

LATIN AMERICA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

HIST 3327-01, Fall 2007. Pafford 204, MW 2:00-3:15 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

Office: TLC 3209

Office hours: MW 11:00 AM-2:00 PM and 3:30-4:30 PM, F 1:00-3:00 PM, or by appointment

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Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to the history and civilization of Latin America from Independence until the present and assumes no prior knowledge of the area. 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. 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 worth 20% of the final grade, and a final worth 30%. You will have two written assignments based on the Sarmiento and Arguedas books, each worth 15% of the final grade. You will give an oral presentation in class worth 8% (the topic and date of your presentation will be determined in class). Map quizzes and certain other classroom activities will count for 12%. 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, and you will be informed of quiz dates ahead of

time. 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. The use of any electronic device during a quiz or exam is strictly prohibited. Any use of such devices during a quiz or exam 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*, 7th ed. (Houghton Mifflin, 2004, ISBN 9780618318537).

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

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

Course Schedule:

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
Aug. 15	Introduction to the course Overview of Colonial Latin America	
Aug. 20	Independence	
Aug. 22	Independence continued	
Aug. 27	The Meaning of Independence, Overview of the Early National Period	Keen & Haynes, 180-183, 251-255
Aug. 29	Early National Argentina & Chile	Keen & Haynes, 192-201
Sept. 3	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	
Sept. 5	Early National Andean Countries	Keen & Haynes, 205-206, 211-216
Sept. 10	Early National Mexico	Keen & Haynes, 183-192
Sept. 12	Early National Central America	Keen & Haynes, 209-211
Sept. 17	19 th -Century Brazil & Cuba	Keen & Haynes, 201-209, 234-241
Sept. 19	Overview of the Neocolonial Period	Keen & Haynes, 217-220, 255-259
Sept. 24	Neocolonial Argentina & Chile Sarmiento assignment due	Keen & Haynes, 226-234, 318-327, 342-344
Sept. 26	Neocolonial Andean Countries	Keen & Haynes, 241-243, 246-250
Oct. 1	Neocolonial Mexico & Central America	Keen & Haynes, 220-226, 243-246
Oct. 3	Midterm Exam	
Oct. 8	Mexican Revolution Last day to withdraw with a grade of W	Keen & Haynes, 282-300
Oct. 10	U.S. Involvement to 1945	Keen & Haynes, 521-536

Oct. 15	Overview of the Nationalist/Statist Period	Keen & Haynes, 268-281
Oct. 17	Populism in Brazil, Mexico, & Argentina	Keen & Haynes, 364-380, 300-303, 327-336
Oct. 22	Modern Art in Latin America	Keen & Haynes, 585-593
Oct. 24	Latin American Music	
Oct. 29	Early 20 th -Century Cuba	Keen & Haynes, 424-437
Oct. 31	Revolutionary Cuba	Keen & Haynes, 437-453
Nov. 5	Military Dictatorships, Begin Movie	Keen & Haynes, 381-388, 336-338, 356-360
Nov. 7	Finish Movie	
Nov. 12	Other Revolutions and Guerrilla Wars	Keen & Haynes, 395-423, 454-490, 344-356
Nov. 14	Nationalist Mexico & North Andes	Keen & Haynes, 303-308, 491-520
Nov. 19	Race, Class, and Gender Arguedas assignment due	Keen & Haynes, 555-585
Nov. 21	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)	
Nov. 26	Latinos in the U.S.	
Nov. 28	Drug Trafficking	
Dec. 3	Neoliberalism	Keen & Haynes, 308-317, 338-341, 360-363, 388-394
Dec. 5	Challenges to Neoliberalism	
Dec. 10	Final Exam 2:00-4:00 PM	