

INST 207: Latin American Studies

Fall 2018

Croft 107
MWF 1:00-1:50

Miguel Centellas
524 Lamar Hall
mcentellas@olemiss.edu
(662) 915-3605

Office Hours:
Tu/Th 9:30-12:30
or by appointment

Course Description

This is an introduction to Latin America, with an emphasis on the historical trajectory of the region as a whole. We will explore what defines Latin America as a region by looking at the historical, economic, political, and cultural development of the region since the 1500s. We will also focus on how the intersection of politics, economics, and culture shape the current trajectories of different countries and how those countries exemplify or diverge from the broader regional pattern.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the broad social forces that shape the region and its peoples
- Discuss the different colonial experiences of various Latin American countries and how this relates to their different post-colonial trajectories
- Identify similarities and differences in the economic, political, and social structures of different Latin American countries
- Place contemporary Latin American developments within broader historical and global contexts

Course Texts

Berryman, Phillip. 2016. *Latin America at 200: A New Introduction*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Chasteen, John. 2016. *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*, 4th ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Course Requirements

Below is a summary of course requirements and their percent share of the final semester grade:

Attendance	5
Participation	10
Map quiz	5
Midterm exam	25
Final exam	25
Country history paper	10
Country presentation	10
Country topic paper	10
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Total	100

Grading Scale

This course uses the +/- letter grade scale. The corresponding percentage ranges for each letter grade are outlined below:

Grade	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D	60-69
F	0-59

Attendance and Participation

All students are expected to attend class regularly and on time. That also means coming to class prepared and ready to participate in class discussions and activities. Both attendance and participation grades will be updated every Friday.

Absence Policy

I will take attendance at the start of each class period. Each student can miss THREE class periods without any grade penalties. These three “personal days” can be used for any reason, including minor illnesses. In the event of an unforeseen emergency that may require missing more than a day of class and/or an exam, students should notify me immediately.

Participation Grades

Participation grades are based on subjective evaluation of individual student in-class participation. Students can earn high participation grades by demonstrating engagement with and critical thinking about course concepts and materials. This includes: asking questions related to class readings and/or discussions; answering questions posed by myself or other students in class; presenting observations drawn from other classes, popular culture, or personal experiences; and demonstrating respect for others’ opinions and otherwise contributing to a positive learning environment.

Participation grades in Blackboard will be marked by +/- letter grades, using the following criteria:

- A Excellent; demonstrates careful thinking about course concepts and materials, engages in critical thinking, and consistently contributes to a positive learning environment
- B Good; demonstrates competent understanding of core concepts and ideas and regularly participates in class discussions
- C Satisfactory; demonstrates some effort to engage with course concepts and materials
- D Unsatisfactory; does not engage with the relevant concepts

Students with questions or concerns about their participation grade, should discuss this with me during office hours (or by appointment). I am happy to help students develop study strategies or offer advice on how to improve their participation grade.

Map Quiz

There will be a map quiz early in the semester. The map quiz will ask students to identify the location of countries, major cities, important ethnic/cultural groups, and geographic features of Latin America on a map. I will provide a study guide.

Exams

The exams will be comprised of a mix of multiple-choice, short answer, and short essay questions. The midterm exam will take place over two class days, with the multiple-choice and short answer portions on the first day (Monday) and the short essay portion on the second day (Wednesday). The final exam will take place during the three-hour period assigned in the official university calendar. Students should bring a blue book for the short essay portion of each exam.

Country Papers and Presentations

Throughout the semester, each student will explore a Latin American country of his or her choice and will write two short papers (4-5 pages) and give one presentation (10-12 minutes) on that country.

I will provide additional details and instructions in class. But I encourage students to start thinking about potential topics/countries early. Please come see me during office hours (or by appointment) with any questions or concerns.

Country Historical Background Paper

The first paper is a historical background paper. The paper should give a “snapshot” overview of the history of ONE specific country from the colonial period to the present and address the following:

- What THREE historical events are most important for understanding the contemporary situation of this country?
- In what ways is this country SIMILAR to the broader regional pattern?
- In what ways is this country DIFFERENT from the broader regional pattern?

In addition, the paper should offer a *comparative perspective* in one of two ways:

- a) Compare the selected Latin American country with another Latin America country that is “most different”
- b) Compare the selected Latin American country with a country from a different region that is “most similar”

The country historical background paper is due on Monday of the midterm exam.

Country Topic Paper

The second paper is an “open topic” paper based on each student’s individual interest. The paper can use any of the topics covered in *Latin America at 200*, which include the economy, politics and rule of law, education, health, gender, ethnic identities, religion, etc.

I will provide additional details and instructions in class. But I encourage students to start thinking about potential topics early. Please come see me during office hours (or by appointment) with any questions or concerns.

The country topic paper is due Friday on the week after Thanksgiving Break.

Country Presentation

Each student will give a short (10-12 minutes) presentation on a country and topic of their choice. The presentations will be scheduled during the second half of the semester.

The presentation should focus on a potential research question, like the kind that could be a potential Croft thesis topic. The purpose of the presentation is to introduce (not *answer*) a research question, and present it as a “puzzle” within a broader regional and conceptual framework. The presentation should also give enough historical and regional context to “frame” the question for an audience.

Office Hours

The best way to communicate with any professor is face-to-face. I invite any student to come me about any questions, concerns, or ideas about the course or course materials. I am available during my posted office hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-12:30). I have an open-door office hours policy, which means no appointment is necessary during those times. If those times do not work for you, we can schedule an appointment.

Blackboard and Email

Students are expected to check their email. I may send reminders or important notices to you Ole Miss account. If you email me, I will try to respond promptly, but be aware that I do not regularly check my email in the evening and may not respond until the following morning.

I update grades on Blackboard regularly. The “Weighted Total” column should give the most up-to-date running grade. If you have any questions about your grade or your performance in class, please come see me right away. I will do everything I can to help you better understand course materials or develop study strategies.

I will also post additional materials on Blackboard, and will call your attention to them periodically. This includes additional optional readings and/or resources related to course materials and content, as well as any possible extra credit opportunities.

Student Disability Services

The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation, or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Barriers may include but are not necessarily limited to: timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content, and the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files.

If you have a *documented* disability as described by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 933-112 Section 504) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and wish to request academic and/or physical accommodations, contact Student Disability Services at 234 Martindale (662-915-7128 or 662-915-7907 TTY). You may consult <http://sds.olemiss.edu> for more information on student disability services. If you are approved through SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at <https://sds.olemiss.edu> to request approved accommodations. If you are NOT approved through SDS, you must contact Student Disability Services at 662-915-7128 so the office can: 1) determine your eligibility for accommodations, 2) disseminate to your instructors a Faculty Notification Letter, 3) facilitate the removal of barriers, and 4) ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students.

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

Students are expected to adhere to the University of Mississippi Creed and the Standards of Honesty as described in Policy Code ACA.AR.600.001 and written in the *M Book*. If you violate the Standards of Honesty, you will be reported and subject to the appropriate sanction which may include expulsion from the University. You can download a copy of the *M Book* online from: <http://conflictresolution.olemiss.edu/m-book/>

Course Schedule

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
8/20 Introduction; review syllabus and course materials	8/22 Chasteen, Ch. 1: Welcome to Latin America	8/24 Chasteen, A Tour of Latin America Berryman, Ch. 1: Lands and Peoples
8/27 Berryman, Ch. 10: Conquest and Colonial Order	8/29 Chasteen, Ch. 2: Encounter	8/31 Chasteen, Ch. 3: Colonial Crucible
9/3 Labor Day (no class)	9/5 Chasteen, Ch. 4: Independence	9/7 Chasteen, Ch. 5: Postcolonial Blues
9/10 Map Quiz	9/12 Berryman, Ch. 11: Forging New Nations Chasteen, Ch. 6: Progress	9/14 Chasteen, Ch. 7: Neocolonialism
9/17 Chasteen, Ch. 8: Nationalism	9/19 Chasteen, Ch. 9: Revolution	9/21 Berryman, Ch. 12: Zigzag Path to Democracy and Development
9/24 Chasteen, Ch. 10: Reaction	9/26 Chasteen, Ch. 11: Neoliberalism and Beyond	9/28 Midterm exam review
10/1 Midterm Exam (multiple-choice & short answer) Country history paper due	10/3 Midterm Exam (short essay)	10/5
10/8 Berryman, Ch. 2: Confronting Urban Challenges	10/10 Berryman, Ch. 3: Agriculture in Transition	10/12 Country presentations

10/15 Berryman, Ch. 14: Making Democracy Work	10/17 Berryman, Ch. 15: Toward the Rule of Law	10/19 Country presentations
10/22 Berryman, Ch. 6: Highly Unequal—and Middle Class?	10/24 Berryman, Ch. 7: Legacies of Conquest and Slavery	10/26 Country presentations
10/29 Berryman, Ch. 8: Machismo	10/31 Berryman, Ch. 9: A Changing Religious Landscape	11/2 Country presentations
11/5 Berryman, Ch. 4: Corner Stores and <i>Multilatinas</i>	11/7 Berryman, Ch. 5: Growth with Sustainability	11/9 Country presentations
11/12 Berryman, Ch. 13: Toward 21st Century Economies	11/14 Berryman, Ch. 17: Goods and People Crossing Borders	11/16 Country presentations
11/19 Thanksgiving Break	11/21	11/23
11/26 Final exam review	11/28 Final exam review	11/30 Country topic paper due
	12/5 Final Exam @ 12:00 pm	