This course examines the origins and historical development of modern-day nations in Latin America. Of particular concern are the ways in which issues related to economic growth, national identity, and political participation have been contested and understood at both the elite and popular level from the late eighteenth century to the present. Attention will be paid to both general historical trends that impacted the region as a whole and specific national case studies.

Given the size of enrollment, this will be a lecture-based course with supplemental discussion and informal small group activities. Previous knowledge of the region is not expected or required.

Required Readings

There are seven major texts for this course, all of which can be purchased at the bookstore. A copy of each is also available on closed-reserve at the library.


Samuel Brunk and Ben Fallaw, eds., Heroes & Hero Cults in Latin America (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2006).


Peter Winn, Weavers of Revolution: The Yarur Workers and Chile’s Road to Socialism (Oxford University Press, 1986).

In addition to the seven required texts, you will be asked to read a number of excerpted selections. Unless otherwise indicated, the readings can be accessed via e-reserves.


Jacobo Timerman, Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number, translated by Toby Talbot (New York: Knopf, 1981), 42-59. [closed reserves]

Evaluation

Your final grade will be based on four principal components. They are:

1. Attendance and participation 10%
2. Map Quiz 5%
3. Analysis Paper 25%
4. Midterm Exam 25%
5. Final Exam 35%

Ten percent of your final grade will be based on your attendance record and level of participation and engagement in all course-related activities. All students are expected to come to class prepared to share their questions and interpretations of the assigned reading.

Another five percent of your final grade will be based on a map quiz given in class on Monday, January 14. You will be provided a blank political map of Latin America (meaning it will only include national boundaries; no names of cities, countries, geographic formations, etc.) on which you will be asked to identify a select number of countries and national capitals.

An in-class midterm examination will take place on Friday, February 1. Its format is yet to be determined, although you can expect an essay component. Questions will most likely concern your understanding of the historical interpretations raised by the readings and lecture, and how they relate to some of the primary sources we have read.

You will also be asked to write a document analysis paper (5-7 pages in length) on Carolina Maria de Jesus’s Child of the Dark. The paper should offer both a close reading of the text and an effort to link the analysis to larger conceptual themes concerning Latin American history. I will provide further instructions and some possible framing questions for the essay later on in the term. The paper is due by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 15.

N.B.: Late paper policy: Out of fairness to the rest of the class, assignments submitted after the designated deadline will be deducted one-third of a grade for each day late. Thus, a
paper otherwise meriting a “B+,” but submitted on Sunday, February 17, will be given a “B-”
(deducted for 2 late days). I will consider waiving the policy only in cases caused by exceptional
circumstances, such as health problems or a family emergency. It remains your responsibility,
however, to inform me of your situation as soon as possible.

A final exam will comprise the final thirty-five percent of your course grade. The format
is yet to be determined, but it may include questions concerning the definition and historical
significance of key terms from the course, short responses, and interpretative essays. You can
expect to discuss the cumulative lessons of the course in some of your answers (in other words,
the test will not be limited to material covered since the last writing assignment).

**Tentative Course Outline** (assigned readings are to be completed by the date they appear)

Sun, January 6: Course Introduction ***(Leighton 305, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Early Nation-Building &amp; Politics (weeks 2-3)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, January 7: Colonial Tensions &amp; Creole Patriotism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Chasteen &amp; Wood, 1-21, 49-63</td>
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<td>Read: Fernández de Lizardi, 364-374</td>
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<td>Wed, January 9: Spanish-American Independence Movements</td>
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<td>Read: Chasteen &amp; Wood, 23-44, 276</td>
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<td>Read: Alamán, “The Siege of Guanajuato,” 171-188</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri, January 11: Simón Bolívar &amp; Early Nation-Building Efforts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Brunk &amp; Fallaw, 21-57</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Bolívar, “Jamaica Letter,” 151-171</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Chasteen &amp; Wood, 286-287</td>
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<td>Mon, January 14: Caudillo Rule</td>
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<td>Read: Chasteen, 1-60</td>
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<td>Read: Brunk &amp; Fallaw, 58-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Chasteen &amp; Wood, 77-87</td>
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<td>MAP QUIZ</td>
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<td>Wed, January 16: Elite Ideologies and Rivalries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Chasteen, 61-124</td>
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<td>Read: Chasteen &amp; Wood, 103-126, 203-210</td>
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<td>Fri, January 18: The Rural Poor and Politics</td>
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<td>Read: Chasteen, 125-181</td>
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<td>Read: Chasteen &amp; Wood, 87-101</td>
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<tr>
<th>II. The Neocolonial Order (weeks 4-5)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, January 21: Slavery and Freedom in Comparative Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read: Barnet, <em>Biography of a Runaway Slave</em>, 11-57, 203-208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read: Chasteen &amp; Wood, 63-66</td>
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</table>
Wed, January 23: Race & Nation in Fin de Siècle Latin America  
  Read: Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, 61-98  
  Read: Chasteen & Wood, 127-148

Fri, January 25: Order and Progress: Export-Led Growth and Rural Pauperization  
  Read: Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, 99-146  
  Read: Chasteen & Wood, 149-174

Mon, January 28: US Imperialism & Cuban Independence  
  Read: Barnet, *Biography of a Runaway Slave*, 147-200

Wed, January 30: The Mexican Revolution  
  Read: Brunk & Fallaw, 83-148

Fri, February 1: **IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

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**III. Populism and Reform, ca. 1930-1960 (weeks 6-7)**

Mon, February 4: MIDTERM BREAK (no class)

Wed, February 6: Redeeming the Revolution: Lázaro Cárdenas  
  Read: Fallaw, “Cárdenas and the Caste War”  
  Read: de Jesus, *Child of the Dark*, pages 3-52, 177-187

Fri, February 8: The Emergence of the “Middle Sectors” & Latin American Nationalism  
  Read: Chasteen & Wood, 175-186, 210-213  
  Read: Brunk & Fallaw, 148-171  
  Read: de Jesus, *Child of the Dark*, 53-72

Mon, February 11: Brazilian Populism: Vargas  
  Read: de Jesus, *Child of the Dark*, 73-112  
  Read: Chasteen & Wood, 236-245  
  Read: Vargas, “New Year’s Address” and “Suicide Letter,” 186-189, 222-224

Tues, February 12: Eric Van Young Lefler Lecture (Leighton 304 at 5 p.m.)

Wed, February 13: Argentine Populism: Juan Perón  
  Read: de Jesus, *Child of the Dark*, 113-137  
  Read: Chasteen & Wood, 186-195, 227-236

Fri, February 15: Argentine Populism: Evita Perón  
  Read: Chasteen & Wood, 214-222, 227-236  
  Read: Brunk & Fallaw, 229-263  
  **PAPER DUE BY 5 PM**

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**IV. The Rise of the Revolutionary Left and its Repression, ca. 1950-1990 (weeks 8-9)**

Mon, February 18: Land Reform, Bananas, & CIA Coup d’état: Guatemala  
  Read: Chasteen & Wood, 195-201, 245-249, 288-289  
  Read: Guevara, “Speech to Medical Students,” 167-175 (continues on next page)
Read: Winn, *Weavers of Revolution*, 3-31

Wed, February 20: The Cuban Revolution
Read: Chasteen & Wood, 251-258, 281-286
Read: Castro, “History will Absolve Me,” 306-314

Fri, February 22: Exporting Revolution
Read: Winn, *Weavers of Revolution*, 53-75
Read: Chasteen & Wood, 261-264, 289-299
Read: Guevara, “Message to the Tricontinental,” 199-213

Mon, February 25: Circumventing Revolution: Peru
Read: Velasco, “The Master,” 264-269

Wed, February 27: Chile’s Road to Socialism
Read: Winn, *Weavers of Revolution*, 139-205
Read: Chasteen & Wood, 269-274

Fri, February 29: Military Rule and Civilian Dissent in the Southern Cone
Read: Timerman, *Prisoner without a Name*, 42-59

V. Remaking Paradigms in Contemporary Latin America (weeks 10-11)

Sun, March 2: Screening of Patricio Guzmán’s “Chile: Obstinate Memory” (1997)

Mon, March 3: The Fall of Right-Wing Dictatorships and the Human Rights Legacy
Read: Dorfman, “The Last September 11th” (Internet resource)
Read: Kampwirth, *Feminism and the Legacy of Revolution*, ix-18
Read: Chasteen & Wood, 222-226

Wed, March 5: The Fall of the Revolutionary Vanguard: The Sandinistas and Sendero Luminoso
Read: Kampwirth, *Feminism and the Legacy of Revolution*, 19-74

Fri, March 7: Cold War Casualty: Guatemala and the Pan-Maya Movement
Read: Kampwirth, *Feminism and the Legacy of Revolution*, 75-111
Read: Chasteen & Wood, 258-261

Mon, March 10: A New Path? The EZLN and the Shifting Tide against Neo-Liberalism
Read: Kampwirth, *Feminism and the Legacy of Revolution*, 112-164 (optional: 165-196)
Read: Chasteen & Wood, 312-322

FINAL EXAM: Friday, March 14 (8:30-11:00 a.m.)