

History 411/511
Cold War Latin America
Spring 2020
Dr. John R. Bawden

Course Credit: 3 hours

Pre-requisites: History 101 & 102

Meets: TR 2-315 UMOM 307

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Office Hours: MW 9-12, 1-3, UM on Main Street 305 (or by appointment)

Course Overview

This course examines the Cold War in Latin America (1945-1991). Important social, cultural, economic, and demographic trends will be covered along with the populist, revolutionary, and counterrevolutionary politics that swept the region. Students will consider the lens through which states, insurgent guerillas, and ordinary citizens viewed the period's politics and the consequences of those politics for violence, democracy, and human rights.

Required Texts

Mark Danner, *The Massacre at el Mozote: A Parable of the Cold War*, Vintage Press, 1994

Ernesto Guevara, *Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, Ocean Press, 2005

Tanya Harmer, *Allende's Chile and the Inter-American Cold War*, UNC Press, 2014

E-Reserves (available on canvas)

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*

Kennan Memorandum (1950)

Pablo Neruda, "La United Fruit Company" from *Canto General* (1950)

"Populism and the Working Class" in *Problems in Latin American History*

Cuban Missile Crisis Document Collection, 1962

Seth G. Jones, "Starting Insurgencies" in *Waging Insurgent Warfare* (2019)

Carlos Marighella, *Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla*, 1969

"Social Revolution" in *Problems in Latin American History*

Course Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of seminal events, ideas, trends, and people in Latin American after WWII and before the collapse of the Soviet Union.
2. Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills during weekly classroom discussions.
3. Students will demonstrate effective writing and critical thinking skills as they analyze seminal events, personalities, and interpretations of Latin America's Cold War experience.
4. Students will demonstrate understanding of the insurgencies and counterinsurgencies that occurred across the region.

Course Evaluation

Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	30%
Writing assignments	30%

Essays

You will write three short essays that respond to thematic prompts about each of the three assigned books. Each essay is due at the beginning of class and must be numbered, double-spaced, with a 12 pt. font, 1" margins. Written assignments receive a half letter grade penalty for each day they are late.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is mandatory on the days we discuss primary sources or books in class. On those days I will take attendance and keep track of students who participate. Your participation grade is largely determined by whether you come to class Thursdays prepared to discuss the course materials.

Graduate Level

Students taking the class as a History 511 course should speak with me about an additional assignment.

Course Withdrawal Deadline

The last day for students to withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” is **Monday, Mar 16**.

Disclaimer

I reserve the right, after written announcement, to change course requirements or the method of assessment.

Technology

Laptops and iPad are prohibited. Research shows that flickering screens distract you and those around you. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/07/27/class-cellphone-and-laptop-use-lowers-exam-scores-new-study-shows>

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

To claim as one’s own the ideas or words of another is plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as using the 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. At the very minimum, 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. Individual circumstances will determine other consequences.

ForUM Email

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).

Course Schedule

WEEK 1

1/7 Course Introduction
1/9 East-West Struggle
Fishbowl discussion, Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*, 1-46

WEEK 2

1/14 The Inter-American System, 1947-1959
1/16 Defining Democracy and Security
Fishbowl discussion, The Kennan Memorandum

WEEK 3

1/21 The Failed Promise of Populism
1/23 The Bolivian Revolution 1952
Fishbowl discussion, “Populism and the Working Class” and Neruda, “United Fruit Co.”
Watch excerpts from *The Motorcycle Diaries*

WEEK 4

1/28

Guatemala, 1945-1954

1/30

The Cuban Revolution

Discuss, Guevara, *Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, 1-58

WEEK 5

2/4

The Cuban Revolution

2/6

Fidel Castro Emerges Supreme

ESSAY #1 due 2/6

Speak with Julio Larramendi

Watch excerpts from *Fidel!*

WEEK 6

2/11

The Cuban Missile Crisis

2/13

The Death of Che Guevara

Activity: Three Perspectives and the October Crisis, 1962

WEEK 7

2/18

Insurgency and Counterinsurgency

2/20

Postwar Brazil, from Populist Democracy to Military Regime

Fishbowl discussion, Jones, *Waging Insurgent Warfare*, 1-34

Marighella, *Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla*

WEEK 8

2/25

Brazil and the "Cult of Heroic Guerilla Fighter"

2/27

Film: *4 Days in September*

MIDTERM

WEEK 9

3/3

Postwar Argentina

3/5

The Dirty War

WEEK 10

3/10

Human Rights & Amnesty International

3/12

Chile, 1964-1970

Discuss Harmer, *Allende's Chile and the Inter-American Cold War*, 1-72

WEEK 11

3/17

Chile in the Eye of the Cold War

3/19

The Pinochet Regime

ESSAY #2 due 3/19

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 12

3/31

Peru and Colombia during the 1980s

4/2

Colombia: The FARC

Fishbowl discussion, "Social Revolution" in *Problems in Latin American History*

WEEK 13

4/7

Peru: Maoist Insurgency

4/9

Ronald Reagan and Central America in the 1980s

Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*

WEEK 14

4/14

Cold War hotspot: Nicaragua

4/16

Cold War hotspots: Guatemala & El Salvador

Essay #3 due 4/16

WEEK 15

4/21

1989, Peace Negotiations in Central America, Cuba's Special Period

4/23

Cold War Legacies, What Does It Mean?

Final Exam, April 28, 4-6pm