MODERN LATIN AMERICA, 1900-PRESENT: REVOLUTION, DICTATORSHIP, DEMOCRACY

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

Subject Requirements. Class attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance each week; students who miss more than one class session will fail the subject. Students must come prepared to discuss each week’s assignments. Students will complete ten homework assignments, due as indicated on the syllabus. Class presentations, in groups of two and three students, will be due in class on April 4. Instructions for the homework assignments and class presentations will be distributed later in the term. There will also be a map quiz and a comprehensive final exam. Assignments will be weighted as follows:

Nine homework assigns. 10 points each (90 points total)
Map Quiz 10 points
Class Presentation 30 points
Final Exam 70 points
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
Ariel Dorfman, Heading South, Looking North: A Bilingual Journey

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:

No Monday Class.

Week 2:

2/7. Introduction.
   1. Skidmore & Smith, 1-68.
   2. José Clemente Orozco, The Epic of American Civilization. Browse the murals at
      http://www.dartmouth.edu/~library/Orozco/
   3. Film: Coffee. A Sack Full of Power

Week 3:

2/14. Social and Political Democratization: Argentina, 1880 to 1930 (and some tangos)
   1. Skidmore & Smith, 69-82 (also 144-57 on Brazil in this period)
   4. Listen to some tango music: http://www.radiotango.com/
   5. Map Quiz
   6. Homework #1 Due

Week 4:

2/21. Presidents’ Day – No Classes. Monday Schedule of Classes held on:
2/22. **The Mexican Revolution and Its Aftermath**
1. Skidmore & Smith, 254-74
4. **Homework #2 Due**

**Week 5:**

2/28. **Authoritarian Populism in Brazil: 1930-1964**
1. Skidmore & Smith, review 144-57, read 157-71 (also 82-94 on Argentina in this period)
4. **Homework #3 Due**

**Week 6:**

3/7. **The “Browning and Blackening” of Latin American Ideology: Mestizaje and Luso-Tropicalism (2 hours only)**
4. **Homework #4 Due**

7 PM. Place TBA.

**Week 7:**

1. Skidmore & Smith, 396-417
4. **Homework #5 Due**
SPRING VACATION, MARCH 21-25

Week 8:

3/28. The Cuban Revolution
1. Skidmore & Smith, 296-327
4. Film: Fond Memories of Cuba
5. Homework #6 Due

Week 9:

4/4. Class Presentations

Week 10:

4/11. Class Presentations

Week 11:

4/18. NO CLASS – PATRIOTS DAY

Week 12:

4/25. The Southern Cone After the Cuban Revolution: Coups, Military Dictatorships, and the Legacy of Torture
2. Ariel Dorfman, Heading South, Looking North, chapters 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15
4. Film: The Battle of Chile (excerpts)
5. **Homework #7 Due**

**Week 13:**

5/2. **Women, Gender, and Feminism in Twentieth-Century Latin America**
1. Skidmore & Smith, 62-67
5. *“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
6. **Homework #8 Due**

**Week 14:**

5/9. **Latin American Identity at the Outset of the Twenty-First Century: Politics, Economics, Religion**
2. Skidmore & Smith, 246-253, 440-55
4. A selection of recent articles from the *New York Times*, to be handed out in class
5. Film: *Televangelism in Brazil*
6. **Homework #9 Due**

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5/20: **Final Examination, 1:30-4:30 pm**