

Syllabus 5400

Department of History  
Eastern Illinois University

Fall Semester 2009

SEMINAR IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY (HIS 5400)

WORLD HISTORY: LATIN AMERICA, 18<sup>TH</sup>-20<sup>TH</sup> c.

Professor: Jose R. Deustua  
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W 7-9:30 p.m.

Description and Objectives.- The course is a seminar on the economic and social thinking of the economy, as well as the evolving of concrete historical experiences in Latin America and the world from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It will have a theoretical or philosophical part, which will focus on the work of one of the most important historians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Fernand Braudel. It will discuss later particular Latin American experiences of social and economic development. The revising of current economic notions will be a must, introducing students to new concepts, such as that of the social economy, as well as that of environmental or ecological economics.

The course requires active student participation. There will be class discussions of the readings, whether the broad, theoretical work of Braudel, or of the historical cases, part of the Latin American experience. Students must read the assigned readings before the seminar meeting, so this will be mostly based on the questions and observations the students bring to the class. Students will write a review or commentary of the readings every week (1 or two pages long). Of course, there will also be some presentations given by the faculty member running the seminar.

Students will also write a research paper using primary sources, if it is possible, or secondary ones, if it is not. This paper will need library research and its development will be presented on the seminar. In this sense, the topic selection, the elaboration of a bibliography with primary and/or secondary sources, findings from the research experience and so, will be also presented and discussed in the seminar.

Course Requirements. A great part of the final grade will be based on the seminar participation and the elaboration of the research paper. But the students will also take two essays or take-home exams, based on the questions and information discussed in the seminar. The percentage of the final grade given to these tasks will be the following:

- First essay (15%)
- Research Paper, includes selection of the topic and elaboration of the bibliography (25%)
- Second essay (20%)

- Class participation (20%)
- Weekly reviews or commentaries (20%)

Readings. Five books will be read during the course, some in their entirety, some partially. These books are:

- Fernand Braudel: The Wheels of Commerce. Civilization & Capitalism, 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century. New York: Harper & Row, 1982 (volume 2 of La Civilization Materielle).
- David McCreery: Rural Guatemala, 1760-1940. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1994.
- Jose R. Deustua: The Bewitchment of Silver. The Social Economy of Mining in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Peru. Athens, OH: Ohio University, 2000.
- John Mason Hart: Revolutionary Mexico. The Coming and Process of the Mexican Revolution. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1997.
- William H. Beezley, Cheryl English Martin, and William E. French: Rituals of Rule, Rituals of Resistance. Public Celebrations and Popular Culture in Mexico. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1994.

All these books are available at Textbook Rental Service (TRS). Students could also consult:

- Adam Smith: An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations. New York: Random House, 1965 (1776).
- Karl Marx: Capital. A Critique of Political Economy. New York: Vintage Books, 1977 (1867). Introduced by Ernest Mandel.
- Fernand Braudel: The Structures of Everyday Life. Volume 1 of La Civilization Materielle. New York: Harper & Row, 1982.
- Fernand Braudel: The Perspective of the World. Volume 3, New York: Harper & Row, 1984.
- E. J. Hobsbawm: The Age of Capital, 1848-1875. London: Abacus, 1977.
- Nils Jacobsen: Mirages of Transition. The Peruvian Altiplano, 1780-1930. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1993.
- Charles Bergquist: Labor in Latin America. Comparative Essays on Chile, Argentina, Venezuela, and Colombia. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1986.

## SYLLABUS

Week One.- Introduction. Economic development: What is it? How do we measure it? Capitalism. Markets. A market economy. Adam Smith. David Ricardo. Claude Henri Saint Simon. Karl Marx. Max Weber. Latin American history: colonial and in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Week Two.- “The Theory of Moral Sentiments”(1759). “An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations” (1776). “Of the Influence and Authority of Conscience”. Materiality and ideality (spirituality, ideology, culture?). The productive powers of labor. Productivity, capital productivity, labor productivity, labor power, labor

value. The wheels of trade at the lowest level. The instruments of exchange. Latin America.

Required reading: Braudel, chapter 1, section a.

Week Three.- “Das Kapital. Kritik der Politischen Oekonomie” (1867). Marx’s Capital and 19<sup>th</sup>-century England. Capital, capitalism, and markets. Andre Gunder Frank. Commodities and money. Use-value and exchange-value. Value, price, wages, labor power. Labor embodied in commodities. Markets and the economy. Production: or capitalism away from home. Latin America.

Required reading: Braudel, the rest of chapter 1.

-Selection of research topic and country or case study

Week Four.- Commodities, money, and labor. Capital as the objectification of labor (reification, frozen labor). Absolute and relative surplus-value. Social classes, the proletariat. The factory-system, the capitalist company, as opposed to agriculture, feudalism (land rents, natural resources rent). Capitalism on home ground. Society, a set of sets.

Required reading: Braudel, chapters 2 and 3.

Week Five.- Marx’s Capital and Braudel’s Civilization Materielle, Economie, et Capitalisme. A history of socialism. Historical questions in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Peru. Coast and highlands. Mining, queen silver and prince copper.

Required reading: Deustua, chapters 1 and 2.

-Delivery of bibliography or sources for the writing of the research paper.

Week Six.- Braudel’s Mediterranee. Long-distance trade (capitalism?) and domestic capitalism. International capitalism and domestic capitalism, an introduction to Latin America. Peru: mines, mineowners and mine workers. Merchants and muleteers: commercial capital, peasant transportation.

Required reading: Deustua, chapters 3 and 4.

Week Seven.- Railroads and muleteering: capital investment and large capital circulation versus peasant small-scale production. Mining and national development. Other Latin American experiences.

Required reading: Deustua, chapters 5 and 6.

-Questions for the first essay paper.

Week Eight.- The Ancient Regime in Mexico. The Peasantry. Industrial and Urban Workers.

Required reading: Hart, chapters 1 and 2.

Week Nine.- The “pequena burguesia” and provincial elites in Mexico. The seizure of power: Porfirio Diaz, American expansion and the revolution of Tuxtepec. Guano and “Civilismo” in Peru. Argentina after Rosas.

Required reading: Hart, chapters 3 and 4.

Week Ten.- The growth of the Porfirian economy and the American intrusion. The crisis of the Porfirian political economy. Global causation: Iran, China, Russia and Mexico. Peru's Pierola revolution. Argentine's cattle ranching and wheat democracy. Required reading: Hart, chapters 5, 6 and 7.

Week Eleven.- The Mexican revolution of 1910. Elite crisis and mass mobilization, 1910-1914. Class confrontation, American intervention, and workers' defeat, 1914-1916. Elite synthesis and sociopolitical reorganization, 1916-1924. Required reading: Hart, chapters 8, 9 and 10.

Week Twelve.- Rural Guatemala. Guatemala before coffee, 1760-1860. State, society, and agriculture. Land and labor. Required reading: McCreery, chapters 1-4. Due day for the research paper.

Week Thirteen.- An export economy: cochineal. Peasant and Maya Indian communities. The coffee revolution in Guatemala, 1860-1940. The coffee revolution. Required reading: McCreery, chapters 5-8.

Week Fourteen.- The fincas: land of Spanish, foreigners, "criollo" or "ladino" landowners. Land in the Indian peasant communities. Labor in the Indian peasant communities and in fincas. Transition to capitalism. Labor in the Indian peasant communities and in fincas. On theory and history: Latin America in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Required reading. McCreery, chapters 9 and 10.

Week Fifteen.- Post-modernism and cultural history. Proletarians and cultural customs. Workers and the capitalist work ethic. Burning saints and civic rituals in Mexico. Required reading. Beezley et. al., chapters 8, 9, 10 and 13.

-Questions for the final essay paper.