

HIST 2661, Spring 2017
 304 Barnard Hall
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 TR 11:40A-12:55P

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LATIN AMERICA CIVILIZATION II

This course surveys the history of Latin America over the last two centuries. After a general introduction and overview of the region’s colonial background, the first chronological section of the course examines the independence movements (circa 1810-1825) that led to emancipation from Spain and Portugal. Next, we will discuss the aftermath of those wars, a time of political chaos and economic stagnation (c. 1820s-1860s), and the succeeding period (1870s-1920s) characterized by accelerated nation-building, globalization, economic growth, and social inequality. The next two sections examine the emergence of political populism, economic nationalism, socialist regimes, and Cold War politics from the 1930s to the 1980s; and political, socioeconomic, and cultural trends since 1990. Although the course is organized chronologically, themes related to political formation, economic development, social welfare, race, and migration will be stressed.

The overall goals of the class are 1-to familiarize you with Latin America’s cultural diversity, commonalities, and historical development—often in a global perspective; 2-to examine the broader, and ongoing, twin processes of modernization and globalization, their promises, contradictions, and accomplishments; and 3-to explore the uses of history as critical social analysis rather than a record of events.

Readings: Material for the course will be posted in courseworks2 under “Files & Resources”

Grading

A midterm in-class examination consisting of 100 multiple choice and map questions will account for 25% of the final grade; a 5-7 page paper on a topic related to the class, selected in consultation with professor or TAs, for 25%; an in-class final examination consisting of short questions and an essay will account for 30%; and participation in discussion sessions for 20%. Much of the material for the examinations will come from lecture so attendance is recommended.

Grade Scale: Examinations and the paper will be graded numerically. Below are the letter equivalents

97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+	59-0	F
93-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D		
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-		

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SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS:

Date	Topic
Week 1	
Jan. 17	Introduction
Jan. 19	Latin America’s Distinctive Historical Characteristics in a Global Perspective
Week 2	
Jan. 24	The Colonial Background
Jan. 26	Prelude to Independence: The Bourbon Reforms

Week 3	INDEPENDENCE, 1810-1824
Jan. 31	Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay
Feb. 2	The Jewels in the Crown: Mexico and Peru
Week 4	
Feb. 7	Venezuela: A violent struggle & Brazil: A smooth shift from colony to monarchy
Feb. 9	The Meaning of Independence
Week 5	THE AFTERMATH OF INDEPENDENCE, 1824-1870
Feb. 14	Mexico: Chaos from Empire to Empire
Feb. 16	Chile: An Oasis of Order
Week 6	
Feb. 21	African slavery: Cuba, Brazil, and beyond
Feb. 23	African slavery: Cuba, Brazil, and beyond
Week 7	NATION STATE FORMATION AND GLOBAL INTEGRATION, 1870-1930
Feb. 28	Globalization & the Atlantic World, 1870-1914
March 2	European Immigration
Week 8	
March 7	Argentina and Uruguay
March 9	Brazil and Chile, 1870-1930
Week 9	
March 14	SPRING BREAK
March 16	SPRING BREAK
Week 10	
March 21	MIDTERM EXAM
March 23	Mexico: the Porfiriato and the Revolution
Week 11	
March 28	The Economic Consequences of Modernization: Dependency and/or Growth?
March 30	The Social and Cultural Consequences of Modernization
Week 12	FROM POPULISM TO SOCIALISM, 1930-1990
April 4	Populist regimes, 1930s to 1950s
April 6	Mid-Century Cultural Nationalism in Arts, Architecture, and Music
Week 13	
April 11	The Cuban Revolution
April 13	The Cold War in the Americas
Week 14	POST COLD WAR TRENDS, 1990-PRESENT
April 18	Socialism Persists and Neo-Liberalism Surges, 1990s
April 20	The Return of the Lefts, 2000s
Week 15	
April 25	Beyond Politics: Migration, Gender, Sexuality & Pop Culture
April 27	Latin America Today in a Global Perspective
May 11	Thursday, 4:10-7 PM FINAL EXAM PROJECTED