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21H.802 Modern Latin America, 1900-Present: Revolution, Dictatorship, Democracy  
Spring 2005

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21H.802  
Spring 2006  
MW 2:30-4

Instructor: Jeff Ravel

## 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 and Cuba, 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 3/8 and 4/26. There will be a midterm exam on 3/22, and a final exam on a date to be set by the Registrar. Instructions for the papers and exams will be distributed later in the term. There will also be a map quiz on 2/22. Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Class participation	30 points
Map quiz	20 points
Two five-page papers	30 points each (60 points total)
Midterm exam	30 points
<u>Final exam</u>	<u>60 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 course website 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. 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:**

**2/8: Introduction: The Nation-State in Modern Latin America**

### **Week 2:**

**2/13. Conceptualizing Latin America**

1. Skidmore & Smith, 1-12.
2. Gabriel García Márquez, "The Solitude of Latin America: Nobel Address, 1982," <http://nobelprize.org/literature/laureates/1982/marquez-lecture-e.html>
3. José Clemente Orozco, *The Epic of American Civilization*. Browse the murals at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/Orozco/>

**2/15. Geography, Demography, Economy**

1. Skidmore & Smith, 13-68.

### **Week 3:**

**2/20. President's Day – No Class, Monday Schedule of Classes Held on:**

**2/21. Argentina, 1850-1930 I**

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

## **2/22. 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 4:**

### **2/27. The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920: Events**

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

### **3/1. The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920: Meanings**

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

## **Week 5:**

### **3/6. 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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

### **3/8. Latin America and the Global Marketplace**

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

## **Week 6:**

### **3/13. 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.

### **3/15. 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. \*Gilbert Freyre, "Brazil as a European Civilization in the Tropics", in *New World in the Tropics: The Culture of Modern Brazil* (New York, 1959), 141-65

**Week 7:**

**3/20. 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

**3/22. Midterm Exam**

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**SPRING VACATION, MARCH 27-31**  
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**Week 8:**

**4/3. 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

**4/5. 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, 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

**Week 9:**

**4/10. Chile: The Overthrow of Salvador Allende, 1973**

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* (excerpts in class)

**4/12. 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

**Week 10:**

**4/17. Patriots' Day – No Class**

**4/19. 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, 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

**Week 11:**

**4/24. 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

**4/26. Nicaragua ca. 2003**

1. Film. *The World Stopped Watching*
2. **Five-page paper due**

**Week 12:**

**5/1. Mexico: The Zapatista Revolt, 1994-Present**

1. Skim Skidmore & Smith, 274-95
2. \*John Womack, “Chiapas, the Bishop of San Cristóbal, and the Zapatista Revolt,” in *Rebellion in Chiapas: An Historical Reader* (New York, 1999), 3-59
3. \*“Zapatista Army of Liberation,” at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zapatista\\_Army\\_of\\_National\\_Liberation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zapatista_Army_of_National_Liberation) (read for post-1999 update)
4. Browse “Zapatistas in Cyberspace” for more on the revolt from an international perspective: <http://www.eco.utexas.edu/Homepages/Faculty/Cleaver/zapsincyber.html>

**5/3. Grass-Roots Activism in Argentina Today: A Conversation with Jesse Barnes**

**Week 13:**

**5/8. 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

**5/10. Lula Comes to Power**

1. Film: *Lula’s Brazil*

**Week 14:**

**5/15. Hugo Chávez and the Rejection of Neoliberalism, 2000-2006**

1. Selected articles from the *New York Times* (to be handed out in class)

**5/17. Conclusion: The Future of Latin America?**

1. Skidmore and Smith, 440-55

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**Final Examination TBA**