

HIST 483/583 / Winter 2008

Instructor: Carlos Aguirre

Office and Office Hours: 369 McKenzie Hall, Wed, 11-12 and Thursday, 12-2 pm.

E-mail: caguirre@uoregon.edu

Instructor's web site: <http://uoregon.edu/~caguirre/home.html>

The Cold War in Latin America

Description of the course

The Cold War had a profound impact in Latin America, as it also had on most regions of the world, but that impact has not been sufficiently explored in the vast literature devoted to analyzing the super-power confrontation that shaped the world between 1947 and 1991. At the same time, however, events and processes taking place in Latin America before and during the Cold War -in particular, efforts towards social justice in the region- had a dynamics of their own and decisively contributed to shaping both the national and international dimensions of the Cold War. This course attempts to explore the Latin American experience during the Cold War, emphasizing the interaction between the region's socio-political processes, actors, and agendas, and the different forms of intervention in the region by the United States and the Soviet Union. Students will hopefully come out of this class with a more nuanced understanding of the global dynamics of the Cold War and the multiple dimensions of the Latin American experience during that period, including processes of revolutionary transformation, protracted military intervention, massive human rights violations, and renewed intellectual and cultural conflict.

Course policies

1. Students are expected to attend lectures consistently. A passing grade will be difficult to achieve without regular attendance. Students must also consistently read the assigned materials.
2. The course instructor will hold regular office hours every week. Students are encouraged to visit him to discuss pertinent issues or get additional information about the course's themes, policies, and grades.
3. A common form of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students must become familiar with the University of Oregon rules about this issue. More information will be offered at the appropriate time.
4. An atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and fairness will be encouraged and enforced by the instructor. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment--i.e. no talking, eating, or newspaper reading during lecture. Laptop computers are allowed only for note-taking purposes. Students that plan to use a laptop computer must seat in the front row(s). All other electronic devices (cell phones, i-pods, etc.) must be turned off during class time.
5. An "incomplete" grade will be granted only in cases of extreme need and only to

those students that have an acceptable record of class attendance and get at least a C in the mid-term. Students that need an "incomplete" grade must make arrangements with the instructor on or before the last week of classes.

6. No late homework will be accepted, except in cases of health-related and other types of emergency that could be documented.

Requirements and evaluations

a) For undergraduate students:

- Attendance and participation: 10%
- Take-home midterm exam: 30%. The midterm exam will include two parts: an essay question and a primary document analysis.
- Conference report: 20%. Students must attend at least three events (panels or keynote addresses) during the conference on “Violence and Reconciliation in Latin America” that will take place on our campus from January 31 through February 2, 2008, and write a 3-page paper summarizing the key issues addressed by the presenters and offering a critical assessment of them.
- Two pop quizzes: 5% each. These will be unannounced, multiple-choice tests (typically, students will be given ten questions with five possible answers each).
- Final exam: 30%. This will be a comprehensive examination, covering the entire course. It will include two parts: keyword identifications and an essay question. The final exam will take place on Friday, March 21, from 8 to 10 am.

b) For graduate students

- Attendance and participation: 10%
- 2 book reviews: 10% each. Students will write 2-3-page reviews of the books by Grandin and Franco. More details, including due dates, will be offered in class.
- Conference report: 20%. Students must attend at least three events (panels or keynote addresses) during the conference on “Violence and Reconciliation in Latin America” that will take place on our campus from January 31 through February 2, 2008, and write a 3-page paper summarizing the key issues addressed by the presenters and offering a critical assessment of them.
- 12 to 15-page research paper or historiographical essay: 50%. Students will choose a topic related to the class and will produce an essay using at least 6 books or monographs. The topics for these papers and a preliminary bibliography will be discussed with the instructor during week 3.

Required readings

The following books are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore and have been placed on reserve at Knight Library:

Gilbert M. Joseph and Daniela Spenser, eds. *In From the Cold. Latin America's New Encounter with the Cold War* (Duke University Press, 2008)

Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre. Latin America in the Cold War* (University of Chicago Press, 2004)

Jean Franco, *The Decline and Fall of the Lettered City. Latin America in the Cold War* (Harvard University Press, 2002)

John Dinges, *The Condor Years. How Pinochet and his Allies Brought Terrorism to Three Continents* (The New Press, 2004)

Additional materials will be available in electronic format through Blackboard.

Internet resources

UO librarian John Russell has prepared a "Guide to Resources for Cold War in Latin America" that has been posted at:

http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/history/hist_483_cwla.html

Course Schedule

Week 1

Jan 8 Introduction

Jan 10 Conceptualizing Cold War History: approaches, actors, motivations, and legacies

Readings: Odd Arne Westad, "The empire of liberty: American ideology and foreign interventions" and "The empire of justice: Soviet ideology and foreign interventions," from *The Global Cold War* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) [**Blackboard**]

Week 2

Jan 15 The Cold War in Latin America: an overview of historiographical and methodological issues and frameworks

Jan 17 Latin America, the US, and the Soviet Union before 1945

Readings: Gilbert M. Joseph, "What We Now Know and Should Know: Bringing Latin America More Meaningfully into Cold War Studies," in Joseph and Spenser, eds. *In From the Cold*; Peter Smith, *Talons of the Eagle: Dynamics of US-Latin American Relations* (Oxford University Press, 2000), chapters 2, 3, and 4 [**Blackboard**]

Week 3.

Jan 22 The post-WWII era in US and Latin American relations: realities and concerns

Jan 24 Seeing Red in Guatemala, 1950-1954

Reading: Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre. Latin America in the Cold War*, pp. 1-104.

Week 4

Jan 29 The Cuban Revolution

Jan 31 A Soviet beachhead? Cuba's impact on Cold War climate

Readings: Daniela Spenser, "The Caribbean Crisis: Catalyst for Soviet Projection in Latin America" and Piero Gleijeses, "The View from Havana: Lessons from Cuba's African Journey, 1959-1976," in Joseph and Spenser, eds. *In From the Cold*; Louis A. Perez Jr., "Fear and Loathing of Fidel Castro: Sources of US Policy Toward Cuba," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol. 37, 2002, pp. 227-254 [**Blackboard**]

Jan. 31-Feb. 2. Conference, "Violence and Reconciliation in Latin America. Human Rights, Memory, and Democracy"

Week 5

Feb 5 The Cuban effect and the fear of communism / Conference Report due

Feb 7 US and local responses to the communist threat

Readings: Thomas Wright, *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution* (Praeger, 2001), chapters 3, 4, 5 and 6 [**Blackboard**]

Week 6

Feb 12 From Cold War to Dirty War: State Terror in the Southern Cone (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay) / Take-home midterm exam due

Feb 14 The international dimensions of the dirty way: Operation Condor

Readings: Dinges, *The Condor Years*, all

Week 7

Feb 19 Social upheaval, repression, and US intervention in Central America

Feb 21 Central America, cont.

Readings: Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre*, pp. 105-200; Mark Danner, "The Truth of El Mozote," *The New Yorker*, December 6, 1993 [**Blackboard**]; Ariel C. Armory, "Transnationalizing the Dirty War: Argentina in Central America" and Carlota McAllister, "Rural Markets, Revolutionary Souls, and Rebellious Women in Cold War Guatemala," in Joseph and Spenser, eds. *In From the Cold*.

Week 8

Feb 26 Mexico during the Cold War: the limits of exceptionalism

Feb 28 Mexico, cont.

Readings: Eric Zolov, "Cuba sí, Yanquis no! The Sacking of the Instituto Cultura México-Norteamericano in Morelia, Michoacán, 1961"; Seth Fein, "Producing the Cold War in Mexico: The Public Limits of Covert Communications"; and Steven J. Bachelor, "Miracle on Ice: Industrial Workers and the Promise of Americanization in Cold War Mexico", in Joseph and Spenser, eds. *In From the Cold*. Students must also consult "The Tlatelolco Massacre. US documents on Mexico and the Events of 1968" by Kate Doyle, available at the National Security Archive's web site.

Week 9

Mar 4 Intellectuals and the Cultural Cold War

Mar 6 The Cultural Cold War, cont. / Discussion of Jean Franco's book

Reading: Jean Franco, *The Decline and Fall of the Lettered City*, all.

Week 10

Mar 11 Is the Cold War over? Lasting legacies and the battles over memory

Mar 13 Review for Final Exam

Readings: Daniela Spenser, "Standing Conventional Cold War History on Its Head" and Thomas S. Blanton, "Recovering the Memory of the Cold War: Forensic History and Latin America," in Joseph and Spenser, eds. *In From the Cold*.

Final Exam and Graduate Papers due date: Friday, March 21, 8-10 am.