

HIS 346L/LAS 366/AFR 374E
Modern Latin America
University of Texas at Austin
Spring 2012

Course Instructor: Dr. Frank A. Guridy
Time and Place: TTH 2-3:30pm, JBG 2.218

Office: JES A232A
Office Hours: Monday, 2-3:30pm and by appt.
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Course Description: This course surveys the history of Latin America from the period of the Wars for Independence in the early nineteenth century until the present. While the course aims to provide students with an understanding of the region as a whole, due to time constraints it will focus primarily on the histories of select countries, including Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, and Colombia. Drawing upon primary documents, audio/visual materials, and works produced by historians, the class will explore the racial, class, and gender hierarchies that emerged out of the region's colonial and precolonial past and their impact on the lives of Latin American people. We will explore the struggle to create "nations" and the emergence of a neocolonial order in the nineteenth century. We will also examine the ways that popular mobilization against neocolonial social hierarchies led to the refashioning of the "nation" throughout the twentieth century. The course will conclude with an examination of the ways Latin Americans are navigating the increasingly transnational world of the early twenty-first century. Thus, the arc of the class prompts students to think about the history of the Americas as a history of transnational processes.

Course Objectives:

- (1) Enable students to develop a working knowledge of the key social, political, economic, and cultural developments in Latin American history since the Wars for Independence.
- (2) Expose students to the complex relationship between local level developments and transnational processes across time and space.
- (3) Encourage students to interrogate nationalism as a historical phenomenon, rather than a transhistorical given that stands outside of history

Course requirements:

ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION: The success of this course requires your consistent presence in class.

For this reason you are expected to attend every session. Moreover, lateness will not be tolerated. Late arriving students disrupt class. Beginning the second week of the semester, your teaching assistants will take roll sometime within the first five minutes of class session. If you are not present when roll is taken, you will be considered absent. Leaving class early will also constitute an absence. **After three (3) absences, you will be penalized a full letter grade for each additional absence thereafter. No exceptions.**

A Note on Electronics:

Please turn off your cell phone before you come to class.

Laptops/notebooks/i Pads are permitted ONLY IF you are using them to take notes for the class. If the temptation is too great to use them for other purposes during class (checking Facebook, Hulu, Twitter, etc), I reserve the right to ban them from class altogether. **Using electronics for non-course related purposes will result in a severe lowering of your class participation grade.**

This class is designed around lecturing, AS WELL AS discussion and group interaction. This means that prior to class you must do the readings, think critically about them, and be ready to discuss them. This advance preparation is essential to the success of this class. You will not be judged on whether or not your instructor or classmates agree with your ideas, but rather on how well you articulate them. This requires you to be open to new perspectives posed by the course and your fellow classmates, to reflect on them, and to come up with your own thoughts on the various topics we will explore this semester. Class Participation is worth 20% of your final grade. DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PORTION OF YOUR GRADE.

EXAMS: Each test will cover approximately one third of the course. Tests are not cumulative. Exams will cover weekly readings, lectures, as well as any in-class discussion. Each test will include a mixture of short identification and essay questions.

The breakdown of your grade is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| First two tests at 25% each | 50% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Active Class participation | 20% |

EXTRA CONSIDERATION OPPORTUNITIES: Students seeking to improve their grades may write short reviews of various lectures and events that are relevant to Modern Latin American history that might take place on campus throughout the semester. These assignments must be well written and reflect your engagement with the issues/ideas raised by the event. In most cases, students are expected to complete extra credit assignments within one week of the lecture/event. While I will identify “extra consideration” events throughout the semester, you can also suggest an “extra consideration” opportunity to me as well.

Students can earn up to 4 extra consideration points toward their final grade, one point per paper.

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Spanish immersion opportunity:

Students who are interested in engaging materials in Latin American history in Spanish can participate in a one-hour long discussion session dedicated to the discussion of historical and contemporary Spanish-language materials. Students will discuss materials ranging from primary documents, short video clips, and short essays.

Grades will be determined as follows:

94-100=A
90-93=A-
87-89=B+
83-86=B
80-82=B-
77-79=C+
73-76=C
70-72=C-
67-69=D+
63-66=D
60-62=D-
00-59=F

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All students are expected to adhere to UT's guidelines regarding plagiarism. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Refer to the Student Judicial Services website for official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty. Please see me if you have any further questions about plagiarism.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS STATEMENT: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

POLICY ON INCOMPLETES: Under no circumstances do I give incompletes. If you are finding that you are having difficulty keeping up with the work in class for whatever reason, please see me immediately.

Finally, some words about what you can expect of your instructor. As one who is concerned with the issues we are dealing with in this course, I am very invested in you finding this experience a satisfying one. For this reason, I have sought to provide you with the tools necessary to do well in this class, and more important, for you to walk away from this course thinking differently about the issues we will explore throughout the semester. You can expect from your instructor consistent feedback on your work and availability for any questions and concerns that you may have.

Required Books (Available at the University of Co-op)

John Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire (3rd Edition)
José Vasconcelos, La Raza Cósmica/The Cosmic Race
C. Peter Ripley, Conversations with Cuba

Select Articles on Blackboard under "Course Documents" (See below)

Course Schedule

Tuesday, January 17, Introduction to the Course/The Making of Latin America

Thursday, January 19, Colonial Legacies

Tuesday, January 24, Colonial Legacies (cont.)
Reading: Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, Intro, Ch. 1-2

Thursday, January 26 Independence and the Creation of New Nation-States

Tuesday, January 31, Independence (Cont.)

Thursday, February 2, The Creation of New Nations (Cont.)
Reading: Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, chapter 3 AND Lynch, "Touchstone of the Revolution," from Simon Bolívar: A Life (on Blackboard)

Tuesday, February 7, "Civilization vs. Barbarism": State-Formation, *Caudillismo* and the Liberal/Conservative Struggle

Thursday, February 9, "Civilization vs. Barbarism" (cont.)
Reading (On E-Reserve): Sanders, "'Citizens of a Free People,'" AND Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, Chapter 4
FILM: "Camila" Time and Place TBA

Tuesday, February 14, Postcolonial Latin America (Cont.)

Thursday, February 16, **IN CLASS EXAM**

Tuesday, February 21, "Order and Progress": Liberalism and the Emergence of a Neocolonial Order

Thursday, February 23, The Triumph of "Progress"? : Latin America During the Age of Empire
Reading: Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, chapters 5 and 6

Tuesday, February 28, Remaking the Nation: The Outbreak of the Mexican Revolution

Thursday, March 1, The Cultural Revolution in Mexico and Latin America

Tuesday, March 6, Race, Mestizaje, and National Identity

Reading: Vasconcelos, The Cosmic Race/La Raza C3smica, pp.3-40 and Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, pp. 217-225

Thursday, March 8, The Consolidation of the Revolution

Reading: Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, pp. 225-246

SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES WEEK OF MARCH 12-16

Tuesday, March 20, Gender and Nationhood in Brazil

Thursday, March 22, Gendering in Brazil (Cont.)

Reading (On E Reserve): Besse, "Pagu: Patricia Galv3o-Rebel"

Video: "Bananas is My Business"

Tuesday, March 27, From Good Neighbors to Cold Warriors

TAKE HOME MIDTERM EXAM DUE

Thursday, March 29, "Patria o Muerte!": The Cold War and the Cuban Revolution

Tuesday, April 3, The Cuban Revolution (Cont.)

Thursday, April 5, Cuba in the Special Period

Reading: Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, chapter 8 and Ripley, pp.1-68

Tuesday, April 10, Wither the Revolution?: Cuba in the Special Period (Cont.)

Thursday, April 12, Cuba (Cont.)

Reading: Ripley, Conversations with Cuba, 68-END

Tuesday, April 17, The Dirty Wars in Latin America

Thursday, April 19, The Dirty Wars (Cont.)

Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, chapter 9

Tuesday, April 24, Neoliberalism and Its Discontents

Thursday April 26, Latin American Migration to the U.S.

FILM: "María Full of Grace" (Excerpts)

Tuesday, May 1, Migration (Cont.)

Reading (On E-Reserve): Guarnizo and D3az, "Transnational Migration: A View from Colombia,"

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Cepeda, "Shakira as the Idealized Transnational Citizen"

Thursday, May 3, Looking Backward/Looking Forward: Reflecting on the Future of the Americas

Reading: Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire, chapter 10

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE WED, MAY 8TH.