This course will survey the history of Latin America from the early nineteenth century to the present. This period witnessed both the construction of polities based on national states and the evolution of capitalist economies. The course will focus on how social movements both reflected and drove these two major transformations. Areas of concern will include the social implications of various models of economic development, the opportunities and problems which result from economic ties to wealthy countries, changing ethnic, gender, and class relations in Latin America, and the diverse efforts of Latin American people to construct stable and equitable political systems. The general approach of the course will be thematic but examples will be drawn from the histories of various Latin American countries, including Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Peru, Chile, Peru, Guatemala, El Salvador and Cuba.

Required Books (Available at the Bookstore)


**Don’t be fooled by the chapter numbers listed below. We will be reading almost all of this volume of Keen.

Requirements:

You are required to complete reading assignments by the day on which we will discuss them. In addition there will be two essay exams and a short paper. The first essay exam will be held on FEB. 17 in class. The second will be held during finals week.

The short paper for this class will be due during our class meeting on MARCH 24. You will be penalized for each day this assignment is late. Your paper should be 4-6 pages long.

Grading:

Midterm  20%

Paper     30%

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Final 50%

Week 1: The Colonial Legacy
Reading: Lauderdale Graham, House and Street, 1-58
Jan. 11 Introduction Jan. 13 Production and Politics in Colonial Latin America

Week 2 Colonialism and Independence
Reading: Keen Chapter 9
Jan. 18 Class, Ethnicity and Gender in Early Latin America Jan. 20 Latin American Independence

Week 3: The Search for Order
Reading: Lauderdale Graham, House and Street, 59-137
Jan. 25 Mexico: Rural Unrest and Foreign Interventions Jan. 27 Brazil: Empire and Social Control

Week 4: The Promise of Export-Oriented Development
Reading: Keen, Chapter 10
Feb. 1 Discussion of House and Street Feb. 3 Argentina's Revolution on the Pampas

Week 5 The Costs and Perils of Export-Oriented Development
Reading: Keen, Chapter 12
Feb. 8 Chile and Peru: Development and Foreign Intervention Feb. 10 The Mexican Revolution

Week 6: Food for Thought
Feb. 15 Export-Oriented Development Reprised Feb. 17 Midterm Exam

Week 7: Urbanization, Populism, and Import Substitution
Keen, Chapter 12; Begin Allende, The House of Spirits

Week 8: Revolutions and U.S. Intervention
Keen, Chapter 17; Continue Allende, The House of Spirits
March 1 Guatemala: Revolution, Intervention, Aftermath March 3 The Cuban Revolution

Week 9 Reform and Response
Finish Allende, The House of Spirits

March 8 Chile, 1950-1973 March 10 Discussion of The House of Spirits

Week 10: Dictatorship and Repression

Reading: Begin Partnoy, The Little School

March 22 Film: The Official Story March 24 Film: The Official Story

Week 11 Dictatorship and Repression, cont.

Reading: Finish Partnoy, The Little School

March 29 "El Proceso" in Argentina March 31 Discussion of The Little School and The Official Story

Week 12 Crisis in Central America

Reading: Keen, Chapter 18

April 5 Civil War in El Salvador April 7 The Nicaraguan Revolution

Week 13 Authoritarianism and Foreign Debt

Reading: Start Alvarez, Engendering Democracy

April 12 Video: Capital Sins: Authoritarianism and Democratization April 14 Debt and Liberalization

Week 14 Gender and Migration

Reading: Continue Alvarez, Engendering Democracy

April 19 Video: Continent on the Move: Migration and Urbanization April 21 Gender in Contemporary Latin America

Week 15 Review and Speculation

Reading: Finish Alvarez, Engendering Democracy

April 26 Discussion of Engendering Democracy April 28 Review

Information provider:
Unit: H-Net program at UIC History Department Email: H-Net@uicvm.uic.edu
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