

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

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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-20th 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.

Latin America: An Introduction (LAI in course schedule)

Vanden, Harry E. and Gary Prevost

The Motorcycle Diaries

Guevera, Ernest Che

Mandates and Democracy

Stokes, Susan C.

Transborder Lives

Stephen, Lynn

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), *L.A. Times* (www.latimes.com), and in Spanish, the national newspapers of most Latin American countries (ex. Mexico: *El Universal* (www.eluniversal.com.mx); Chile: *La Tercera* (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. Final Exam

Grading

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

Participation: 20% (we may give pop quizzes or discussion questions in class!)

Map & Info Quiz: 5%

Midterm: 20%

Papers: 2 X 15%

Final: 25%

This course is graded on the new +/- scale.

The scale is:

93-100: A

90-92: A-

87-89: B+

83-86: B

80-82: B-

77-79: C+

73-76: C

70-72: C-

69 and below: D

59 and below: F

If you are borderline, i.e. 79.5, the decision to round up or down will be based primarily upon your participation grade, which is itself [20%](#) of your final grade. For instance, Sally has a 92 in participation and received a final grade of 89.5. Johnny has an 85 in participation and an 89.5 total. Johnny gets a B+ and Sally gets an A-.

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 are the 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) to any new materials we add. Similarly, sometimes we change the order or dates of when we will be covering certain issues. We will email you with any changes to the class schedule.

Course Schedule

Week & Unit	Tuesday	Thursday	Assignments Due
1. Introduction	8/23	8/25 Chapters 1 & 2 LAI	
2. Cultural History & Conquest	8/30 Mann, 1491 Chapters 1 & 3 (on BB)	9/1 Dr. Love gone Mann 1493, Chapters 4 & 5 (part 2; on BB)	MAP QUIZ IN CLASS ON THURSDAY Listening assignment: Fresh Air (on BB)
3. Independence and National States	9/6 Chapter 3 LAI	9/8 Weber, Max. Politics as Vocation Selligson, M. The Impact of Corruption on Regime Legitimacy.	
4. Social Change and Incipient Radicalism	9/13 Chapters 7 & 11 LAI	9/15 Motorcycle Diaries (1 st half)	
5. Social Change and Incipient Radicalism	9/20 Motorcycle Diaries (2 nd half)	9/22 FILM: También la Lluvia	Suggested: extra credit screening of The Motorcycle Diaries (evening TBD)
6. Colonial Legacies and Modern Political Processes	9/27 FILM: También la Lluvia cont.	9/29 LAI Chapters 8, 9, 10	Analytic Essay #1 DUE in class on Thursday

7. Case Study: Brazil since the 1960s.	10/4 Stepan, A. Chapter 2. Holston, James, "Insurgent Citizenship." (on BB)	10/6 Gates, Henry L. Jr. Black in Latin America, Chapter 1 (Brazil)	Listening Assignment: Fresh Air (BB) Evening Screening: City of God (REQUIRED)
8. Case Study: Brazil since the 1960s.	10/11 Anderson, John Lee. "Gangland." Penglase, Ben. "States of Insecurity."	10/13 MIDTERM	
9. Democracy and the rise of Neoliberalism	10/19 Stokes, 1-3	10/21 Stokes, 5 & 6	
10. Responses to Neoliberalism & Social Change	10/25 Chapters 4 & 5, LAI	10/27 El Alto Intro, Chapters 1 & 2	
11. Responses to Neoliberalism & Social Change	11/1 Chapters 3, 4, 5 El Alto	11/3 Chapters 6 & 12 LAI	
12. Mexico: Migration al Norte	11/8 Transborder Lives Chs. 1-3	11/10 Chapters 4, 5, & 7 Transborder Lives	Evening Screening Film TBD.
13. Mexico and Central America: Drug War, Conflict, and Interdependence	11/15 Finnegan, W. "Silver or Lead." LISTENING ASSIGNMENT Bobian, J. on Mexico's Drug War (NPR)	11/17 Dr. Centellas gone Grann, D. A Murder Foretold Costa Rica D. Sick, Coffee in Costa Rica Paige, J. Chapter 1.	Analytic Essay #2 DUE Tuesday 11/15 Listening assignment: This American Life "Thugs" (section on Mexican gangs)
NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK	11/22	11/24	
14. Summary, review	11/29 Primary documents exercise (Honduras and Nicaragua)	12/01 Review/final exercise in class	

FINAL EXAM: Noon, Thursday December 8th