



Modern Economic History of Latin America

HISL 396-02(H) – Spring 2007 – Gibson 126 – TR 12:30-1:45pm

Prof. Justin Wolfe

Office Hours: W 1:30 - 4:00 PM or by appt.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the economic history of Latin America from its independence in the 1820s through the debt crisis of the 1980s and the subsequent consolidation of neoliberalism to the more recent alternatives promoted by neo-populists like Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales. Our focus will be both the material and symbolic worlds of labor, production, trade, and consumption. Moreover, we will alternate between microeconomic and macroeconomic discussions and analyses—from the economic decisions of individuals, families and firms in rural and urban locales to the national-level patterns of growth, prices, and trade and related policies. We will also be examining theoretical debates on the transformation of Latin America's economies, particularly their critiques and goals. As we grapple with Latin America's complex economic reality, we will turn to an interdisciplinary set of readings in economics, political science, sociology, anthropology and history.

For this class, I have created a “wiki”—an interactive website based on the structure of Wikipedia. All class writings and assignments will be completed online through the wiki. You will have to create an account on the wiki and be signed in to use it.

GRADING POLICY AND ASSIGNMENTS

The success of this class depends on your critical reading and active participation in discussion. Each week for which we have readings, you must post on the course wiki a concise and relevant question about one of the readings. The success of this class depends on your active critical reading and participation in discussion. Be prepared!

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- Research essay proposal and preliminary bibliography (10%)
- Project presentation (10%)
- Terms (10%)
- Research essay (40%)
- Peer-review comments (10%)
- Participation/Discussion (20%)

Descriptions of all assignments will be available on the wiki.

Five absences from class will result in your automatic withdrawal from the class. All assignments are due in class on the date noted. If you turn in an assignment late without having cleared it with me 48 HOURS BEFORE THE DUE DATE, you will be marked down one letter grade for each day that it is

late (e.g., from a “A” to a “B”, etc.). All emergency excuses must be received through your academic advisor.

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.

BOOKS FOR THE COURSE

All of the following books are available for purchase at the University Book Store. You can also buy them online. The class wiki contains links to these books (including used copies). All readings marked with ☼ should be downloaded from links on the class wiki.

Victor Bulmer-Thomas, *The Economic History of Latin America since Independence* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003). [Hereafter cited as EHLA.]

Edward F. Fischer and Peter Benson, *Broccoli and Desire: Global Connections And Maya Struggles in Postwar Guatemala* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006).

Jeffry A. Frieden, Manuel Pastor, and Michael Tomz, eds., *Modern Political Economy and Latin America: Theory and Policy* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2000). [Hereafter cited as MPELA.]

John Soluri, *Banana Cultures: Agriculture, Consumption, and Environmental Change in Honduras and the United States* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2006).

COURSE ORGANIZATION AND SCHEDULE

1/16 Introduction to class

1/18 Theories and Terms (1)

- ☼ Valenzuela, J. Samuel, and Arturo Valenzuela. “Modernization and Dependency: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Latin American Underdevelopment.” *Comparative Politics* 10, no. 4 (July 1978): 535–57.
- Frieden, Jeffry A., Manuel Pastor Jr., and Michael Tomz, “Introduction: Modern Political Economy and the Policy Revolution in Latin America,” in MPELA, xi-xix.
- Frieden, Jeffry A., “The Method of Analysis: Modern Political Economy,” in MPELA, 37-43.

1/23 Theories and Terms (2)

- ☼ Coatsworth, John H. “Structures, Endowments, and Institutions in the Economic History of Latin America.” *Latin American Research Review* 40, no. 3 (2005): 126–44.
- Geddes, Barbara, “Uses and Limitations of Rational Choice,” in MPELA, 81-92.

1/25 Research and Resources

- MLAEH wiki “how to” documents. Specific documents to be announced.

1/30 Independence Experiments (1820s to 1850s) (1)

- *EHLA*, ch. 1

2/1 Independence Experiments (1820s to 1850s) (2)

- *EHLA*, ch. 2

2/6 No class

2/8 Export-Led Economies in the Age of “Liberal Modernization” (1850s to 1910s) (1)

- *EHLA*, chs. 3-4.

2/13 Export-Led Economies in the Age of “Liberal Modernization” (1850s to 1910s) (2)

- *EHLA*, ch. 5.

2/15 Export-Led Economies in the Age of “Liberal Modernization” (1850s to 1910s) (3)

- Coatsworth, John H., “Obstacles to Economic Growth in Nineteenth-Century Mexico,” in *MPELA*, 97-109.
- Leff, Nathaniel H., “Economic Retardation in Nineteenth-Century Brazil,” in *MPELA*, 110-121.
- Engerman, Stanley L. and Kenneth L. Sokoloff, “Factor Endowments, Institutions, and Differential Paths of Growth Among New World Economies: A View from Economic Historians of the United States,” in *MPELA*, 122-133.

2/20 No class – Mardi Gras!

2/22 World War I and the Great Depression (1910s to 1930s) (1)

- *EHLA*, ch. 6.

2/27 World War I and the Great Depression (1910s to 1930s) (2)

- *EHLA*, ch. 7.

3/1 State-Led Industrialization (1930s to 1950s) (1)

- *EHLA*, ch. 8.
- Cardoso, Eliana and Ann Helwege, “Import Substitution Industrialization,” in *MPELA*, 155-164.

3/6 State-Led Industrialization (1910s to 1950s) (2)

- *EHLA*, ch. 9.

- ☉ Hirschman, Albert O., “The Political Economy of Latin American Development: Seven Exercises in Retrospection,” *Latin American Research Review* 22, no. 3 (1987): 7-36.
- Dornbusch, Rudiger, “The Case for Trade Liberalization in Developing Countries,” in *MPELA*, 173-177.
- Pastor, Manuel and Carol Wise, “The Origins of Mexico’s Free Trade Policy,” in *MPELA*, 178-185.

3/8 Project Presentations (1)

- Students will briefly present their research topic and relevant context in 5 minute presentations with Q&A. Students presenting today must post their proposal and annotated bibliography by 5pm today.

3/13 Project Presentations (2)

- Students will briefly present their research topic and relevant context in 5 minute presentations with Q&A. Students presenting today must post their proposal and annotated bibliography by 5pm today.

3/15 Debt-Led Growth (1960s to 1970s)

- *EHLA*, ch. 10.

3/20-3/22 No class – Spring Break

3/27 The Debt Crisis and Adjustment (1980s to the present) (1)

- *EHLA*, ch. 11.
- Geddes, Barbara, “Challenging the Conventional Wisdom,” in *MPELA*, 237-246.
- Haggard, Stephan, “Democratic Institutions, Economic Policy, and Development” in *MPELA*, 247-260.

3/29 The Debt Crisis and Adjustment (1980s to the present) (2)

- *EHLA*, ch. 12.
- Sachs, Jeffrey D., “External Debt and Macroeconomic Performance in Latin America and East Asia,” in *MPELA*, 209-216.
- Interamerican Development Bank, “Facing Up to Inequality in Latin America,” in *MPELA*, 287-297.
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), “Income Distribution, Capital Accumulation, and Growth,” in *MPELA*, 298-306.

4/3 No class – work on papers

4/5 No class – work on papers.

- Complete draft essays must be posted to MLAEH wiki by Saturday, 4/7 at 5pm.

4/10-4/17 Case Study: The Traditional Tropical Exports Economy: Bananas in Honduras

- Soluri, John, *Banana Cultures*. Read introduction and chapters 1-2 for 4/10. Read chapters 3-5 for 4/12. Read chapters 6-8 for 4/17.
- Peer-review comments on assigned essays are due by Saturday, 4/14 at 5pm.

4/19-4/26 Case Study: The New Niche Export Economy: Broccoli in Guatemala

- Fischer, Edward F. and Peter Benson, *Broccoli and Desire*. Read chapters 1-2 for 4/19. Read chapters 3-4 for 4/24. Read chapters 5-6 for 4/26.

5/1 Wrap-up

Wiki must be updated with final essays by Friday, 5/11 at 5pm.