

History 425: Modern Latin America  
University of Montevallo  
Fall 2018  
Dr. John R. Bawden

**Course Credit:** 3 hours

**Pre-requisites:** History 101 & 102

**Meets:** TR 2-3:15 pm, UMOM 307

**Contact:** jbwawden@montevallo.edu (205) 665-6179

**Office Hours:** MW 9-12, 1-3, UMOM 305 (or by appointment)

**Overview**

This course surveys major themes in Latin America's history since independence from Spain and Portugal. Since it would be impossible to provide a detailed treatment of every Latin American country the course objective is to provide students with a working knowledge of common ideas, trends, and experiences that unite the region's twenty republics.

**Course objectives**

1. Provide students with a broad outline of important ideas, persons, events, and trends in Latin America's post-independence history.
2. Introduce students to the major themes in Latin American history as well as the region's unique cultural characteristics.
3. Enable students to compare and contrast countries in Latin America as well as to evaluate the response of different Latin American countries to problems like economic underdevelopment and political instability.
4. Help students appreciate ambiguity in historical argument and presentation.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate effective writing and critical thinking skills by analyzing primary sources as well as evaluating useful secondary sources, identifying and evaluating their central arguments.
2. Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills as we discuss events, ideas, and people in Latin America's history.
3. Students will demonstrate awareness of Latin America's political and ethnic geography by comparing different countries in the region.

**Required Texts**

James Wood (editor), *Problems in Modern Latin America*, Third Edition **ISBN:** 9780742556454

Domingo Sarmiento, *Facundo: Or, Civilization and Barbarism*, Penguin Edition **ISBN:** 9780140436778

Michael Johns, *The City of Mexico in the Age of Díaz* **ISBN:** 9780292740488

James Brennan, *Argentina's Missing Bones* **ISBN:** 9780520297937

**Optional Text:**

Thomas E. Skidmore (ed.) *Modern Latin America* (seventh edition)

**Course Evaluation**

Midterm: 20 percent

Writing assignments: 40 percent

Participation: 20 percent

Final exam: 20 percent

**Grading**

A: 100-90% B: 89-80% C: 79-70% D: 69-60% F: 59-0%

**Course Withdrawal Deadline**

The last day for students to withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" is October 26.

## **Attendance and Participation**

On Thursdays I take attendance and keep track of who participates. Each student will also make a short informative presentation about a person, event, or idea in Modern Latin America. I do not allow make-up exams unless a student provides a legitimate reason.

## **Technology**

Laptops and iPad are prohibited in History 425. Research shows that flickering screens distract you and others.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/07/27/class-cellphone-and-laptop-use-lowers-exam-scores-new-study-shows>

## **Writing Assignments**

Each essay must be typed, double-spaced, with a 12-point Times New Roman font and have a minimum length of 3 full pages and not more than 4. Written assignments receive a half letter grade penalty for each day they are late.

## **University of Montevallo Forum**

ForUM e-mail is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and administrators at the University of Montevallo – and may be THE official means of communication between you and your instructors. If you have any questions regarding your ForUM e-mail account, you should contact Technology Services (205 665-6512).

## **Disability Policy**

The University of Montevallo provides equal opportunity to qualified students. If you have a disability (medical, physical, learning, psychological, etc.) and wish to request disability-related accommodations to complete course requirements, contact Disability Support Services (located in Main Hall, rear entrance; 665-6250). Course requirements cannot be waived, but reasonable accommodations may be provided based on disability documentation and course objectives. Accommodations cannot be made retroactively.

## **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

To claim as one's own the ideas or words of another is plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as the following: using the exact words of another person's work/writing without acknowledgement of your source through the use of quotation marks and correct citation/documentation; rephrasing a passage of another writer without giving proper credit; using someone else's facts or ideas without acknowledgement; using a piece of writing for one course that was already used in a previous course (or in courses in which you are simultaneously enrolled) without express permission from both instructors to do so; presenting fabricated or falsified citations or materials. Please consult with the professor if you are unsure about how to document sources. Cheating on exams is also an affront to the principle of academic honesty. At the very least, an assignment on which plagiarism or cheating has occurred will receive no credit, i.e. a "zero," and an Academic Dishonesty Incident Form concerning the incident will be kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. A plagiarist/cheater is also subject to failure in the course and/or appearance before the Justice Council.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1**

8/21	Course Introduction
8/23	The Legacy of Hispanic Colonialism

*Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 3-30

### **Week 2**

8/28	Independence
8/30	Caudillos

Domingo Sarmiento, *Facundo or Civilization and Barbarism*, pp. 9-137

*Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 30-63

## **Student Presentations 8/30**

Week 3

9/4 Change and Continuity  
9/6 *Civilization and Barbarism*

**Writing Assignment #1 due 9/6**

Week 4

9/11 19th Century Ideas: Positivism, Conservatism, Scientific Racism  
9/13 Liberalism and the Catholic Church

*Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 65-109  
Michael Johns, *The City of Mexico in the Age of Díaz*

**Student Presentations 9/13**

Week 5

9/18 Neocolonialism  
9/20 *The City of Mexico in the Age of Díaz*

**Writing assignment #2 due 9/20**

Week 6

9/25 Mexican Revolution  
9/27 Nationalism

Film excerpt "Ley de Herodes"

Week 7

10/2 The Great Depression  
10/4 State Capitalism & WWII

*Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 161-205

Week 8

**10/9 MIDTERM**  
10/11 NO CLASS

Week 9

10/16 The Cold War  
10/18 Populism & the Working Class

*Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 207-29

**Student Presentations on 10/18**

Week 10

10/23 The Cuban Revolution  
10/25 Counterrevolution

Film excerpt "The Motorcycle Diaries"

Week 11

10/30 The Church  
11/1 Revolution in Chile

*Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 231-53

Film excerpt "Missing"

Week 12

11/6 Military Rule in South America  
11/8 *Argentina's Missing Bones*

Skype with James Brennan, author of *Argentina's Missing Bones*

**Writing assignment #3 due 11/8**

Week 13

11/13 Cold War in Central America  
11/15 The 'Lost Decade'

**Student Presentations on 11/15**

Week 14

11/20 Neoliberalism  
11/22 Democratization & globalization

*Problems in Latin American History*, pp. 241-263

Film excerpt "City of God"

Week 15

11/27 Hugo Chávez & the Pink Tide  
11/29 Course Review

**Writing assignment #4 due 11/27**

Final Exam Thursday, December 6, 1:30-3:30 pm