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21H.802 Modern Latin America, 1808-Present: Revolution, Dictatorship, Democracy
Spring 2005

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MODERN LATIN AMERICA, 1850-PRESENT: REVOLUTION, DICTATORSHIP, DEMOCRACY

Subject Description. This class is a selective survey of Latin American history from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. Issues studied will include Latin America in the global economy, relations between Latin America and the US, dictatorships and democracies since 1850, African and Indigenous cultures, feminism and gender, cultural politics, revolution in Mexico, Cuba, and Nicaragua, and Latin American identity.

Subject Requirements. Attendance is mandatory; I will take attendance at each class meeting. Students must come prepared to discuss each day's reading assignments. Students will write two five-page papers, due in class on 3/4 and 5/1. There will be a midterm exam on 3/20, and individual oral presentations in the penultimate week of classes. Instructions for the papers, the midterm, and the oral presentations will be distributed later in the term. There will also be a map quiz on 2/14. Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Class participation	20 points
Map quiz	20 points
Two five-page papers	40 points each (80 points total)
Midterm exam	40 points
<u>Oral Presentation</u>	<u>40 points</u>
TOTAL	200 points

Required Reading. The following books are available for purchase at the MIT Bookstore; they should also be on reserve in the Hayden Library. Other weekly assignments will be available via the web site established for this subject; those readings are indicated by an asterisk (*). All films will be shown in class.

Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, *Modern Latin America* (Sixth Edition)
Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*
José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*
Patricia Politzer, *Fear in Chile: Lives Under Pinochet*

Statement on Cheating and Plagiarism: The web now hosts many sites which offer college-level papers of varying quality on a variety of topics. I am well acquainted with these sites, and with others that offer detection services to professors. **Buying a paper and submitting it as**

your own work is cheating. Copying sections from someone else's print or online work into your own without an acknowledgement is plagiarism. MIT has strict policies against both activities that I will fully enforce. For the appropriate MIT definitions and policies, visit the following websites; links are available on our course web site. If you are uncertain about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please contact me **before** submitting the work in question.

- MIT Online Writing Communication Center: <<http://web.mit.edu/writing>>
- Avoiding Plagiarism: <<http://web.mit.edu/writing/Citation/plagiarism.html>>

CLASS MEETINGS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1:

2/5: Introduction: Conceptualizing Latin American History

1. Skidmore & Smith, 1-12
2. *José Clemente Orozco, *The Epic of American Civilization*. Browse the murals through links available on the course website.

2/7: Geography, Demography, Economy

1. Skidmore & Smith, 13-68

Week 2:

2/12. Argentina, 1850-1930 I

1. Skidmore & Smith, 69-82
2. *Domingo F. Sarmiento, *Facundo, or Civilization and Barbarism* (Penguin, 1998), vii-xx, 9-55

2/14. Argentina, 1850-1930 II

1. *Luis Alberto Romero, *A History of Argentina in the Twentieth Century* trans. James P. Brennan (Penn State, 2002), 1-58
2. *Armando Susman, "Two 2 Tango," <http://www.gardelweb.com/tango-history.htm>
3. *Listen to some tango music: <http://www.radiotango.com/>
4. **Map Quiz**

Week 3:

2/19. No Class, Monday Schedule of Classes

2/21. The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920: Events

1. Skidmore & Smith, 254-74
2. Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*, 3-82

Week 4:

2/26. The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920: Meanings

1. Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*, 85-161

2/28. The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920: Aftermath

1. *"Cárdenas Carries the Revolution to the Left," and "Society and Culture from Obregón to Cárdenas," in Michael C. Meyer, William L. Sherman, and Susan M. Deeds, *The Course of Mexican History* (Oxford, 1999, 6th ed.), 575-601
2. *Thomas Benjamin, "Festival: A Vigorous Mexico Arising," in *La Revolución: Mexico's Great Revolution as Memory, Myth, and History* (Texas, 2000), 99-116

Week 5:

3/4. Latin America and the Global Marketplace

1. Film. *Coffee: A Sack Full of Power*
2. **Five-page paper due**

3/6. The "Whitening, Browning and Blackening" of Latin American

1. *George Reid Andrews, "A Transfusion of New Blood: Whitening, 1880-1930," and "Browning and Blackening, 1930-2000," in *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (Oxford, 2004), 117-90.

Week 6:

3/11. Race and Ideology

1. José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*, 3-40 (and skim the "Introduction" and "Afterward to the 1997 edition," if time permits)

3/13. Latin American Views of North America, ca. 1900

1. *Excerpts from José Martí, José Enrique Rodó, and Rubén Darío, in *People and Issues in Latin American History From Independence to the Present*, Lewis Hanke and Jane M.

Rausch, eds. (Markus Wiener, 1999), 208-33

Week 7:

3/18. North American Views of Latin America, to 1959

1. Skidmore & Smith, 396-417
2. *George W. Critchfield, "The United States is Honor Bound to Maintain Law and Order in South America," in *People and Issues in Latin American History From Independence to the Present*, Lewis Hanke and Jane M. Rausch, eds. (Markus Wiener, 1999), 233-41
3. *John J. Johnson, *Latin America in Caricature* (Texas, 1980), 210-55

3/20. Midterm Exam

SPRING VACATION, MARCH 24-28

Week 8:

4/1. The Cuban Revolution of 1959

1. Skidmore & Smith, 296-327
2. *Hugh Thomas, "The Castro Revolution Was the Culmination of a Long Series of Thwarted Revolutions," in *People and Issues in Latin American History from Independence to the Present*, eds. Lewis Hanke and Jane M. Rausch (Markus Wiener, 1999, 2nd ed.), 308-14
3. *Fidel Castro, "The Duty of a Revolutionary is to Make the Revolution," in *People and Issues in Latin American History from Independence to the Present*, eds. Lewis Hanke and Jane M. Rausch (Markus Wiener, 1999, 2nd ed.), 315-26
4. *Lee Lockwood, "A North American Journalist Interviews Castro," in *People and Issues in Latin American History from Independence to the Present*, eds. Lewis Hanke and Jane M. Rausch (Markus Wiener, 1999, 2nd ed.), 326-45

4/3. Chile: The Overthrow of Salvador Allende, 1973

N.B. Two class sessions this day, one from 2:30-4PM, one from 7 to 8:30 PM

1. Skidmore & Smith, 109-33
2. *Declassified US government documents relating to the September 11, 1973 Chilean Coup: <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB8/nsaebb8i.htm>
3. Film. *The Battle of Chile*

Week 9:

4/8. Fear and Torture in Chile, 1973-1990

1. Skidmore & Smith, 133-38
2. Patricia Politzer, *Fear in Chile: Lives Under Pinochet*, ix-xvii, 1-126, 247-54

4/10. No class session

Week 10:

4/15. Nicaragua: The Struggles of the Sandinistas, 1979-1990

1. Skidmore & Smith, 356-67, 373-80
2. *"Introduction," "Letitia Herrera," "Luz Beatriz Arellano," and "Aida Gutiérrez" in Denis Lynn and Daly Heyck, eds. *Life Stories of the Nicaraguan Revolution*, 1-20, 87-105, 163-82, 333-40
3. *Alma Guillermoprieto, "Managua, 1990," in *The Heart That Bleeds: Latin America Now*, 23-46

4/17. Women, Gender, and Feminism in Twentieth-Century Latin America

1. Skidmore & Smith, review 62-67
2. *Nikki Craske, "Women and Political Identity in Latin America" and "Feminisms in Latin America," in *Women and Politics in Latin America* (Cambridge, 1999), 9-25, 162-91
3. *Eva Perón, "My Mission in Life," in *People and Issues in Latin American History from Independence to the Present*, eds. Lewis Hanke and Jane M. Rausch (Markus Wiener, 1999, 2nd ed.), 251-69
4. *Marguerite Guzman Bouvard, "The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo," and "The Mothers Come Together," in *Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo* (Scholarly Resources, 1994), 1-17, 65-91
5. *Visit the *Madres de Plaza de Mayo* web site: <http://www.madres.org/>

Week 11:

4/22. Patriots' Day – No Class

4/24. Brazil Since the 1950s

1. Skidmore & Smith, 157-80
2. *Robert M. Levine and John J. Crocitti, eds., *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Duke, 1999), 225-97

Week 12:

4/29. Brazil in the Twenty-First Century

1. Film: *Megacities: São Paolo*
2. *Packet of articles to be distributed in class

5/1. Mexico Today: A Conversation with Lyndsay Carlisle

1. **Five-page paper due**
2. Optional Readings:
 - a) Skim Skidmore & Smith, 274-95
 - b) *John Womack, “Chiapas, the Bishop of San Cristóbal, and the Zapatista Revolt,” in *Rebellion in Chiapas: An Historical Reader* (New York, 1999), 3-59
 - c) *Browse “Zapatistas in Cyberspace” for more on the revolt from an international perspective:
<http://www.eco.utexas.edu/Homepages/Faculty/Cleaver/zapsincyber.html>

Week 13:

5/6. Class Presentations

5/8. Class Presentations

Week 14:

5/13. Nicaragua ca. 2003

1. Film. *The World Stopped Watching*

5/15. Memory in Chile

1. Film. *Chile: Obstinate Memory*

NO FINAL EXAMINATION