

Michael Monteón
Office HSS 4077
Phone 534-4792 or 534-1996
E-mail: use web site
Class: Peterson 103
Class Hours: Tues. and Thurs.
Office hours: Tues. and Thurs. 2-3

HILA 102: LATIN AMERICA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

COMMON COURTESY POLICY: I find recent technology changes and student customs force me to add this note. Please put down all newspapers, e-books, and items you are reading. Turn off all phones and other electronic devices. If you know you will need to leave the class, please notify me ahead of time. I will be here for the entire class period, so should you. I am not always entertaining but I still expect of modicum of respect -- for my age if not my skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This is an introductory study of Latin America in this century. I assume students have only a limited or even no background in the region and will devote a fair amount of time to demonstrating some common themes that tie together such a diverse part of the globe. These themes emphasize the legacy of colonialism even during the 20th century but they also underline common dilemmas of development and underdevelopment, from the campaigns against illiteracy and in favor of modernization (which has always involved urbanization) to the continuing impact of the Catholic Church. The course will present a basic outline of the region's political economy but will pay less attention to Mexico than other areas since a separate course is being offered on Mexico this quarter (and I am teaching it). In addition, the course will pay close attention to efforts to change the region's culture in directions that reflected with Europe and the United States defined as progress. It will pay close attention not only to the economic influence of the United States but to the cultural changes that echoed prior obsessions that defined other nations and cultures as superior to one's own. This will then be contrasted with the need of the nations in the region to define each of them as distinctive and so create new forms of identity and loyalty that would generate a viable nation-state.

Books:

All books are required and, aside from mine, are in paperback. All are on reserve at the central library. My book and Braun are also available free through electronic versions held by the library.

1. Monteón, Michael. Latin America and the Origins of its 21st Century (ABC-Clio, Praeger, 2009) ISBN 9780313352492
2. Braun, Herbert. The Assassination of Gaitan (Wisconsin, 2003) ISBN 9780299103644
3. Hutchison, Elizabeth Quay. Labors Appropriate to Their Sex: Gender, Labor, and Politics in Urban Chile, 1900-1930 (Duke, 2001) ISBN 978082237424

4. Feitlowicz, Marguerite. Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture (Oxford, 1999) ISBN 9780199744695
5. Arbena, Joseph L. Sport in Latin America and the Caribbean (SR Books, 2002) ISBN 9780842028219

Lectures

Week 1: Chronologies

- A. Outline of Time in the 20th and 21st Centuries
 - B. Liberalism and the idea of Progress
- Monteón, Latin America and the Origins of its 21st Century, read one chapter per week until finished.

Week 2: Origins of Progress

- A. Export-based economies and their consequences
 - B. Social changes – urban and rural
- Read: Hutchison, Labors Appropriate to Their Sex, finish over next two weeks.

Week 3: Crisis of the Trade-Based Economies

- A. The Great Depression and the Origins of Populism
 - B. The New Labor Force
- Read: Braun, Assassination of Gaitan, finish over next two weeks

Week 4: Nationalism and Electoral Systems

- A. How to Hold Elections
 - B. Review for mid-term
- THURSDAY: MID-TERM EXAMINATION IS HANDED OUT, DUE ON FOLLOWING THURSDAY, THAT IS, WEEK V.

Week 5: The Breakdown of ISI

- A. Post-war Prosperity and Shanty-Towns
 - B. Was ISI so bad?
- MID-TERM IS DUE

Week 6: The Rise of Militarism

- A. The Military as an Institution
 - B. The United States and Latin America
- Read: Feitlowicz, Lexicon of Terror (Oxford, 1999) finish over next two weeks

Week 7: Cultural Norms are Remade

- A. Sexuality
- B. The City of Letters?

Week 8: Neo-Liberalism and the 1982 Debt Crisis

- A. Origins and Consequences of the Debt Crisis
- B. The Informal Economy Reappears

Read: Arben, Sport in Latin America and the Caribbean, finish over next two weeks.

Week 9: The Struggle to Redefine Possibilities

- A. The Emergence of Brazil
- B. Education and the New Technologies

Week 10: An Unexpected Future?

- A. The China Syndrome
- B. The Prospects of Citizenship