

HIST-159-20:
History of Modern Latin America

Instructor: Hillar Schwertner
Term: Summer Session II – 2018
Room: ICC 213
Time: MTWR, 3:15–5:15 p.m.
Office Hours: TBD
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Course Description:

This course offers a university level introduction to modern Latin American history from the independence period to the present. Because Latin America is a very diverse region with many different regional and national histories of its own, this survey will focus on broad trends and important, overarching issues—while still emphasizing the variety of experiences among those who lived during each period. We will begin by examining the breakdown of the colonial order and the emergence of independent nation-states as the new paradigm for social, political, and economic organization. Then, we will explore, sequentially: the decades-long struggles for national identity and the consolidation of state power; the growing presence and meddling of the United States in Latin American affairs; the social, political, and economic challenges of the early-twentieth century and the revolutions and reforms that followed; and finally, the contemporary challenges and successes in Latin America.

Course Mechanics:

The class is designed as a participatory survey. Students are expected to complete all assignments in full and on time, to participate actively in our class discussions, and to come to class with an open mind and eager to learn. The assignments are designed with the time constraints of a summer session in mind—there is no textbook for the course, although one will be made available in the library for general reference. Instead of a textbook, we will be reading a selection of short articles and primary documents each day, as well as a longer piece (typically a short book) each week. Students will be expected to analyze the readings, both in class and on paper, and must come ready to offer questions and comments to share with the rest of the class. For the most part, class periods will consist of a lecture on the day's topic, to be followed by a discussion of the day's readings—with longer discussions scheduled for the days after longer readings are assigned. In short, the keys to success in this class are: engaging in lectures critically and asking questions whenever they arise; reading all assigned materials on time and in depth; coming to class with questions and comments ready to share; and finally, writing critical essays that offer a creative approach and present your own original analysis.

Learning Goals:

At the end of this course, a student will:

- 1) Be knowledgeable about the major themes and issues in the history of modern Latin America
- 2) Be further prepared to absorb and evaluate historical evidence, including current understandings of key historical questions
- 3) Be comfortable reading and analyzing both primary and secondary sources
- 4) Have experience and critical feedback in writing argumentative essays
- 5) Be able to think about current problems in Latin America from a historical perspective

Grading:

Grades will be determined on the following basis

Class Participation	20%
First Essay (4-5 pp.)	15%
Second Essay (7-8 pp.)	25%
Final Exam	35%
Map Quiz	5%

Class Participation:

Prepared and engaged participation in class discussions is expected from every student, every day. Students should come to class having done a close reading of all assigned texts and ready to raise questions and offer commentary. Attendance is not participation.

Essays:

Strong essays demonstrate a depth of knowledge, a critical approach to a relevant issue, and an independent understanding adequately articulated. The aim is not to summarize what we all have read—it is to offer your own innovative interpretation and analysis, backed by evidence derived from a critical examination of primary and secondary sources.

Final Exam:

The final exam will consist of approximately 8 IDs and an essay question. The aim is to test your familiarity with key concepts from across the course, as well as your ability to construct a historical argument within a limited time frame.

Map Quiz:

The map quiz will consist of a blank map of Latin America and an accompanying list of countries, cities, regions, and geographical features—which you will need to label on the map as accurately as possible.

Class Policies:

Attendance:

Daily attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than four classes, you will automatically fail the course.

Late Papers:

Due to the rapid pace of summer session, late papers will be accepted only in situations of unforeseeable emergencies. Internships and job interviews do not qualify as such.

Electronic Devices:

Please turn off and put away your cell phone during class. You are permitted to use laptops and tablets to take notes, but not to chat with friends or surf the internet. Always be respectful to your classmates and instructor.

Inclusion and Disability Accommodations:

This classroom is meant to be an inclusive space for students of all races, ethnicities, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and abilities. Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (335 Leavey Center; 202-687-8354; arc@georgetown.edu) before the start of classes to allow their office time to review the documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter from ARC to share with your professors. You are personally responsible for completing this process officially and in a timely manner. Neither accommodations nor exceptions to policies can be permitted to students who have not completed this process in advance.

Academic Integrity:

It is expected that all students will abide by the Georgetown University Honor Code regarding plagiarism and all other subjects. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with me.

Required Readings:

These books are available for purchase in the Georgetown University Bookstore, as well as online (often for better prices). I will also put a copy of each book on 4-hour reserve in Lauinger Library.

- Azuela, Mariano. *The Underdogs*. New York: Penguin Press, 2008.
- Danner, Mark. *The Massacre at El Mozote*. New York: Vintage Books, 1994.

All other readings for the course will be available on Canvas or World Scholar.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One: Independence and its Aftermath

Session 1: Independence in Spanish America

Session 2: Regionalism and Caudillismo

Session 3: Film: *Camila*

Session 4: Discussion: *Facundo: Civilization and Barbarism* (Canvas)

-FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNED

Week Two: Struggles for National Identity

Session 5: Liberals, Conservatives, and the Church

Session 6: The Brazilian Counter-Example

-MAP QUIZ

Session 7: Export Economies and the Environment

Session 8: Discussion: Cushman and Gootenberg (Canvas)

Week Three: Progress and its Discontents

Session 9: Order and Progress: The Elite Strategy of Modernization

-FIRST ESSAY DUE

Session 10: U.S. Intervention and Latin American Responses

Session 11: The Long Mexican Revolution

Session 12: Discussion: *The Underdogs*

-SECOND ESSAY TOPIC DUE

Week Four: Reforms and Revolutions

Session 13: Economic Crisis and the Rise of Populism

Session 14: Mid-Century Uprisings: Guatemala, Bolivia, Cuba

-SECOND ESSAY BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Session 15: Counter-Revolutions: Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay

Session 16: Discussion: *The Massacre at El Mozote*

Week Five: Contemporary Challenges and Successes

Session 17: Uprisings in the Andes: FARC, ELN, and Shining Path

Session 18: Indigenous Movements and the Return of Populism

Session 19: Paper Reports and Review Session

Session 20: **FINAL EXAM**

-SECOND ESSAY DUE BY SATURDAY (8/11) AT 5:00 P.M.