and gender identities; transnationalism and international migration. Readings focus on case studies from discrete Latin American nations and are designed to introduce students to some of the primary topics of historical inquiry for the twentieth century.

Assignments:

On most weeks, students will write a short essay (2-3 pp.) in the format of a critical book review that highlights the author's argument, research methodology, and historiographical contributions Students are required to submit a total of 10 such reviews over the course of the semester. Each week, one student will be responsible for leading class discussion. S/he should present a brief overview of the author's thesis and methodology and pose questions and/or critiques for further discussion.

For the class meeting on November 11, <u>all</u> students must write a short historiographical essay (2-3 pp.) that analyzes three of the essays in comparative perspective.

The final paper will consist of a historiographical essay that examines at least four texts to analyze divergences or overlaps in the treatment of a given historical theme. The selected topic should be one of those covered in class (and may make use of the required reading as one of the four texts) Students are encouraged to discuss their topics with me in advance.

Readings are available for purchase at the Co-op, and will also be on 24-hr. reserve at the Benson Library.

Schedule:

August 26 **Intro: Historiography of Twentieth-Century Latin America**

Sept. 2 **Modernity and the Advent of the Twentieth Century**

Stephen Kern, *The Culture of Time and Space, 1880-1918*

Sept. 9 **Latin America and the Second Industrial Revolution: Trans-Atlantic Migration**

José Moya, *Cousins and Strangers: Spanish Immigrants in Buenos Aires, 1850-1930*

Sept. 16 **Agroexport Economies, Commodity Chains, and Environmental History**

John Soluri, *Banana Cultures: Agriculture, Consumption, and Environmental Change in Honduras and the United States*

Sept. 23 **U.S. Imperialism in the Caribbean Basin**

Laura Briggs, *Reproducing Empire: Race, Sex, Science, and U.S. Imperialism in Puerto Rico*

Sept. 30 **No Class**

Oct. 7 **Revisiting the Latin American Dictator**

Richard Turits, *Foundations of Despotism: Peasants, the Trujillo Regime, and Modernity in Dominican History*

Oct. 14 **Industrialization, Labor, and Gender**

Ann Farnsworth-Alvear, *Dulcinea in the Factory: Myths, Morals, Men and Women in Colombia's Industrial Experiment*

Oct. 21 **Urban Inequality and Informality**

Brodwyn Fischer, *A Poverty of Rights: Citizenship and Inequality in Twentieth-Century Rio de Janeiro*

Oct. 28 **Crime and Social Marginality**

Eduardo Sáenz Rovner, *The Cuban Connection: Drug Trafficking, Smuggling, and Gambling in Cuba from the 1920s to the Revolution*

Nov. 4 **The State and Popular Culture**

Rick Lopez, *Crafting Mexico: Intellectuals, Artisans, and the State after the Revolution*

Nov. 11 **Revolution and Counterrevolution in Latin America**

Greg Grandin and Gilbert Joseph, eds., *A Century of Revolution: Insurgent and Counterinsurgent Violence during Latin America's Long Cold War*

Nov. 18. **Public Health and Disease**

Paul Farmer, *AIDS and Accusation: Haiti and the Geography of Blame*

Nov. 25 Thanksgiving

Dec. 2 Wrap-up

Dec. 9 Final Paper Due