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Class: Peterson 103  
Class Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 11-12:20  
Office hours: Monday 2-3; Tues. 1-2

## 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**DISCUSSION AND GRADES:** Even though the class is large, I emphasize discussions. This section will count 20 per cent of your grade (the mid-term is 30 per cent and the final, 50 per cent). I will grade each fragment of your grade 100 and then sort out the percentages on your grade sheet in Ted.

*Presentation.* You may get up to 100 points by doing a class presentation on anything relevant to the class from your own experiences living in any part of Latin America to picking a topic you wish to present. Cultural topics are popular since students get enough of politics from the class.

*Class cards:* You will receive 10 points for each card you hand in; this card must have your name, date, and a brief comment of what you said. This is NOT a card for attendance.

*Discussions:* These are listed each week on the website, click on Discussions in the opening panel on your left and you will see this weeks topic. The topic must be commented on by the end of Monday the following week to receive any credit; up to 10 points a comment, keep it to about a paragraph.

#### 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century (ABC-Clio, Praeger, 2009) ISBN 9780313352492
2. Truett, Samuel. Fugitive Landscapes: The Forgotten History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands (Yale, 2006) 978-0-300-14331-7
3. Chomsky, Aviva. A History of the Cuban Revolution (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011) 978-1-4051-8773-2
4. De la Barra, Ximena and Richard a. Dello Buono, Latin America after the Neoliberal Debacle (Rowman and Littlefield, 2009) 978-0-7425-6606-4
5. Danner, Mark. The Massacre at El Mozote (Vintage, 2994) 0-679-75525-X
6. Carolina Maria de Jesus. Child of the Dark. Any version.

#### Lectures

##### Week 1: Chronologies

- A. Outline of Time in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries
- B. Liberalism and the idea of Progress

Monteón, Latin America and the Origins of its 21<sup>st</sup> 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: Truett, Fugitive Landscapes, read first half of book.

##### Week 3: Crisis of the Trade-Based Economies

- A. The Great Depression and the Origins of Populism
- B. The New Labor Force

Read: Truett, Fugitive Landscapes, finish book. Read opening chapter of Chomsky's, A History of the Cuban Revolution

##### Week 4: Nationalism and Electoral Systems

- A. How to Hold Elections
- B. Review for mid-term

Read: Chomsky, rest of Cuban Revolution

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?

Read: Carolina Maria de Jesus, Child of the Dark, entire book

MID-TERM IS DUE

Week 6: The Rise of Militarism

A. The Military as an Institution

B. The United States and Latin America

Read: Danner, The Massacre at El Mozote, entire book

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: de la Barra and Richard A. Della Buono, Latin America after the Neoliberal Debacle, first half

Week 9: The Struggle to Redefine Possibilities

A. The Emergence of Brazil

B. Education and the New Technologies

Read: de la Barra and Della Buono, Neoliberal Debacle, finish book

Week 10: An Unexpected Future?

A. The China Syndrome

B. The Prospects of Citizenship