

History 431
Cold War Latin America
Fall 2022
Dr. John R. Bawden

Course Credit: 3 hours

Meets: TR 2-315 Fallin Hall 103

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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 global Cold War with a specific focus on Cuba and Latin America. The course begins with a look at the European origins of the Cold War and its exacerbation of preexisting revolutionary and counterrevolutionary politics in Latin America. Students will consider the lens through which states, insurgent guerrillas, ordinary citizens, and scholars have viewed the period's politics and the consequences of those politics for violence, democracy, and human rights.

Required Texts

Jonathan C. Brown, <i>Cuba's Revolutionary World</i> , Harvard Press, 2017	ISBN 978-0674971981
Ernesto Guevara, <i>Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War</i> , Ocean Press, 2005	ISBN 978-1920888336
Tanya Harmer, <i>Allende's Chile and the Inter-American Cold War</i> , UNC Press, 2014	ISBN 978-1469613901

E-Reserves (available on canvas)

John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History* (2005)

George Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" (1947)

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

Cuban Missile Crisis Document Collection, 1962

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

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

"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 History 531 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 pertaining to an area of Cold War research. This assignment will be assessed along with all other requirements that appear in the syllabus.

Course Withdrawal Deadline

The last day for students to withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” is October 24.

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>

Course Schedule

WEEK 1

8/23 Course Introduction
8/25 The Cold War’s Origins
Fishbowl discussion, Joseph Stalin, “The Soviet Victory Speech” and George Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct”

WEEK 2

8/30 The Cold War Goes Global
9/1 Watch [Duck and Cover](#)
Fishbowl discussion, Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*, 1-46

WEEK 3

9/6 Nationalism in Latin America
9/8 The Bolivian Revolution 1952
Fishbowl discussion, “Populism and the Working Class”, Neruda, “United Fruit Co.”
Watch excerpts from *The Motorcycle Diaries*

WEEK 4

9/13 Guatemala, 1945-1954
9/15 The Batista Dictatorship
Discuss, Guevara, *Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War*, 1-58

WEEK 5

9/20 The Cuban Revolution
9/22 Fidel Castro Emerges Supreme
ESSAY #1 due 9/22

WEEK 6

9/27 The Cuban Missile Crisis
9/29 The Sino-Soviet Split
Discuss Brown, *Cuba’s Revolutionary World*, Introduction, Chapters 1-3

WEEK 7

10/4 Revolution and Counterrevolution
2/6 Exporting Revolution
Discuss Brown, *Cuba’s Revolutionary World*, Chapters 4-5, 7

WEEK 8

10/11 The Death of Che Guevara and Counterrevolution in Brazil
10/13 Film: *4 Days in September*
Discuss Discuss Brown, *Cuba's Revolutionary World*, Chapters 7 & 10
MIDTERM due 10/13

WEEK 9

10/18 Postwar Argentina
10/20 The Dirty War
Discuss Brown, *Cuba's Revolutionary World*, Chapter 13

WEEK 10

10/25 Human Rights & Amnesty International
10/27 Chile, 1964-1970
Discuss Harmer, *Allende's Chile and the Inter-American Cold War*, 1-72

WEEK 11

11/1 Chile in the Eye of the Cold War
11/3 The Pinochet Regime
ESSAY #2 due 11/3

WEEK 12

11/8 Peru and Colombia during the 1980s
11/10 Colombia: The FARC
Discuss Brown, *Cuba's Revolutionary World*, Chapter 11

WEEK 13

11/15 Ronald Reagan and Central America during the 1980s
11/17 Cold War hotspots: Nicaragua, Guatemala
Watch: Ronald Reagan's [Star Wars](#)
Fishbowl discussion, "Social Revolution" in *Problems in Latin American History*
ESSAY #3 due 11/17

WEEK 14

11/22 Cold War hotspots: Grenada, El Salvador, Angola
11/24 HOLIDAY

WEEK 15

11/29 1989 in Europe & Cuba's Special Period
12/1 Cold War Legacies
Discuss John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: A New History*, 195-236

Final exam due December 8 at 3:30 pm

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

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.