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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Map quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two In-Class Debates</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two five-page papers</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>Two exams</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>200</td>
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**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.

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

**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
Week 3:

2/15. President’s Day - No Class

2/16. The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920: Background & Events
   1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 45-54
   4. *Emiliano Zapata, Plan de Ayala (1911)
   5. Map Quiz

   1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 54-61
   2. *Mexican Constitution of 1917 (read articles 3, 27, and 123 carefully, skim the remainder)

Week 4:

2/22. The Mexican Revolution: Debate

2/24. Latin America in the Global Economy I

   1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 351-75
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)

Week 6:

   1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 306-30
   3. *Daryle Williams, “Museums and Memory,” in Culture Wars in Brazil; The First Vargas Regime, 1930-45 (Duke, 2001), 135-56

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

Week 7:

   1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 330-40
3/17. First Exam

SPRING VACATION, MARCH 22-26

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

Week 9:

4/5. The Cuban Revolution of 1959 & After
   1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 121-49
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
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

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

Week 11:

4/19. No Class – Patriots Day Holiday


Week 12:

4/26. Women, Gender, and Feminism in Twentieth-Century Latin America
1. Skidmore, Smith, & Green, 259-77
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,


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

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