

History 425: Modern Latin America
University of Montevallo
Spring 2021
Dr. John R. Bawden

Course Credit: 3 hours

Pre-requisites: History 101 & 102

Meets: TR 2-3:15 pm, UMOM 101

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

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

Peter Winn, *Weavers of Revolution: The Yarur Workers and Chile's Road to Socialism* ISBN: 9780195045581

Graduate Level

Students taking History 524 should speak with me about a historiographical essay on a topic of interest. The point of this assignment is to gain knowledge of scholarly debates in Modern Latin American history. This assignment will be assessed along with all other requirements that appear in the syllabus.

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 March 17.

Attendance and Participation

On Thursdays I take attendance and keep track of who participates. Every student is expected to attend class prepared to make comments or ask questions about the assigned reading material or topic of discussion.

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 5. Written assignments receive a half letter grade penalty for each day they are late.

ForUM Email

You are responsible for monitoring and managing your account regularly, even during breaks. You are responsible for all announcements, requests, and/or sensitive information delivered to your UM e-mail account, including information related to this course. You may electronically forward your UM e-mail to another e-mail address (e.g., @gmail.com, @hotmail.com), but at your own risk. The University is not responsible for the handling of forwarded e-mail. Having e-mail forwarded does not absolve you from the responsibilities associated with communication sent to your official UM e-mail address. If you have any questions regarding or problems with your UM email account, you should contact the Solution Center (205-665-6512). The Solution Center is available Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am-7:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you are unsure of how to formally communicate with a professor, please consult the following article:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>

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

1/12 Course Introduction
1/14 Independence and its Aftermath
Problems in Latin American History, pp. 3-27

Week 2

1/19 Post-Independence Disorders
1/21 Caudillos & the American Invasion of Mexico

Writing Assignment #1 due 1/21

Domingo Sarmiento, *Facundo or Civilization and Barbarism*, pp. 9-46, 71-85
Problems in Latin American History, pp. 57-72

Week 3

1/26 Wars in Paraguay, Peru, and Cuba
1/28 Latin American Society: Change and Continuity
Problems in Latin American History, pp. 39-52, 83-106

Week 4

2/2 Export Led Growth
2/4 Imperialism and Neocolonialism
Michael Johns, *The City of Mexico in the Age of Díaz*, pp. 1-41
Problems in Latin American History, pp. 129-154

Week 5

2/9 Liberalism in Mexico
2/11 The Mexican Revolution
Writing assignment #2 due 2/11

Week 6

2/16 Latin America & WWI
2/18 Nationalism in Mexico
Watch: *Law of Herod*

Week 7

2/23 The Great Depression
2/25 State Capitalism
Problems in Latin American History, pp. 161-205
Read: Winn, *Weavers of Revolution*, pp. 13-31

Week 8

3/2 WWII
3/4 MIDTERM

Week 9

3/9 Postwar Latin America, Populism & the Cold War
3/11 Music and Sport in Brazil
Problems in Latin American History, pp. 207-29
Watch: [The Beautiful Game](#)
Watch: *The Motorcycle Diaries*

Week 10

3/16 The Cuban Revolution
3/18 Liberation Theology & Counterrevolution in Brazil
Read: Winn, *Weavers of Revolution*, pp. 32-138

SPRING BREAK

Week 11

3/30 Revolution in Chile
4/1 Military rule in South America
Writing assignment #3 due 4/1

Week 12

4/6 Civil War in Central America
4/8 The United States in the Western Hemisphere
Problems in Latin American History, pp. 231-53, 259-80
Watch: *Blessed by Fire*

Week 13

4/13 Democratization and the “Lost Decade”
4/15 Drug Wars and Cuba’s “Special Period”
Guest speaker: Charlotte Ford
Read: Guillermprieto, *Bogotá, 1989*

Week 14

4/20 Hugo Chávez & the Pink Tide
4/22 Neoliberalism and Globalization
Problems in Latin American History, pp. 281-99
Writing assignment #4 due 4/22

Week 15

4/27 Interpreting Latin America
4/29 Course Review
Final Exam Tuesday, May 4, 4-6 pm