Latin America is extremely diverse geographically, culturally, and politically, but the nations of the region share many historical patterns. Thus, we will survey modern Latin American history as a whole in chronological order, from the Wars of Independence of the early nineteenth century to the present. We divide Latin America into five sub-regions—the Andes, Brazil, the Caribbean, Mesoamerica, and the Southern Cone—and focus on the historically paradigmatic countries of each region—Peru, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, and Argentina, respectively. But we will also study important events and figures in Bolivia, Central America, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, and Venezuela, while keeping in mind the importance of Latin America’s relationship with the United States and the rest of the world.

Books available for purchase (all are required):

1. John Charles Chasteen, *Americanos: Latin America’s Struggle for Independence*
2. Greg Grandin, *Empire’s Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*
3. Ioan Grillo, *El Narco: Inside Mexico’s Criminal Insurgency*
4. Teresa A. Meade, *A History of Modern Latin America, 1800 to the Present*

Other readings either posted on D2L or listed as links.

Requirements and grading proportions:

2 in-class quizzes, Sept. 5 and Nov. 12..................................................15%
Take-home midterm, Due Oct. 15.........................................................20%
Take-home final, Due Dec. 5.................................................................20%
Final paper project (may include presentation if you wish), Due Dec. 5...30%
Attendance/participation.................................................................15%

Schedule of topics, readings, exams, and assignments:
Aug. 22: Intro to Latin America  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Meade chapter 1.

Aug. 27: The Colonial Legacy  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Meade chapter 2.  
  • Chasteen, Prologue and chapter 1.

Aug. 29: Slavery in Latin America; Summary of the Independence Era  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Meade chapter 3.

Sept. 3: Crisis on the Iberian Peninsula and the Wars of Independence  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Chasteen chapters 2-4.

Sept. 5: Latin American Nations Make a Successful Break from Spain and Portugal  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Chasteen chapter 5, 6, & Epilogue.

Quiz 1

Sept. 10: The Difficult Tasks of Nation Building and State Formation  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Meade chapter 4.

Sept. 12: The Rise of Export Economies in the Nineteenth Century  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Meade chapter 5, pp. 105-117.

Sept. 17: The U.S. “Back Door” from the Invasion of Mexico to the Construction of the Panama Canal  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Meade chapter 5, pp. 117-133.

Sept. 19: Neocolonialisms? The Second Half of the Nineteenth Century in Argentina and Mexico  
Reading to be completed for today:  
  • Meade chapter 6.
Sept. 24: The Mexican Revolution 1
Reading to be completed for today:
• Meade chapter 7.

Sept. 26: The Mexican Revolution 2
Reading to be completed for today:

Oct. 1: Left-Wing Alternatives in the Early Twentieth Century
Reading to be completed for today:
• Meade chapter 8

Oct. 3: Populism
Reading to be completed for today:
• Meade chapter 9.

Oct. 8: Peronism
Reading to be completed for today:

Oct. 10: Post-World War II Struggles for Sovereignty
Reading to be completed for today:
• Meade chapter 10

Oct. 15: “How Latin America Saved the United States from Itself”
Reading to be completed for today:
• Grandin Introduction and chapter 1.

Take-home midterm due

Oct. 17: The Cuban Revolution
Reading to be completed for today:
• Meade chapter 11

Oct. 22: Political Ferment and Reaction, 1960s to 1980s
Reading to be completed for today:
• Meade chapter 12.
• Grandin chapter 2.

Oct. 24: Brazil and Mexico, 1960s to 1980s
Reading to be completed for today:

Oct. 29: Chile, 1960s to 1980s
Reading to be completed for today:
Oct. 31: Argentina and Uruguay, 1960s to 1980s  
Reading to be completed for today:

Nov. 5: Central America and Colombia, 1980s and 1990s  
Reading to be completed for today:  
• Meade chapter 13  
• Grandin chapters 3 & 4.

Nov. 7: The United States, Latin America, and the New Imperialism  
Reading to be completed for today:  
• Grandin chapters 5, 6, and Conclusion.

Nov. 12: Current Issues in Latin America  
Reading to be completed for today:  
• Meade chapter 14

Quiz 2

Nov. 14: Two Recent Icons: Lula and Chávez  
Reading to be completed for today:

Nov. 19: Drugs and Violence in Mexico 1  
Reading to be completed for today:  
• Grillo, Part 1

Nov. 21: Drugs and Violence in Mexico 2  
Reading to be completed for today:  
• Grillo Part 2

Nov. 26: Drugs and Violence in Mexico 3  
Reading to be completed for today:  
• Grillo Part 3

Presentations if necessary.

Dec. 3: Last-Day-of-Class Celebration and presentations for those who elect to do them.

Final exam and papers due Dec. 5, 2013