

# **LATIN AMERICA SINCE INDEPENDENCE**

HIST 3327-01, Spring 2010. Pafford 204, MW 2:00-3:15 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

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## **Course Objectives**

This course is an introduction to the history and civilization of Latin America from Independence until the present. We will discuss the creation of new nations, their evolution in the context of the world economy, and the problems that face Latin America (and the U.S.) today.

This course is designed to help you appreciate the multicultural nature of the world we live in. You will be introduced to important concepts, ideas, and events that will allow you understand the recent history of the Latin Americans, our nearest neighbors and our largest minority group. You will use primary and secondary sources and be introduced to the historiography of Latin America. In addition, you will be able to improve the skills of writing, analysis, and critical thinking that all of your other important endeavors will require.

## **Course Requirements**

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading. Because of the large amount of material to be covered, class attendance is absolutely essential. Attendance will be taken. You are allowed up to five absences for all reasons (including sporting events, illness, and family issues). More than five absences will result in the loss of 5% of your final grade. More than 10 absences will result in the loss of 10% of your final grade.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. It is your responsibility to attend class so that you may be aware of any changes.

## **Grading**

There will be two written examinations: a midterm and a final, each worth 20% of the final grade. You will have two reviews of the Sarmiento and Arguedas books, each worth 14% of the final grade. You will have four other written assignments based on documents from the Wood and Chasteen book, each worth 8% of the final grade. As noted above, excessive absences may result in the loss of up to 10% of your grade. Disruptive behavior may also result in points taken out of your grade.

Your exam dates are noted on this syllabus. Do not make travel plans that conflict with your exam dates.

### **Academic Honesty**

You are expected to be familiar with and abide by the university's policies on academic honesty. As a West Georgia student, you have pledged not to lie, cheat, steal, or commit plagiarism. It is equally wrong to give aid as it is to receive it. When copying word for word from another source, you must use quotation marks and cite your source. When paraphrasing material or borrowing another author's ideas, you must also cite your source. Plagiarism on the written assignments will result in an F for the course. Assignments are to be done independently. Two or more students cannot hand in variations of the same paper, even if they study together. You are not allowed to submit your own work from a previous course without the prior instructor's and my permission.

### **Special Accommodations**

If you are on record with the university's Disability Services as having special academic or physical needs requiring accommodations, please meet with me during my regular office hours as soon as possible. We need to discuss your accommodations before they can be implemented. Also, please note that arrangements for special accommodations must be made at least one week before the exams.

If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not formally contacted Disability Services, please call (678) 839-6428 or drop by the Student Development Center at 272 Parker Hall.

### **Policy on Electronic Devices and Communication**

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Laptops are not to be used in the classroom. Do not text, check your messages, or use the internet on any device during class time. The use of any electronic device during a quiz or exam is strictly prohibited and will be considered a breach of academic honesty.

To protect your privacy, all electronic communication with me must be conducted through your West Georgia e-mail. As all e-mail is potentially insecure, I will only discuss your grades with you in person.

### **Required Books:**

Benjamin Keen and Keith Haynes, *A History of Latin America. Vol. 2: Independence to the Present*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Houghton Mifflin, 2004, ISBN 9780618318537).

Domingo Sarmiento, *Facundo* (Penguin Classics, 1998, ISBN 9780140436778).

José María Arguedas, *Deep Rivers* (Waveland Press, 1978, ISBN 9781577662440).

James Wood and John Chasteen, eds. *Problems in Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009, ISBN 9780742556454).

### Course Schedule:

DATE	LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPIC	READINGS
Jan. 6	Introduction to the course Overview of Colonial Latin America	
Jan. 11	Independence	
Jan. 13	Independence continued	
Jan. 18	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Martin Luther King Day)	
Jan. 20	The Meaning of Independence, Overview of the Early National Period	Keen & Haynes, 180-183, 251-255
Jan. 25	Early National Argentina & Chile <b>Sarmiento review due</b>	Keen & Haynes, 192-201
Jan. 27	Early National Andean Countries	Keen & Haynes, 205-206, 211-216
Feb. 1	Early National Mexico & Central America	Keen & Haynes, 183-192, 209-211
Feb. 3	19 <sup>th</sup> -Century Brazil & Cuba	Keen & Haynes, 201-209, 234-241
Feb. 8	Discussion of Early National documents <b>Assignment due</b>	
Feb. 10	Overview of the Neocolonial Period	Keen & Haynes, 217-220, 255-259
Feb. 15	Neocolonial Argentina & Chile	Keen & Haynes, 226-234, 318-327, 342-344
Feb. 17	Neocolonial Andean Countries	Keen & Haynes, 241-243, 246-250
Feb. 22	Neocolonial Mexico & Central America	Keen & Haynes, 220-226, 243-246
Feb. 24	Discussion of Neocolonial documents <b>Assignment due</b>	

Mar. 1	Mexican Revolution <b>Last day to withdraw with a grade of W</b>	Keen & Haynes, 282-300
Mar. 3	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Mar. 8	U.S. Involvement to 1945	Keen & Haynes, 521-536
Mar. 10	Overview of the Nationalist/Statist Period	Keen & Haynes, 268-281
Mar. 15	Populism in Brazil, Mexico, & Argentina	Keen & Haynes, 364-380, 300-303, 327-336
Mar. 17	Modern Art & Music in Latin America <b>Arguedas review due</b>	Keen & Haynes, 585-593
Mar. 22-24	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Spring Break)	
Mar. 29	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> -Century & Revolutionary Cuba	Keen & Haynes, 424-453
Mar. 31	Military Dictatorships, Begin Movie	Keen & Haynes, 381-388, 336-338, 356-360
Apr. 5	Finish Movie	
Apr. 7	Other Revolutions and Guerrilla Wars	Keen & Haynes, 395-423, 454-490, 344-356
Apr. 12	Nationalist Mexico & North Andes	Keen & Haynes, 303-308, 491-520
Apr. 14	Discussion of Nationalist/Statist documents <b>Assignment due</b>	
Apr. 19	Issues affecting the U.S.: Immigration & Drug Trafficking	
Apr. 21	Neoliberalism	Keen & Haynes, 308-317, 338-341, 360-363, 388-394
Apr. 26	Challenges to Neoliberalism	
Apr. 28	Discussion of Neoliberal documents <b>Assignment due</b>	
May 5	<b>Final Exam 2:00-4:00 PM</b>	