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, 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. Students will write two five-page papers, due in class on 3/4 and 5/1. There will be a midterm exam on 3/20, and individual oral presentations in the penultimate week of classes. Instructions for the papers, the midterm, and the oral presentations will be distributed later in the term. There will also be a map quiz on 2/14. 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>20</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>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<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.

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
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>

CLASS MEETINGS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1:

2/5: Introduction: Conceptualizing Latin American History
   1. Skidmore & Smith, 1-12
   2. *José Clemente Orozco, The Epic of American Civilization. Browse the murals through
      links available on the course website.

2/7: Geography, Demography, Economy
   1. Skidmore & Smith, 13-68

Week 2:

2/12. Argentina, 1850-1930 I
   1. Skidmore & Smith, 69-82

2/14. Argentina, 1850-1930 II
      Brennan (Penn State, 2002), 1-58
   4. Map Quiz

Week 3:

2/19. No Class, Monday Schedule of Classes
   1. Skidmore & Smith, 254-74
   2. Mariano Azuela, *The Underdogs*, 3-82

Week 4:

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


Week 5:

3/4. Latin America and the Global Marketplace
   1. Film. *Coffee: A Sack Full of Power*
   2. Five-page paper due

3/6. The “Whitening, Browning and Blackening” of Latin American

Week 6:

3/11. Race and Ideology

3/13. 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.
Week 7:

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

3/20. Midterm Exam

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SPRING VACATION, MARCH 24-28
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Week 8:

4/1. The Cuban Revolution of 1959
1. Skidmore & Smith, 296-327

4/3. 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, 109-33
3. Film. The Battle of Chile

Week 9:

1. Skidmore & Smith, 133-38

4/10. No class session

**Week 10:**

   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

4/17. **Women, Gender, and Feminism in Twentieth-Century Latin America**
   1. Skidmore & Smith, review 62-67

**Week 11:**

4/22. **Patriots’ Day – No Class**

4/24. **Brazil Since the 1950s**
   1. Skidmore & Smith, 157-80

**Week 12:**

4/29. **Brazil in the Twenty-First Century**
1. Film: *Megacities: São Paolo*
2. *Packet of articles to be distributed in class

**5/1. Mexico Today: A Conversation with Lyndsay Carlisle**
1. Five-page paper due
2. Optional Readings:
   a) Skim Skidmore & Smith, 274-95
   b) *John Womack, “Chiapas, the Bishop of San Cristóbal, and the Zapatista Revolt,” in Rebellion in Chiapas: An Historical Reader (New York, 1999), 3-59*
   c) *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)*

**Week 13:**

**5/6. Class Presentations**

**5/8. Class Presentations**

**Week 14:**

**5/13. Nicaragua ca. 2003**
1. Film. *The World Stopped Watching*

**5/15. Memory in Chile**
1. Film. *Chile: Obstinate Memory*

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**NO FINAL EXAMINATION**