

Department of History

Spring Semester 2009

Eastern Illinois University

MODERN LATIN AMERICA (HIS 3260)

Professor: José R. Deustua, Ph.D.

Coleman Hall 2552

[jrdeustua@eiu.edu](mailto:jrdeustua@eiu.edu)

Phone (217) 581-7115

Office Hours: TR 11-12; W 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Coleman Hall 2751

TR 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Description and Objectives. The course is an advanced undergraduate course on Modern Latin America. It surveys the continent's history from Independence to today, including the nineteenth-century struggle between Liberalism and Conservatism, the Mexican revolution of the 1910s, populist and military dictatorial paths to development, the Cuban and Central American revolutions, and the recent rise and demise of economic neo-liberalism. It will also focus on the U.S. frequent intervention in Latin America since the proposing of the Monroe doctrine to the Spanish American war of the 1890s, the taking of the Panama canal (1903), and the recent invasions of Panama (December 1989) and Haiti (1994).

The course requires active student participation, whether in the discussion of the readings or movies that will be shown in class during the semester, or of the thorough essay paper they will write in the course. Thus, the course will need full student participation to accomplish its academic goals. In this sense, the reading on time of the reading assignments is a must, as well as class attendance. This active participation will also be graded. Students missing 1/5 of the classes will automatically fail the course. The paper not given during the due day will be penalized, losing one mark for each late day.

Course Requirements. Students will be expected to take a mid-term exam, a short post-mid term test, and a comprehensive final exam. They will write a thorough essay paper based on the readings and additional library and internet research. The internet sources must be serious, scholarly ones, and not frivolous and inaccurate. Participation in class discussions and class activities will also be graded. The percentage of the final grade given to these evaluations will be the following:

- Mid-Term Exam 20% of the final grade
- Post-Mid-Term Test 15% of the final grade
- Research Essay Paper (circa 6 pages) 25% of the final grade
- Final Exam 20% of the final grade
- Class Participation 20% of the final grade

The paper does not need to be long but it has to be thorough. It has to use the readings as sources, as well as additional LIBRARY research if necessary. It has to be academically sound, and accurate in the use of citations, quotations, and the appropriate bibliography.

Readings. Five books are required and available at Textbook Rental Service (TRS). Some will be read fully, some just a few chapters. These books are:

Benjamin Keen and Keith Haynes: A History of Latin America. Independence to the Present. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000 (6<sup>th</sup> edition), vol. 2.

Rius: Cuba for Beginners. New York, London, and Sydney: Pathfinder Press, 1986.

Elisabeth Burgos-Debray ed.: I, Rigoberta Menchu. An Indian Woman in Guatemala. London and New York: Verso, 1993.

Peter Winn: Weavers of Revolution. The Yarur Workers and Chile's Road to Socialism. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.

Walter LaFeber: Inevitable Revolutions. The United States in Central America. New York and London: Norton, 1993.

These other books are also highly recommended and available at TRS.

-Tulio Halperin Donghi: The Contemporary History of Latin America. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1993 (translated and edited by John Charles Chasteen).

-Anita Brenner: The Wind that Swept Mexico. The History of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1942. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971.

-John M. Hart: Revolutionary Mexico, 10<sup>th</sup> (TRS 13.422).

The Department of History's web site address is <http://www.eiu.edu/~histnews>

Historia, the journal of the Department of History at EIU, is available online at <http://www.eiu.edu/~historia>

## SYLLABUS

### Week One

Introduction. Colonial Latin America. Independence. Caudillos. Dictators and revolutions ("asonadas"). Conservatives and Liberals. From the Caudillo to the Oligarchical State.

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 9.

### Week Two

The triumph of neocolonialism. The hacienda system. The Oligarchical State in Latin America, 1870-1930. Porfirio Diaz in Mexico. Argentina, from cattle ranching and “gauchismo” to an agricultural export economy. The Argentine Radical Party, the labor movement and Socialism.

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 10.

### Week Three

Chile, from nitrates and war to the Parliamentary Republic. Luis Emilio Recabarren and the Chilean Socialist Party. Neodependency: the U.S./Latin American system. The Yankees in Central America. The U.S. destroys a court and Costa Rica and the oil companies. The Spanish American war, 1898, the Panama canal (1903) and the invasions of Cuba, Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic. Theodore Roosevelt and “big stick” and dollar diplomacy.

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 11; LaFeber, chapter 1.

### Week Four

The bewitchment of silver, export economies. Economics and politics. Queen silver, prince copper. Mineowners, mine workers. Peru, the Andes.

Required reading: Ibid.

### Week Five

Peasant economies, muleteering. Peasant Andean Indian communities and Quechua culture. Railroads, development.

### Week Six

The Mexican revolution (1910) and after. Madero and Porfirio Diaz. Zapata, Villa, Carranza, Obregon. Lazaro Cardenas and the Populist State. Neoliberalism in Mexico.

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapters 12.

MID-TERM EXAM

### Week Seven

The Chilean way, “a long strip of sand”: the north, the far north, the central valley and the south. Alessandri and the Popular Front. Populism and Socialism. Post World War II and Cold War. The Christian Democrats and Salvador Allende.

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 14, pp. 337-354.

### Week Eight

Chile in the post World War II international politics. The USA and the Cold War. El “compañero Presidente”. The end of the democratic road. The repressive dictatorship of general Augusto Pinochet and the transition to democracy. The 1988 plebiscite and the Democratic Alliance governments of Patricio Aylwin, Frei, Lagos (a Socialist), and the 2005 election (Michelle Bachelet, a Socialist).

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 14, pp. 354-57; Winn, chapters 4 and 17.

#### Week Nine

Storm over the Andes. The struggle for land and development: Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia (3 Andean revolutions or process of reform). The Andean core, from Empire to colony to Republics to export economies (cacao, tin, sugan, and cotton).

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 16, pp. 393-409.

#### PAPER DELIVERY

#### Week Ten

From the Oligarchical State to APRA and the MNR. Populism and socialism. Shining Path and the MRTA. Fujimori to Toledo to the 2006 elections.

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 16, pp. 409-423.

#### Week Eleven

The Cuban revolution, 1959. From the Spanish-Cuban-American war to dependent development. The Platt Amendment to the Cuban Constitution: U.S. occupation and the dictatorship of Machado. From Batista to Castro. Sugar plantations, rum, and gambling, and prostitution in Havana. Guerrilla warfare, Che Guevara, and Latin American socialism.

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 17.

#### POST-MID-TERM TEST

#### Week Twelve

Jose Marti, 1868, Jefferson and U.S. interest on Cuba, July 26, 1953. 1959. Agrarian reform, urban reform. Socialist republic, Cuban missile crisis.

Required reading: Rius.

#### Week Thirteen

Guatemala, from oligarchical rule to democratic springtime (1944-54) and military dictatorship. Maya Indian culture and Rigoberta Menchu, an 8 year-old agricultural worker. CUC and political activity. Torture, death and military repression.

Required reading: Burgos-Debray, chapters 6, 22 and 23.

#### Week Fourteen

Revolution and counter-revolution in Central America: Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador. State terrorism, U.S. intervention and the return to democracy in Guatemala. From the Sandinistas to Chamorro, Aleman and the Liberal party in Nicaragua. From the FMLN to ARENA.

Required reading: Burgos-Debray, chapters 24 and 33.

#### Week Fifteen

Central America: the collapse of the system, the remains of the system. Conclusions.

Required reading: Keen and Haynes, chapter 18

FINAL EXAM ON THE EXAM WEEK