

HIST 483/583
Fall 2009

Revolutions in Modern Latin America

Instructor: Carlos Aguirre
369 McKenzie Hall, 346-5905
Instructor's Web Page: <http://uoregon.edu/~caguirre/home.html>
e-mail: caguirre@uoregon.edu
Office hours: Mondays, 11-12 am, and Wednesdays, 10-12 am.

Description of the course

Social revolutions constitute exceptional and dramatic events in human history. They bring about radical and sweeping transformations of the existing political, social, economic, and cultural orders. The three most conspicuous Latin American revolutions of the 20th century (Mexico 1910, Cuba 1959, and Nicaragua 1979) have had a tremendous impact not just within those countries and the Latin American region, but on hemispheric relations and world politics as well. Using a comparative perspective, this course will discuss the causes, course, and outcome of Latin American revolutions, seeking to highlight their peculiarities, and paying close attention to the political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of revolutionary transformation. In addition, we will also study two cases of unsuccessful revolutionary movements, the FMLN of El Salvador and the "Shining Path" of Peru, trying to understand the reasons why they ultimately failed to accomplish their goals.

Requirements

Undergraduate students:

1. Two book reviews (15% each). Students will write a 2-3 page review of the books by Rosendahl and Zimmermann. More details will be offered in class.
2. Midterm exam: 30%
3. Final exam: 40%

Graduate students:

1. Two book reviews (as described above), 15% each.
2. Oral presentation on research project, 20%
3. A 12 to 15-page paper on a topic related to the course, 50%. Details will be offered in class. Topics must be chosen by the beginning of the second week of classes.

Course policies

1. Students are expected to attend lectures consistently. A passing grade will be hard to achieve without regular attendance. Students must also consistently read the assigned materials before the class meetings and actively participate in class discussions.

2. Late book reviews will be penalized with one letter grade per day.
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 enforced by the instructor. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment--i.e. no talking, eating, or newspaper reading during lecture. Cell phones, i-pods, and other electronic devices can not be used during class. Laptops are allowed ONLY for note-taking. If a student uses his/her laptop for other purposes during class time (web browsing, chatting, reading e-mail), he/she will be banned from bringing a laptop computer to the classroom. Students using laptops in the classroom must always seat on the front row.
5. "Incomplete" grades will be granted only in cases of extreme need and only to those students that have an acceptable record of class attendance and have at least a C average in their evaluations. Students that need an "incomplete" grade must make arrangements with the instructor on or before the last week of classes.
6. The University of Oregon has taken steps to try to minimize the impact of the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Please take a few minutes to review the UO's information web page at <http://em.uoregon.edu/h1n1/> and read the "Planning Assumptions and Response" document linked on that page. If you have questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Required Readings

The following books will be available for purchase at the U of O Bookstore and are also on reserve at Knight Library.

- Mona Rosendahl, *Inside the Revolution. Everyday Life in Socialist Cuba* (Cornell University Press, 1997).
- Matilde Zimmerman, *Sandinista: Carlos Fonseca and the Nicaraguan Revolution* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2001).
- Cynthia McClintock, *Revolutionary Movements in Latin America: El Salvador's FMLN and Peru's Shining Path* (United States Institute of Peace Press, 1998). (*)

(*) This book has been back-ordered. Students should try to get a copy of it from online or local used bookstores. There will also be two copies on reserve at Knight Library. You could also order a copy from other Summit libraries.

In addition, a number of articles will be available through Blackboard. (The list below includes the abbreviated titles as listed in Blackboard. Full citations are included at the end of the syllabus.)

Outline of lectures and readings

Week 1

09/29 Introduction.

10/01 Theorizing Revolutions. Latin American revolutions in comparative perspective

Readings

Goldstone, *The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolution*.

Wickham-Crowley, *Structural Theories of Revolution*.

McClintock, *Analytical Framework*.

Suggested: Knight, *Revisionism and Revolution*.

Week 2

10/06 Prelude to Revolution in Mexico

10/08 The Revolutionary Decade (1910-1920)

Readings

Gilly, *Capitalism Development*.

Knight, *Revolutionary Project*.

Knight, *The Working Class and the Mexican Revolution*.

Katz, *Peasants in the Mexican Revolution*.

Week 3

10/13 Video. The Mexican Revolution.

10/15 Guest Lecture by Professor Stephanie Wood, “Art, History, and Politics in Post-Revolutionary Mexican Muralism”

Readings

Benjamin, *La Revolución*.

Brunk, *Forging a National Zapata*.

Coffey, *Muralism and the People*.

Week 4

10/20 Pre-revolutionary Cuba

10/22 The making of a revolution: ideology, actors, and armed struggle

Readings

Perez, *The Eclipse of Old Cuba*.

Perez, *Between the Old and the New*.

Castro, *On the Triumph of the Revolution*.

Sweig, *Inside the Cuban Revolution*.

Week 5

10/27 Socialism or death: The revolution in power

10/29 Discussion: Popular democracy or totalitarian regime? A balance of the Cuban Revolution.
Book review # 1 due.

Readings

Rosendahl, *Inside the Revolution*, all.

Cheng, *Let them All Become Che*.

Week 6

11/3 Midterm exam

11/5 Somoza's Nicaragua

Reading

Zimmermann, *Sandinista*, pp. 1-87.

Week 7

11/10 The FSLN, popular mobilization and the Sandinista victory

11/12 The US, the contras, and the demise of the Sandinista revolution.

Readings

Zimmermann, *Sandinista*, pp. 88-227

Selbin, *Making the Revolution Reality*.

Week 8

11/17 El Salvador and Peru: Parallel Histories / Book review # 2 due.

11/19 The FMLN

Reading

McClintock, *Revolutionary Movements in Latin America*, pp. 45-200.

Week 9

11/24 Maoism in the Andes

11/26 No Class. Thanksgiving Holiday

Readings

McClintock, *Revolutionary Movements in Latin America*, pp. 201-312

Degregori, How Difficult it is to be God.

Week 10

12/1 Graduate Students Panel

12/3 Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Monday, December 7, 8 a.m.

Full citations for articles and chapters assigned as required readings:

Timothy P. Wickham-Crowley, "Structural Theories of Revolution," in John Foran, ed. *Theorizing Revolutions* (Routledge, 1997), pp. 38-72.

Cynthia McClintock, "Analytical Framework," in *Revolutionary Movements in Latin America: El Salvador's Fmln & Peru's Shining Path* (United States Institute of Peace Press, 1998), chapter 1, pp. 21-43.

Jack A. Goldstone, "The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolutions," *Annual Review of Sociology*, 8, 1982, 187-207.

Alan Knight, "Revisionism and Revolution: Mexico Compared to England and France," *Past and Present*, 134, February 1992, pp. 159-199.

Adolfo Gilly, "Capitalism Development," in *The Mexican Revolution* (The New Press, 2005), chapter 1, pp. 1-39.

Alan Knight, "Revolutionary Project, Recalcitrant People: Mexico, 1910-1940," in Jaime E. Rodríguez O., ed. *The Revolutionary Process in Mexico* (UCLA Latin American Center Publications, 1990), pp. 227-264.

Friedrich Katz, "Peasants in the Mexican Revolution of 1910," in Spielberg, Joseph and Scott Whiteford eds. *Forging nations: a comparative view of rural ferment and revolt* (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1976, pp. 61-85.

Alan Knight, "The Working Class and the Mexican Revolution," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 16, 1984, pp. 51-79.

Thomas Benjamin, *La Revolución. Mexico's Great Revolution as Memory, Myth and History* (University of Texas Press, 2000), Chapters 3 and 4.

Samuel Brunk, "Forging a National Zapata, 1920-1934," in *The Posthumous Career of Emiliano Zapata. Myth, Memory, and Mexico's Twentieth Century* (University of Texas Press, 2008), chapter 3, pp. 59-87.

Mary K. Coffey, "Muralism and the People: Culture, Popular Citizenship, and Government in Post-Revolutionary Mexico," *The Communications Review*, 5, 2002, pp. 7-38.

Louis Perez, "The Eclipse of Old Cuba" and "Between the Old and the New", from *Cuba Between Reform and Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 210-236 and 237-256

Fidel Castro, "On the Triumph of the Revolution" (1959), from *Fidel Castro Reader* (Ocean Press, 2007), pp. 107-136.

Julia Sweig, *Inside the Cuban Revolution. Fidel Castro and the Urban Underground* (Harvard University Press, 2002), pp. 136-182.

Yinghong Cheng, "Let them All Become Che: Creating the New Man in Cuba," in *Creating the 'New Man': From Enlightenment Ideas to Socialist Realities* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2008), pp. 127-189.

Eric Selbin, "Making the Revolution Reality: The Nicaraguan Revolution, 1979-1990," in *Modern Latin American Revolutions* (Westview Press, 1999), pp. 92-125.

Carlos Iván Degregori, "How Difficult it is to be God," *Critique of Anthropology*, 11, 3, 1991, pp. 233-250.