

(PALAS 340) History of Latin America
Edgardo García, PhD
Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies
Universidad de Belgrano
Spring 2015

CourseInformation

Tue-Thu 1:00-2:30 PM
Instruction in English

ContactInformation

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CourseDescription

This course studies the formation and evolution of societies in Latin America with a focus in Argentina. Using a comparative approach, the course begins with the aftermath of independence and goes on to tell the story of the complex ethnic and cultural components that impacted in the formation of Latin American societies. It will discuss the emergence of the Masses in the 20th Century, and their key role as political actors in the Mexican, the "Peronist," and the Cuban revolutions, among others. The general problem of economic inequality will be considered throughout the course with a special focus on Latin America's social structure as it relates to race and class.

CourseRequirements

Methodology & Participation: Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class, and prepare assigned papers and/or oral activities. In addition to this, each student will have to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue.

Group Presentation: In groups, students will organize a presentation on a contemporary issue in Latin America today for the last weeks of the course. Guidelines will be provided.

Papers: Students will prepare 2 (two) brief essays (3 pages) connecting different texts and events covered during the course. They will need to address a key question, like how has the construction of race, gender, social position and political ideology affected people in Latin America? What social forces have been in opposition to each other in the region? Why has revolution been attempted or carried out so frequently? What forces have contributed to poverty in Latin America? What has been the relationship of Latin American nations to the U.S. and Spain? Guidelines will be provided.

Mid-Term Exam: will be in class.

Final Exam: The final exam will be on the last week of classes.

Attendance: A 75% attendance to classes is mandatory to keep the regular student status. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students have to slide an electronic card every class to comply with attendance policy.

Important note for oral presentations and response papers: it is strongly recommended that students read an article from our electronic library (such as JSTOR or / Wilson Web). Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for research. Any student caught plagiarizing will immediately be given a "no credit" for all courses taken in the semester.

Grading Policy

Class Participation	10%
Response Papers (2)	20%
Midterm	25%
Group Presentation	15%
Final	30%

For a better understanding of the table for grading, see the student handbook in the orientation kit packet.

Required Textbooks and Materials

- Keen, Benjamin and Haynes, Keith. *A History of Latin America, Independence to the Present*. Vol. 2, Eighth Edition. Houghton Mifflin, ed. Boston, New York: 2009.
- *Course Reader* (available at Taller4)

If you are having difficulties in keeping up with the academic demands of this course, please talk to me for additional help.

Calendario académico / Academic Calendar

DATE	TOPIC
<p style="text-align: center;">1 03/10/14</p>	<p>Week 1. Latin America in 19th Century Introduction to the course. The legacies of Colonial Times</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2 03/12/14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After independence (KH: 179-192) <p>Religion - Film: <i>The Mission</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">3 03/17/14</p>	<p>Week 2. Decolonization and the Search for National Identities: 1821-1870</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fruits of independence – General Overview (KH: 193-196) • Mexico (KH: 196-204)
<p style="text-align: center;">4 03/19/14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina (KH: 205-211) • CR: Domingo Sarmiento, <i>The City and the Countryside: Civilization versus Barbarism</i> <p>Patriarchy - Film: <i>Camila</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5 03/24/14</p>	<p>BANK HOLIDAY</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6 03/26/14</p>	<p>Week 3. The Triumph of Neocolonialism and the Liberal State (1870-1900)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Colonialism (KH: 243-246) • Mexican Politics and Economy (KH:247-252) • Argentine Politics and Economy (KH:252-255) • Race, Nation, and Freedom in Cuba (KH: 231-235) • CR: Jose Marti, <i>Our America</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">7 03/31/14</p>	<p>Week 4. The Mexican revolution and the populist challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Revolution (KH: 313-325) • CD: Emiliano Zapata, <i>The Plan de Ayala and Agrarian reform</i> <p>Neocolonialism - Film: <i>Viva Zapata</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">8 04/02/14</p>	<p>BANK HOLIDAY</p>

DATE	TOPIC
<p style="text-align: center;">9 04/07/14</p>	<p>Week 5. Populist Leaders and their downfall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstructing the state (KH: 325-330) • Mexico: Lázaro Cárdenas and the populist interlude (KH:330-333) • Mexico: Big Bourgeoisie in Power (KH:333-338) •
<p style="text-align: center;">10 04/09/14</p>	<p>Week 5. Populist Leaders and their downfall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina: populism, the military and the struggle for democracy (KH:356-361) • Argentina: Yrigoyen and the "infamous decade" (KH: 356-368)
<p style="text-align: center;">11 04/14/14</p>	<p>Week 6. The Perón Era (1945-1973)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TheFirst Peronismo (1945-1955) (KH: 368-373) CR: Juan Perón, <i>Declaration of Workers' Rights</i> (1947) <p style="text-align: center;">FIRST PAPER DUE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">12 04/16/14</p>	<p>Week 6. The Perón Era (1945-1973)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Perón speaks: http://web.archive.org/web/20040611224653/edsall-historypage.org/html/eva_social_aid.html http://web.archive.org/web/20040607205225/www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1951_evaperon.html • In the shadow of Perón (1955-1973) (KH: 373-375) <p>Nationalism & Populism - Film: <i>La República Perdida 1930 - 1976</i> -</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">13 04/21/14</p>	<p>Week 7. Cuba: the revolutionary socialist alternative to populism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba: Independence, dependent development and popular struggle (KH: 376-388) • CR: Sen. Orville Platt, <i>The Platt Amendment</i> (1901)
<p style="text-align: center;">14 04/23/14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba: the Revolution (KH: 389-399) • CR: Program Manifesto of the 26th of July Movement

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15 04/28/14	SPECIAL CLASS
16 04/30/14	<p>Week 8. Deconstructing the state: Chile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Socialist alternative (1970-1973) (KH: 421-432) • The Chilean Road to Socialism (KH:432-437) • Military Dictatorship and Neoliberalism in Chile (KH: 508-511) <p>Revolution – Film: <i>La República Perdida 1930 – 1976</i></p>
17 05/05/14	<p style="text-align: center;">SPECIAL CLASS</p> <p>Historical Memory - Film: <i>Missing</i></p>
18 05/07/14	<p>Week 9/10. Military Dictatorship and Neoliberalism in Argentina (1976-1990)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Argentina (KH: 511-514) • CR: Rodolfo Walsh, <i>Open letter to the Military Junta</i>
19 05/12/14	<p>Week 9/10 . Military Dictatorship and Neoliberalism in Argentina (1976-1990)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR: <i>Never Again</i> (read Prologue & Conclusion) at http://www.desaparecidos.org/nuncamas/web/english/library/neveragain/neveragain_001.htm <p>State Terrorism - Film: <i>La República Perdida 1930–1976</i></p>
20 05/14/14	MID-TERM EXAM
21 05/19/14	<p>Week 11. Revolution and Prolonged Popular War in Central America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Salvador (KH:457-467) • Central America in 19th Century (KH:216-218; 265-268) • CR: Archbishop Oscar Romero, <i>The Last Sermon</i> (1980) <p>Revolution in Central America - Film: <i>Salvador</i></p>
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05/21/14	Week 11. Revolution and Prolonged Popular War in Central America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nicaragua (KH:447-457; 520-522) CR: The Nicaraguan Revolution
23 05/26/14	Mexico, NAFTA and Zapatistas (KH:514-520) CR: <i>EZLN: Sixth Declaration of the Selva Lacandona</i> (2005) Revolution in Central America - Film: <i>Carla's song</i> -
24 05/28/14	Week 12 & 13. Transcending Neoliberalism- Dictatorship of Markets and Resistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brazil (KH:523-529) Group Presentation Chile (KH-536-540) Group Presentation
25 06/02/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argentina (KH:529-532) Group Presentation Mexico (KH:540-543) Group Presentation
26 06/04/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bolivia (KH: 543-547) Group Presentation Ecuador (KH: 547-552) Group Presentation Cuba (KH:552-558) Group Presentation <p style="text-align: center;">SECOND PAPER DUE</p> <p>Neoliberalism - Film: <i>Pixote</i> - <i>Estación central</i></p>
27 06/09/14	Week 14. The Two Americas: USA-Latin America <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towards a New World Order? (KH:587-592) Final Revision
28 06/11/14	FINAL EXAM
29 06/16/14	Week 15. Latin America Today Current Latin America situation - Film: South of the border
30 06/18/14	Final Remarks. Final Grade and signature of Hoja de situación (attendance is mandatory)