

## 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 since 1850, relations between Latin America and the US, dictatorships and democracies since 1850, African and indigenous cultures, feminism and gender, cultural politics, revolution in Mexico, Bolivia, 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. There will also be a map quiz on 2/16. Students will participate in two debates, write two five-page papers, and take two in-class exams. Instructions for the debates, the papers, and the exams will be distributed later in the term. There is no final exam in this subject. Assignments will be weighted as follows:

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Class participation  | 10 points                        |
| Map quiz             | 10 points                        |
| Two In-Class Debates | 20 points each (40 points total) |
| Two five-page papers | 35 points each (70 points total) |
| Two exams            | 35 points each (70 points total) |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>200 points</b>                |

**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, Peter H. Smith, & James N. Green, *Modern Latin America*  
(Seventh Edition)

Felipe Fernández-Armesto, *The Americas: A Hemispheric History*

José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*

Patricia Politzer, *Fear in Chile: Lives Under Pinochet*

Forrest D. Colburn, *Latin America at the End of Politics*

**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>>

In addition, The Writing and Communication Center offers free one-on-one professional advice from lecturers who are published writers about all types of academic, creative, and professional writing and about all aspects of oral presentations.

## **CLASS MEETINGS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Week 1:**

#### **2/3: Introduction: Conceptualizing Latin American History**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 3-13
2. Fernández-Armesto, 6-19
3. \* Mark Danner, "To Heal Haiti, Look to History, Not Nature," *New York Times*, January 22, 2010

### **Week 2:**

#### **2/8. Geography, Demography, and the Pre-Columbian and Colonial Periods**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 14-41
2. Fernández-Armesto, 23-97

#### **2/10. Argentina, 1850-1930**

1. Fernández-Armesto, 101-58
2. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 244-59
3. \*Luis Alberto Romero, *A History of Argentina in the Twentieth Century* trans. James P. Brennan (Penn State, 2002), 1-58
4. \*Armando Susman, "Two 2 Tango," <http://www.gardelweb.com/tango-history.htm>
5. \*Listen to some tango music: <http://www.radiotango.com/>

### **Week 3:**

#### **2/15. President's Day - No Class**

#### **2/16. The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920: Background & Events**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 45-54
2. \*William H. Beezely, "Rocks and Rawhide in Rural Society: Tools and Technology in Porfirian Mexico," in *Judas at the Jockey Club, and Other Episodes of Porfirian Mexico* (University of Nebraska Press, 1987), pp. 67-88.
3. \*John Womack, "The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920," in *Mexico Since Independence*, ed. Leslie Bothell (Cambridge UP), 125-200
4. \*Emiliano Zapata, *Plan de Ayala* (1911)
5. **Map Quiz**

#### **2/17. The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920: Meanings & Outcomes**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 54-61
2. \*Mexican Constitution of 1917 (read articles 3, 27, and 123 carefully, skim the remainder)
3. \*"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, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.), 575-601
4. \*Thomas Benjamin, "Festival: A Vigorous Mexico Arising," in *La Revolución: Mexico's Great Revolution as Memory, Myth, and History* (Texas, 2000), 99-116

### **Week 4:**

#### **2/22. The Mexican Revolution: Debate**

#### **2/24. Latin America in the Global Economy I**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 351-75
2. \*Horacio Crespo, "Trade Regimes and the International Sugar Market, 1850-1980: Protectionism, Subsidies, and Regulation," in Topik, et al., *From Silver to Cocaine: Latin American Commodity Chains and the Building of a World Economy, 1500-2000* (Duke UP, 2006), 147-73
3. \*Paul Gootenberg, "Cocaine in Chains: The Rise and Demise of a Global Commodity," in Topik, et al., *From Silver to Cocaine: Latin American Commodity Chains and the Building of a World Economy, 1500-2000* (Duke UP, 2006), 321-51

## Week 5:

### **3/1. Latin America and the Global Economy II**

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

### **3/3. Race and Ideology**

1. José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*, 3-40 (and skim the “Introduction” and “Afterward to the 1997 edition,” if time permits)
2. \*George Reid Andrews, “Browning and Blackening, 1930-2000,” in *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000* (Oxford, 2004), 153-90.

## Week 6:

### **3/8. Vargas-Era Brazil, 1930-1954**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 306-30
2. \*Robert M. Levine, “The Estado Novo, 1937-1945” and “Populism, Vargas Style,” in *Father of the Poor? Vargas and His Era* (Cambridge, 1998), 50-96
3. \*Daryle Williams, “Museums and Memory,” in *Culture Wars in Brazil; The First Vargas Regime, 1930-45* (Duke, 2001), 135-56
4. \* “Ordinary People: Five Lives Affected by Vargas-Era Reforms,” in Levine and Crocitti, eds. *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Duke, 1999), 206-21.

### **3/10. The Bolivian Revolution of 1952**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 150-83
2. \*Herbert Klein, *A Concise History of Bolivia*, (Cambridge, 2003), 178-238
3. \*Teresa Meade, “Americas in Transition: Guatemala and Bolivia,” in *A History of Modern Latin America, 1880-to the Present* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), 225-33

## Week 7:

### **3/15. Brazil From Vargas to Military Dictatorship, 1954-1964**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 330-40
2. \*E. Bradford Burns, “Reform, Radicalization, and Reaction,” in *A History of Brazil* (Columbia, 1993, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), 381-444
3. \*Documents on the Military Coup of 1964 and Its Immediate Aftermath, in Levine and Crocitti, eds. *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Duke, 1999), 231-47

### 3/17. First Exam

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#### SPRING VACATION, MARCH 22-26

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### Week 8:

#### 3/29: Latin America and North America View Each Other

1. Fernández-Armesto, 161-88
2. \*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
3. \*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
4. \*John J. Johnson, *Latin America in Caricature* (Texas, 1980), 210-55

#### 3/31: The Guatemalan Coup of 1954

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 82-97, 108-11
2. \*James Dunkerley, *Power in the Isthmus: A Political History of Modern Central America*, 133-52
3. \*Walter Lafeber, *Inevitable Revolutions: The United States in Central America* (1993, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition), 113-27
4. \*Greg Grandin, “An Uncorrupted Life,” in *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War* (Chicago, 2004), 47-71

### Week 9:

#### 4/5. The Cuban Revolution of 1959 & After

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 121-49
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), 326-45

**4/7. 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, & Green, 278-301
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 10:**

**4/12. Fear and Torture in Chile, 1973-1990**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 302-5
2. Patricia Politzer, *Fear in Chile: Lives Under Pinochet*, ix-xvii, 1-126, 247-54

**4/14. 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

**Week 11:**

**4/19. No Class – Patriots Day Holiday**

**4/21. Debate: US Interventions in Latin America, 1954-1990**

**Week 12:**

**4/26. Women, Gender, and Feminism in Twentieth-Century Latin America**

1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 259-77
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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>

**4/28. Memory in Chile**

1. Film: *Chile: Obstinate Memory*
2. **Second five-page paper due**

**Week 13:**

**5/3. Latin America at the Outset of the Twenty-First Century**

1. Forrest D. Colburn, *Latin America at the End of Politics*, all

**5/5. Brazil Today: A Conversation With Tom Schilling**

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

**Week 14:**

**5/10. Individual Consultations With Instructor**

**5/12. Second Exam**

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**NO FINAL EXAMINATION**

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