



Introduction to Latin American History

HISL 171-01 – Fall 2007 – Hebert Hall 213 – TR 11:00am – 12:15am

Prof. Justin Wolfe
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Latin America is rich in history and contradictions. Despite widespread poverty and inequality, the regions have produced some of the world's most diverse, interesting, beautiful and provocative cultural movements—from Mexico's revolutionary murals to “magical realist” literature, from *ranchero* music to *samba* to *rock en español*. Through conquest and colonization, independence struggles and nation-building, imperialism and neo-colonialism, dictatorship and revolution, the peoples of Latin America have asserted their political, economic, social and cultural identity.

This survey of Latin American history will approach a wide range of countries and issues, emphasizing social, cultural, economic and political transformations. Although the course is roughly chronological in format, students will be expected to think in terms of issues and trends. In this class, students will gain a new understanding of the modern world in which they live as they grasp the most important themes in Latin American history and learn to critically approach both primary and secondary texts and communicate their ideas both verbally and in writing. **Note:** *This syllabus may be subject to change.*

HONOR CODE AND POLICY

Academic honesty is expected of all students at Tulane. Your responsibilities as a Tulane student include being familiar with the honor code and the plagiarism policy of the University. Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Board and may result in a failing grade, academic probation or expulsion.

GRADING POLICY

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- 2 short (5 page) papers (20% each = 40%)
- 2 map quizzes (5% each = 10%)
- Mid-term Exam (15%)
- Final Exam (25%)
- Attendance/participation (10%)

Please mark your calendar with the dates listed in this syllabus (assignments are marked in the syllabus with ☐). All papers must be turned in by the end of the class meeting on the date they are due. After this time assignments are considered late. Late assignments that have not been cleared with me at least 48 HOURS BEFORE THE DUE DATE, will be marked down one letter grade for each day that they are late (e.g., from a “A” to a “B”, etc.). **Note:** *Assignments not turned in by the final exam will receive no credit.*

READINGS FOR THE COURSE

All of the following books are available for purchase at the University Book Store.

Azuela, Mariano, *The Underdogs*. New York: Modern Library, 2002.

John Charles Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2000.

R. Douglas Cope, *The Limits of Racial Domination: Plebeian Society in Colonial Mexico City, 1660-1720*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1994.

Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Readings marked with ☼ in the syllabus are available on the BlackBoard site for this course. Download, print and read these items.

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND SCHEDULE

Part 1: Worlds Collide (~1000 to 1540s)

Lectures

8/31	Introduction
9/4	No class – Latin American Studies Association Meeting
9/6	No class – Latin American Studies Association Meeting
9/11	People and Places (1)
9/13	People and Places (2)
9/18	Conquest and Resistance

Readings

Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, introduction and ch. 1

☼Matthew Restall, “Gaspar Antonio Chi: Bridging the Conquest of the Yucatán.”

Part 2: Creating Empire (1540s to 1750s)

Lectures

9/20	Political and Religious Institutions ☐ Colonial map quiz in class today
9/25	Race, Class and Gender
9/27	The Colonial Economy (1)
10/2	The Colonial Economy (2)

Readings

Cope, *The Limits of Racial Domination*, all

Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, ch. 2

⊕ Christiana Borchart de Moreno, “Victorina Loza: Quiteña Merchant in the Second Half of the Eighteenth Century.”

Part 3: Crisis, Reform and Independence (1750s to 1820s)

Lectures

10/4 Creoles, Peninsulares and Bourbon Reforms ▣ Paper #1 is due today in class

10/9 The Independence Struggles (1)

10/11 The Independence Struggles (2)

10/16 ▣ Mid-term exam - in class – Bring your own blue book!

Readings

Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, ch. 3

⊕ Angela Batallas, “A Fight for Freedom in Guayaquil.”

⊕ Sarah C. Chambers, “What Independence Meant for Women.”

⊕ Simón Bolívar, “The Jamaica Letter” and “The Congress at Angostura.”

Part 4: Making States and Nations (1820s to 1900s)

Lectures

10/18 Imagining the Nation, Imagining Latin America

10/23 Death, Taxes and State Building

10/25 Liberalism, Order and Progress ▣ Modern map quiz in class today

10/30 U.S. - Latin American Relations, 19th-century

Readings

Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, chs. 4-5

Azuela, *The Underdogs*, all

⊕ Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, selection from *Facundo, or Civilization and Barbarism* (1845)

Part 5: Modernity, Reform and Revolution (1900s to 1970s)

Lectures

11/1 The Mexican Revolution

11/6 Immigration and Populist Reform

11/8 The Cuban Revolution

11/13 Chile’s Democratic Path to Socialism

11/15 U.S. - Latin American Relations, 20th Century ▣ Paper #2 is due today in class

Readings

Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, chs. 6-7

Grandin, *Last Colonial Massacre*, all

Part 6: Despotism to Democracy (1970s to today)

Lectures

- 11/20 No class – Thanksgiving Break
- 11/22 No class – Thanksgiving Break
- 11/27 Dictators and Tyrants
- 11/29 Film: “Four Days in September” (part 1)
- 12/4 Film: “Four Days in September” (part 2)
- 12/6 What’s Old is New Again: Neo-Liberalism

Readings

- Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, chs. 8-10
- ⊕Volk, “The Lessons and Legacy of a Dark Decade”
- ⊕Rosenberg, “Globalization”

FINAL EXAM – Thursday, Dec. 13, 9:00am to noon – Bring your own blue book!