

History 160
Introduction to Latin America
Gustavus Adolphus College
MWF 2:30 – 3:20
SSC 107

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COURSE SYLLABUS – Spring 2008

Overview: Since the triumph of the independence movements early in the nineteenth century, the countries of Latin America have struggled to find a place in a changing world. Focusing on these last two centuries – the “modern” period in Latin American history – this course will examine the region’s economic frustrations, social tensions, and political difficulties, as well as the development of a thriving Latin American culture. Topics include the independence movements; export-led growth and the resulting social tensions; the abolition of African slavery; immigration, urbanization, and industrialization; revolutionary movements; relations with the United States; and modern Latin American culture.

Assignments:

- Attendance and informed participation, 25%
- Weekly Papers, 25%
- Map Quiz (in class Friday, February 29), 5%
- Midterm exam (in class Wednesday, April 9), 15%
- 5-page paper (due Wednesday, May 7), 15%
- Final Exam (Saturday, May 24, 8AM-10AM), 15%

Readings: The following books are available for purchase at the Book Mark:

- John C. Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*, 2nd edition (required)
- Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898* (required)
- Peter Winn, *Weavers of Revolution: The Yarur Workers and Chile’s Road to Socialism* (required)

Weekly Papers: Over the course of the semester, students must submit a total of 8 two-page papers. Each paper will answer *one* of the study questions for the week – students are free to choose which question they prefer. The paper will be due at the end of the class in which we discuss the relevant reading. The weekly papers will be graded as a **portfolio**. My comments during the first few weeks will be more detailed than in the later weeks of the semester, when students are expected to incorporate feedback from the first weeks into their work. **The lowest 3 grades of the 11 weekly papers will be dropped (in other words, each student will be allowed to skip 3 of the 11 weekly papers without any penalty).** The study questions are posted on the same website as the e-reserve readings for the course: <http://moodle.gac.edu/>.

Grading Policies and Late Work: Weekly papers will be graded on a 4-point scale that will be explained early in the semester; other work will receive a letter or number grade. You may *request* an extension for the 5-page Paper provided that you make the request at least one week before the due date. Any other late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/6 of a letter grade per day (for example, an A- paper turned in two days late would receive a B+) with exceptions for documented illnesses and other emergencies. A weekly paper turned in after the end of the relevant class will be penalized one point on the four-point scale (for example, a “3” would become a “2”). If you cannot avoid turning an assignment in late, please talk to Sujay *in advance*.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance at all meetings is mandatory and will be recorded. Please make every effort to ensure that other activities do not interfere with regular attendance. If an absence is absolutely unavoidable, please talk to Sujay *in advance*. 2 or more unexcused absences will certainly not help your grade, *4 or more unexcused absences will lead to an automatic reduction of your overall course grade by 1/3 of a letter grade for each additional absence*. Participation is not entirely voluntary – at times students will be called on to contribute to discussions.

Week 1: NO WEEKLY PAPER

Monday, February 11: Welcome to History 160 – Introduction to Latin American History

- Handout: Syllabus

Wednesday, February 13: Lecture – Colonial Latin America

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Introduction and Chapters 1-2 (pp. 15-89).
- Handout: Study list and practice map for Map Quiz
- Handout: Instructions for e-reserve readings, explanation of 4-point scale

Friday, February 15: NO CLASS

Week 2:

Monday, February 18: NO CLASS

Wednesday, February 20: Lecture – Independence and Civil War

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Chapter 3 (pp. 91-116).
- Discussion: The many ways to participate in a discussion

Friday, February 22: Independence – The Creoles Revolt

- Reading due: Simón Bolívar, “Reply of a South American to a Gentleman of this Island (Jamaica),” in Lecuna and Bierck, *Selected Writings of Bolívar*, Vol. 1, pp. 103-122 (on e-reserve).

Week 3:

Monday, February 25: Independence – The Role of Indigenous People

- Reading due: Charles F. Walker, “The Patriotic Society: Discussions and Omissions about Indians in the Peruvian War of Independence,” *The Americas*, Vol. 55 No. 2 (October 1998): 275-298 (on e-reserve).

Wednesday, February 27: Independence – The Role of Black Latin Americans

- Reading due: George Reid Andrews, *The Afro-Argentines of Buenos Aires*, Chapter 7 “The Black Legions,” pp. 113-137 (on e-reserve).

Friday, February 29: Independence and Slavery in Brazil

- Reading due: José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva, “On Slavery!” pp. 13-60 (on e-reserve).
- **Map Quiz**

Week 4:

Monday, March 3: The US-Mexican War

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Chapter 4 (pp. 119-147).
- Video (in class): *The US-Mexican War* (Part 1 of 4)

Wednesday, March 5: The US-Mexican War, continued

- Reading due: Peter Guardino, “Barbarism or Republican Law? Guerrero’s Peasants and National Politics, 1820-1846,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* Volume 75, Number 2 (May 1995), pp. 185-213 (on e-reserve).
- Video (in class): *The US-Mexican War* (Part 2 of 4)

Friday, March 7: Mexico

- Discussion of *The US-Mexican War* (Parts 3 and 4 to be viewed outside class) and Guardino, “Barbarism or Republican Law?”

Week 5:

Monday, March 10: Lecture – The Age of Progress, 1850-1880

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Chapter 5 (pp. 149-178).

Wednesday, March 12: “Civilization and Barbarism” – Race and Class in Argentina

- Reading due: Selections by Argentine writers (Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, Juan Bautista Alberdi), in *The Argentina Reader*, pp. 80-90 and 95-101 (on e-reserve).

Friday, March 14: Lecture – Latin America’s Gilded Age, 1880-1930

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Chapter 6 (pp. 181-214).

Week 6:

Monday, March 17: The United States and the Caribbean

- Reading due: Holden and Zolov, *Latin America and the United States*, Document #2 by John Adams, pp. 7-11; Document #3 by James Monroe, pp. 11-14; Document #26 by Andrew Carnegie, pp. 74-76; and Document #37 by Theodore Roosevelt, pp. 100-102 (on e-reserve).

Wednesday, March 19: The Panama Canal

- Reading due: David Healy, *Drive to Hegemony*, Chapter 5 “The Isthmian Canal,” pp. 77-94 (on e-reserve).
- Note-taking strategies

Friday, March 21: NO CLASS

SPRING BREAK – ENJOY!

Week 7:

Monday, March 31: Lecture – Nationalism in Latin America

- Reading due: Holden and Zolov, *Latin America and the United States*, Document #21 by José Martí, pp. 61-63; Document #23 by Carlos Calvo, pp. 68-69; Document #28 by José Enrique Rodó, pp. 78-80; Document #32 by Luis Drago, pp. 88-90; Document #35 by Rubén Darío, pp. 95-96; Document #47 by José Ingenieros, pp. 123-125; and Document #49 by Victor Haya de la Torre, pp. 128-129 (on e-reserve).

Wednesday, April 2: Race and the Cuban Independence Movement, Part I

- Reading due: Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, Introduction and Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-69.
- Handout: Midterm exam study questions.

Friday, April 4: Race and the Cuban Independence Movement, Part II

- Reading due: Ferrer, Chapters 3-5, pp. 70-138.

Week 8: NO WEEKLY PAPER

Monday, April 7: Race and the Cuban Independence Movement, Part III

- Reading due: Ferrer, Chapters 6-7 and Epilogue, pp. 141-202.

Wednesday, April 9: MIDTERM EXAM

Friday, April 11: Everything in Moderation – the Mexican Revolution

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Chapter 7 (pp. 217-246).
- Reading due: Plan of San Luis Potosí, pp. 1-2 and Plan de Ayala, pp. 1-4 (on e-reserve).

Week 9:

Monday, April 14: Chile in an Age of Middle Class Reform

- Reading due: Patrick Barr-Melej, *Reforming Chile*, Chapter 5 “For Culture and Country,” pp. 141-169 (on e-reserve).

Wednesday, April 16: Gender and Urbanization in Post-Revolutionary Mexico

- Reading due: Katherine Bliss, “The Science of Redemption: Syphilis, Sexual Promiscuity, and Reformism in Revolutionary Mexico City,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 79, Number 1 (February 1999), pp. 1-40 (on e-reserve).

Friday, April 18: Tango

- Video (in class): *Tango*

Week 10:

Monday, April 21: Tango, continued

- Reading due: Eduardo Archetti, *Masculinities: Football, Polo, and the Tango in Argentina*, Chapter 5 “Masculinities and Morality in the Poetics of the Argentinian Tango,” pp. 128-160 (on e-reserve).
- Handout: 5-page paper assignment

Wednesday, April 23: Lecture – Industrialization and Urbanization in Latin America

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Chapter 8 (pp. 249-277).

Friday, April 25: Peron and Populism in Argentina

- Reading due: “Juan Domingo Perón,” in *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*, Vol. 4, pp. 352-354 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: Juan Perón, “Bill of Rights of the Workers,” pp. 1-6 and “Political and Social Situation Prior to the Revolution of 1943,” pp. 3-19 (on e-reserve).

Week 11:

Monday, April 28: Gender and Industrial Work in Colombia

- Reading due: Ann Farnsworth-Alvear, *Dulcinea in the Factory*, Chapter 5 “Gender by the Rules: Anti-Communism and *La Moral*, 1936-1953,” pp. 148-180 (on e-reserve).
- Discussion: Making an argument

Wednesday, April 30: The Guatemalan Revolution and the United States

- Reading due: Piero Gleijeses, *Shattered Hope: The Guatemalan Revolution and the United States, 1944-1954*, Chapter 5 “The United States and Arévalo: Arévalo’s Sins,” pp. 85-116 (on e-reserve).
- Discussion: Writing with sources

Friday, May 2: The Cuban Revolution and the United States

- Reading due: Fidel Castro, "Speech at the United Nations," pp. 1-30 (on e-reserve).
- Reading due: Ed Vulliamy, "Cuba libre," *The Observer*, May 12, 2002, pp. 1-9. Follow this link and click "Text-only version":
<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/magazine/story/0,11913,713953,00.htm>

Week 12:

Monday, May 5: Lecture – Kennedy and the Alliance for Progress

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Chapter 9 (pp. 279-309).
- Reading due: Holden and Zolov, *Latin America and the United States*, Document #83 by John F. Kennedy, pp. 226-228 and Document #88 by Thomas C. Mann, pp. 239-241 (on e-reserve).
- Discussion of the short video *The School of the Americas*, to be seen in class

Wednesday, May 7: Central Station

- Video (in class): *Central Station*
- **5-page paper due by 5PM**

Friday, May 9: The Chilean Revolution, Part I

- Reading due: Peter Winn, *Weavers of Revolution*, Introduction and Part I, pp. 3-75.

Week 13:

Monday, May 12: Central Station

- Video (in class): *Central Station*

Wednesday, May 14: The Chilean Revolution, Part II

- Reading due: Winn, Parts II and III, pp. 79-155.

Friday, May 16: Lecture – Latin America in an Age of Crisis

- Reading due: Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, Chapter 10 (pp. 311-329).
- Handout: Final exam study questions

Week 14: NO WEEKLY PAPER

Monday, May 19: The Chilean Revolution, Part III

- Reading due: Winn, Parts IV and V and Epilogue, pp. 159-256.
- Handout: Current Events Packet

Wednesday, May 21: Latinos in the US Midwest

- Reading due: Ann Millard and Jorge Chapa, *Apple Pie & Enchiladas*, Chapter 1 "Aquí in the Midwest," pp. 1-25 (on e-reserve).

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Every Gustavus Adolphus College student now agrees to abide by the academic honesty policy and honor code as a condition for enrollment. The honesty policy stipulates:

In all academic exercises, examinations, presentations, speeches, papers, and reports, students shall submit their own work. Footnotes or some other acceptable form of citation must accompany any use of another's words or ideas. Students are especially cautioned that quoting from or paraphrasing from electronic sources without proper citation is as serious a violation as copying from a book or other printed source.

In addition, the policy states "a student may not submit work that is substantially the same in two courses without first gaining permission of both instructors if the courses are taken concurrently, or permission of the current instructor, if the work had been submitted in a previous semester."

In this course, any violation of the academic honesty policy will carry the following penalty: failure of the assignment and, at the discretion of Dr. Rao, failure of the course. Students who dispute an allegation of academic dishonesty may request a hearing before a joint student/faculty honor board.

As your instructor I will attempt to clearly define the level of authorized aid appropriate to a particular assignment. However, you are responsible to ask questions about any reasonable doubt you have regarding my definition of authorized aid.

Under the honor code policy, the proctoring of exams is at the discretion of the instructor. I do intend to proctor exams in this course.

Finally, an integral part of the honor code is non-tolerance of violations. Under our code students are not expected to police others' actions. Rather, you agree to report violations of which you become aware. Failure to do so will constitute an honor code violation in this class.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (1990) work together to ensure 'reasonable accommodation' and non-discrimination for students with disabilities in higher education. A student who has a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical, learning, or attentional disability that may have an effect on the student's ability to complete assigned course work should contact the Disability Services Coordinator in the Advising Center, who will review the concerns and decide with the student what accommodations are necessary.