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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map quiz</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two five-page papers</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>60</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 course website established for this subject; those readings are indicated by an asterisk (*). All films will be shown in class.

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

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
2/22. Argentina, 1850-1930 II
   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:


3/8. 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

3/15. Race and Ideology
Week 7:

3/20. Latin American Views of North America, ca. 1900
   1. *Excerpts from José Martí, José Enrique Rodó, and Rubén Dario, 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:

   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

Week 9:

4/10. Chile: The Overthrow of Salvador Allende, 1973
   1. Skidmore & Smith, 109-33
   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  

Week 11:

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  

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  
   4. Browse “Zapatistas in Cyberspace” for more on the revolt from an international perspective: [http://www.eco.utexas.edu/Homepages/Faculty/Cleaver/zapsincyber.html](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  

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**