HIST 382 - Summer 2015

Latin America, 1910 to the Present

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Description of the Course

This course covers the history of Latin America from 1910 (the beginning of the Mexican Revolution) to the present. It pays particular attention to the political and social transformations that have affected the development of the region throughout the 20th century (revolutions, military dictatorships, social movements, democratic consolidation). Although this course gives special attention to a few countries (Mexico, Cuba, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Guatemala, and Peru), it tries to keep a regional and comparative perspective. By the end of the term students will have a more sophisticated understanding of the historical roots behind both the challenges and promises that Latin American countries confront today.

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 and actively participate in class discussions.
2. 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.
3. An atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and fairness will be enforced. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment-i.e. no talking, eating, chatting, text-messaging, or newspaper reading during lecture. The use of electronic devices is not allowed during class. The only exception will be students who need to bring a laptop computer or tablet to take lecture notes. If you plan to bring one you must seat in the front row and may not engage in internet browsing during class time. Failure to comply with this policy will force the instructor to ban the use of laptop computers and tablets in the classroom.
4. Course “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.
What you can expect to learn in this course

- A basic knowledge of the history of Latin America between 1910 and the present, including major social processes and events such as immigration, urbanization, populism, military dictatorships, revolutions, economic trends, political struggles, and US intervention.
- How to think about history in terms of political, economic, social, and cultural forces and how they interact
- Some of the most important controversies surrounding Latin American history over the last century
- How to think about Latin America as a region with its commonalities and differences

Evaluations

Course evaluations will include the following:

- Attendance and participation (10 points)
- 1 map quiz (5 points)
- 2 quizzes (10 points each; 20 points total)
- Midterm exam (25 points)
- Final exam (40 points)

Required Readings. All required readings will be available electronically on Blackboard.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1

7/20 Introduction to the course / Latin America at the turn of the twentieth century

7/21 Map Quiz / Mexico: From Porfiriato to Revolution

Reading: Knight, Revolutionary Project

7/22 The Post-Revolutionary State, 1920-1940

Reading: Knight, Cardenismo

7/23 Quiz # 1 / Change and continuity in Mexico, 1940-2000

Reading: Williams, Traversing the Mexican Odyssey
Week 2

7/27 Populism: Vargas and Perón


7/28 The Cold War in Latin America / Seeing red in Guatemala

Reading: Holland, Private Sources of U.S. Foreign Policy

7/29 The Making of the Cuban Revolution

Reading: Pérez, The Eclipse of Old Cuba

7/30 Midterm exam

Week 3

8/3 Cuba in the 1960s

Reading: Perez, Fear and Loathing of Fidel Castro

8/4 Cuba since 1970: Change and Continuity

Reading: Sweig, Fidel’s Final Victory

8/5 Che Guevara: myth and legacy / Guerrillas in Latin America

Reading: Childs, Che Guevara’s Foco Theory

8/6 Quiz # 2 Military dictatorships in Latin America: Brazil and Argentina

Reading: Osiel, Constructing Subversion

Week 4

8/10 Chile: Socialism, Dictatorship, and Democracy

Reading: Hite, Chile’s Revolutionary Generation
8/11 Peru: Revolutions from above and from below

Reading: Starn, Maoism in the Andes

8/12 Revolution and counter-revolution in Central America

Reading: Oettler, Guatemala in the 1980s: A Genocide Turned into Ethnocide?

8/13 Final exam