

HIS 151 - Modern Latin American History, 1821-2014

Spring 2015

Prof. Sierra (pablo.sierra@rochester.edu)

Location: Morey 525

Class: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:40-10:55 am

Office: Rush Rhees 458

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:

Nancy Appelbaum, Anne S. Macpherson, and Karin Alejandra Roseblatt, eds. *Race and Nation in Modern Latin America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003. ISBN 978-0807854419

Luisa Capetillo, *A Nation of Women: An Early Feminist Speaks Out*. Arte Publico Press, 2005. ISBN 978-1558854277

John Charles Chasteen and James A. Wood, *Problems in Modern Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations*. Lanham: SR Books, 2009 (3rd edition). ISBN 978-0742556454

Ernesto Guevara, *Back on the Road: A Journey to Central America*. Harvill Press, 2001. ISBN 978-1860468483

Teresa A. Meade, *A History of Modern Latin America*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. ISBN 978-1405120517

Jeffrey Pilcher, *Que vivan los tamales!: Food and the Making of Mexican Identity*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0826318732

Hermano Vianna, *The Mystery of Samba: Popular Music and National Identity in Brazil*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1999. ISBN 978-0807847664

* Indicates an article found on JSTOR database (jstor.org)

Week 1 - Colonial Legacies

- Meade, *A History of Modern Latin America*, 22-79
- *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
- *Race & Nation (R&N)*, Sarah Chambers, “Little Middle Ground,” 32-55
- *R&N*, Aims McGuiness, “Searching for ‘Latin America’,” 87-107
- *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
- *R&N*, Anne MacPherson, “Imagining the Colonial Nation,” 108-131
- *R&N*, Lilian Guerra, “From Revolution to Involution,” 132-162
- *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
Individual Meetings
Individual Meetings

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

Week 8 – To Mix or Not to Mix?

- *R&N*, Gerardo Rénique, "Race, Region and Nation," 211-236
- *R&N*, Alexandra Minna Stern, "From Mestizophilia," 187-210
- *R&N*, Sueann Caulfield, "Interracial Courtship," 163-186
- *R&N*, Barbara Weinstein, "Racializing Regional Difference," 237-262

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

Midterm Exam

Week 9 - Spring Break (No Class, March 8-16)

- Ernesto Guevara, *Back on the Road: A Journey to Central America*

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"

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

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 Citizenships: Dominican Republic vs. U.S.A.

Finals Week – Exam Date, Time & Location TBD

Final Exam