This introductory survey course will cover the difficult process of nation-building that twenty-odd societies south of the Rio Grande experienced during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The course will analyze the nineteenth-century construction of national borders, economies and cultural identities in a period that witnessed the fragmentation of a once-unified Spanish America and the consolidation of Brazil as a sovereign nation-state. American foreign policy and intellectual inquiry had considerable impact on Latin America during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as we will see in the development of Puerto Rican feminism, racially-tinged national ideologies and contradictory migration policies. We will close the course with an examination of the current Latin American reality: from the death of Hugo Chávez in Venezuela, the polemic social costs of the 2014 World Cup in Brazil to the unexpected reversal of Mexican migration to the United States. No prior studies of Latin American history or the Spanish language are required for this class.

**Class Requirements:**

- Current Events/Reading Responses: 10%
- Class Participation: 10%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Final Exam: 40%
- Essay: 20%

**Required Books:**


* Indicates an article found on JSTOR database (jstor.org)
Week 1 - Colonial Legacies
- *Problems in Modern Latin American History*, 3-24
- Frances Calderon de la Barca, primary source

Jan. 13 – No Class
Jan. 15 – Spanish America and Portuguese Brazil at 1821
Jan. 17 – Haiti: Free, Black, and Threatening

Week 2 - Incomplete Independence, or Spanish America Falls Apart
- Chowning, “Nineteenth-Century Mexican Agriculture,” 179-215
- Haber & Klein, “Consequences of Brazilian Independence,” 243-259
- *Problems*, 57-81

Jan. 20 – No Class (MLK Jr. Day)
Jan. 22 – Gran Colombia fragments
Jan. 24 – Debt, debt and more debt

Week 3 - Anarchy, Bandits and Elites
- Meade, 82-104, 117-128, 149-152
- *Problems*, 83-106

Jan. 27 – Big Men, Robberies and Violence
Jan. 29 – When Paraguay fought the World
Jan. 31 – Conservatism and 5 de Mayo

Week 4 - Brazil, Cuba and Puerto Rico: Jewels of the Empire
- Meade, 105-117, 128-133
- *Problems*, 29-55
- Primary Sources: *Voices of the Enslaved & Children of God’s Fire*

Feb. 3 – African Influx to Cuba and Brazil
Feb. 5 – Cuba and Puerto Rico, ever faithful islands
Feb. 7 – Slaves, Sugarcane and Coffee

Week 5 – Abolition, Immigration and Feminism
- Meade, 135-149, 152-155
- *Problems*, 129-159

Feb. 10 – Britain and the U.S.: Political power of abolition
Feb. 12 – The Fall of the Spanish Empire, Baboons and Cartoons
Feb. 14 – Immigration and Abolition: A Brazilian Story

Week 6 - The Mexican Revolution: Guns, Trains and Tortillas
- Meade, 157-174
- Jeffrey Pilcher, *Que vivan los tamales!*

Feb. 17 – Porfirio Díaz and the peace of dictatorship
Feb. 19 – "Adelitas": The women who rode the trains
Feb. 21 – Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata

**Individual Meetings**

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**Week 7 – The Music, Sport and Dance of Latin America**
- Hermano Vianna, *The Mystery of Samba*
- *Problems*, 183-193

Feb. 24 – Popular Culture, Sport and Food
Feb. 26 – The Transformation of Carnaval
Feb. 28 – Elite Culture and Festivities

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**Week 8 – To Mix or Not to Mix?**
- *R&N*, Gerardo Rénique, “Race, Region and Nation,” 211-236

Mar. 3 – The Ideals of Mestizaje
Mar. 5 – Midterm Exam
Mar. 7 – Latin American Cinema

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**Week 9 - Spring Break (No Class, March 8-16)**
- Ernesto Guevara, *Back on the Road: A Journey to Central America*

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**Week 10 - Unhealthy Bananas: The Case of Honduras and Guatemala**
- Meade, 175-191
- *Problems*, 161-181
- Ernesto Guevara, *Back on the Road: A Journey to Central America*

Mar. 17 – The Panama Canal and Monroe Doctrine
Mar. 19 – What happens when Boston wants bananas?
Mar. 21 – Neruda and the poetry of "El Pulpo"

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**Week 11 – Trujillo, Haiti and Populism**
- Meade, 193-233
- *Problems*, 193-202, 207-229

Mar. 24 – An Island Split
Mar. 26 – Caribbean Genocide
Mar. 28 – World War II and Populism

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**Week 12 – Revolution, Student Movements, and Dictatorship**
- Meade, 235-275
- *Problems*, 231-280
- Eric Zolov, “Showcasing the Land of Tomorrow,” 159-188 *
Mar. 31 – The Cuban Revolution
Apr. 2 – *Massacre at Tlatelolco*
Apr. 4 – Fears of the Left: Chile, Brazil, Argentina

**Week 13 - A New Latin America: Coke, Coca-Cola and Migrants**
- Meade, 278-303

Apr. 7 – Booming Cities, Informality, and LTAM Migration  
*Essay Due*
Apr. 9 – The Drug Trade
Apr. 11 – New Latin American Realities  
*Poster Presentations*

**Week 14 – Zapatismo, or those Ski-Masked Native Americans**
- *Problems*, 281-292

Apr. 14 – NAFTA and Hyperinflation
Apr. 16 – Central American Rebel Groups from Marcos to Ortega
Apr. 18 – Fight for Indigenous Resources and Laws: Rigoberta Menchú

**Week 15 – Hugo Chávez, Lula and the Social Costs of Spectacle**
- Meade, 305-334
- *Problems*, 202-205, 292-320
- Eli Jelly-Schapiro, “The Stands Bereft of People,” 99-107 *
- NY Times, “Let Them Eat Soccer”
- NY Times, “Brazil’s Vinegar Uprising”

Apr. 21 – New, Neo-Colonial Societies?
Apr. 23 – Hugo Chávez and The Pink Tide
Apr. 25 – Brazil, *Futebol*, and the Social Costs of the World Cup

**Week 16 – Latin American Migrants (Inside & Out)**
- NY Times, “Dominicans of Haitian Descent Cast Into Legal Limbo”
- LA Times, “Dominican Republic Citizenship Ruling Stirs Outcry”
- Susan Rose & Sarah Hiller, “From Migrant Work to Community Transformation,” 95-142 *

Apr. 28 – Latin-Americans + U.S. = Latinos?
Apr. 30 – Revoking Citizennships: Dominican Republic vs. U.S.A.

**Finals Week – Exam Date, Time & Location TBD**  
*Final Exam*