

HILA 102

Latin America in the Twentieth Century: Progress and Inequality.

Spring Quarter 2009
MWF 10–10:50 a.m.
Cog Sci B 002

María Bárbara Zepeda Cortés, Department of History.

Office Hours: W 11:00a.m – 1:00p.m.; H&SS 6017.

Office Phone: (858) 822-5272

Email: mzpedac@ucsd.edu

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the history of Latin America in the twentieth century. Through the analysis of general processes such as economic developments, political changes, social conditions, and international relations, we will discover a century-long struggle by the vast majority of Latin Americans to gain political representation, economic equality, and social justice. We will also address how the economic and political elites have met this challenge, sometimes with adaptation, most of the time with repression.

A principal goal of this course is to stimulate intellectual curiosity, independent thought, and sharpen critical skills. The overall objective of the course is to try to find the causes of why events in the twentieth century have produced the most socially unequal region of the world, where millions of people are still haunted by the evils of poverty.

The course will cover key issues in the century: revolutions, the Cold War, state terror and military dictatorships, drug trade, even corruption. Examples from specific Latin American countries, personalities, and subaltern individuals (that is, ordinary people) and groups will come out at every moment.

Course Materials:

The following texts, available at the UCSD bookstore and through the Geisel Library Course Reserves, contain most of the assigned readings for this course.

Required readings (in order of their use):

1. Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, *Modern Latin America*, 6th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
2. Alma Guillermoprieto, *Looking for History: Dispatches from Latin America*. New York: Vintage, 2002.

3. Robin Kirk, *More Terrible Than Death: Drugs, Violence, and America's War in Colombia*. New York: Public Affairs, 2003.
4. Florencia Mallon, *Courage Tastes Like Blood: The Mapuche Community of Nicolás Ailío and the Chilean State, 1906-2001*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2005.

Additionally, you will be asked to read a handful of articles and excerpted selections, which will be available at the e-Reserves and/or e-Brary sites (both accessible through the following link: <http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx>) or online (see appropriate links below).

Course Requirements:

Students are required to complete all assigned readings. The grade will be divided between a mid-term exam, a research paper, and a final exam. Students must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

Exams:

There will be a mid-term and a final exam in this course. The exam responses will cover the readings and the lectures. The mid-term on **Friday, May 1**, will be in the form of an in-class essay.

The final will be a take-home exam. You will be given questions and instructions for the final exam at the end of class on June 1. The final exam must be submitted **by 11 a. m. on Monday, June 8**.

Essay:

A 5-6 page research paper is required, based on a particular historical event, group, or individual of your choice related to the issue of inequality in Latin America. Full instructions will be handed out during Week 2. The paper will be due on **Wednesday, May 20 (Week 8)**.

Evaluation:

Final grades will be calculated in the following manner:

Essay: 25 percent.

Mid-term exam: 25 percent.

Final Exam: 50 percent.

Attendance and Office Hours:

Please come to class on time. Regular class attendance is strongly recommended. If you have to miss or you're late a few times during the quarter, there is no need to ask my permission or explain yourself afterwards. I will, however, take attendance at the beginning of each session. If you miss class *more than four times*, I will consider lowering your grade.

I will hold office hours on Wednesdays, 11:00 a. m. - 1:00 p. m., or by appointment. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this time to ask questions about the readings and the lectures, get help with assignments, prepare for exams, or simply to talk. If you cannot make it in during office hours, or if you have a burning question at another time, please just drop me an e-mail at mzpedac@ucsd.edu.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

WEEK 1. Introduction to Latin America (March 30, April 1, and 3).

Where are we now? Latin America in the 21st century.
How to study the history of Latin America in the 20th Century?

Read: Skidmore and Smith, “Prologue,” and chapters one to four.

WEEK 2. The Early 20th Century: “Globalization,” Oligarchies, and One Revolution (April 6, 8, and 10).

Export economies.
The Mexican Revolution

Read: Skidmore and Smith, chapters five, six, and eight (should now have read on Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru)

Read: Entire book of Guillermoprieto over next three weeks.

WEEK 3. Nationalism, Industrialization and Rapid Change (April 13, 15, and 17).

Import substitution industrialization.
New people in the cities.
Redefining the nation (Puerto Rico, Mexico, Brazil, Peru).

Read: Skidmore and Smith, Cuba (chapter 9) and the Caribbean (chapter 10).

See selected short-essays at e-reserves.

Continue reading Guillermoprieto.

WEEK 4. A Wave of Populism (April 20, 22, and 24).

What is populism?
Getulio Vargas and the Brazilian *Estado Novo*.
Juan Domingo Perón and Evita in Argentina.
Alternative to populism? *La Violencia* in Colombia.

Read: Skidmore and Smith, Colombia (chapter 7) and Central America (chapter 11).
Continue reading Guillermoprieto.

WEEK 5. The Advent of the Cold War (April 27, 29, and May 1).

Mid-term: Friday, May 1; *bring blue book*.

The Cold War in Latin America.
Guatemala 1954.
Democrats vs. Dictators.

Read: Skidmore and Smith, Latin America and the United States (chapter 12) and
“Epilogue”.

Finish reading Guillermoprieto.

WEEK 6. The Latin American Left (May 4, 6, and 8).

The Cuban Revolution.
“Che” Guevara and guerillas.
A Marxist president in Chile: Salvador Allende.

Read: entire Kirk and Mallon over the next five weeks.

WEEK 7. The Military and State Terror (May 11, 13, and 15).

Pinochet’s Chile.
The Dirty War in Argentina.
Guatemalan Genocide.

Read: Continue reading Kirk and Mallon.

Marguerite Feitlowitz, "The Land Mourneth" (chapter 4), in *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1998, pp. 110-148. Available at e-Reserves.

WEEK 8. Neo-liberalism and its Discontents I (May 18, 20, and 22).

Essay due: Wednesday, May 20.

The disastrous 80s.
Neo-liberalism.
Return to democracy?

Read: Continue reading Kirk and Mallon.

WEEK 9. Neo-liberalism and its Discontents II (May 27 and 29).

No class on May 25 (Memorial Day)

Invited lecturer on May 29.

Corruption.

Read: Continue reading Kirk and Mallon.

WEEK 10. The New Violence: Drugs and Crime (June 1, 3, and 5).

Illegal drug-trafficking in Mexico.
Back to the 21st century...

Read: Finish reading Kirk and Mallon.

Read also:

-Alma Guillermoprieto, "Letter from Mexico. A Hundred Women. Why Has a Decade-Long String of Murders Gone Unsolved?" *The New Yorker*, September 29, 2003.

Available online at:

http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2003/09/29/030929fa_fact_guillermoprieto -Alma Guillermoprieto, "Letter from Mexico: Days of the Dead. The New *Narcocultura*." *The New Yorker*, November 10, 2008. Available online at:
http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2008/11/10/081110fa_fact_guillermoprieto

WEEK 11. FINALS' WEEK.

Final Exam due: Monday, June 8 at noon.