

Office Hours: I am available most days throughout the day; please contact me to set up a convenient time to discuss any problem via Zoom.

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HIS/POL214
MODERN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY
(GLO/SBS)

CLASS MEETINGS: M/W, 11:45-12:40 (ON-LINE; SYNCHRONOUS)

RECITATION SECTIONS: MON (10:30-11:25), WED (9:15-10:10), FRI (11:45-12:40)

This introductory survey aims to introduce students to the trajectory of modern Latin America, from the early nineteenth century to the present. Our goal is to gain a deeper understanding of some of the central historical themes that have shaped Latin American society and politics since achieving independence, thus leading students to acquire a basis for making sound observations and judgments about the political, economic, social, and cultural realities affecting Latin America today. The class will move chronologically as well as thematically, covering topics such as nationalism, political economy, U.S.-Latin American relations, revolutionary & counterrevolutionary struggle, and cultural practices. To do so we will approach the hemisphere comparatively, drawing similarities and differences between different nation-states and regions.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

GLO: “Engage Global Issues”

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interconnectedness of the world, past and present.
2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of Latin America.

SBS: “Understand, Observe, and Analyze Human Behavior and Societal Constructs”

1. Understand the major concepts and phenomena that form the basis of knowledge in the social sciences.
2. Understand methods of inquiry into the social world and the methods social and behavioral scientists use to explore social phenomena including observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, and the evaluation and application of evidence.
3. Understand various types of theory that organize predictions and evidence in the social sciences.

4. Skillfully interpret and form educated opinions on social science issues.

Additional Learning Objectives:

1. Demonstrate mastery of the conceptual vocabulary needed to interpret the modern history of Latin America and to use this vocabulary appropriately.
2. Demonstrate analytical understanding of contemporary debates concerning Latin America with respect to economic development options, national identity, and relations with the United States.
3. Evaluate the ways in which U.S. foreign policy has played an integral role in Latin America's history and contemporary politics.
4. Identify the principal features of Latin American geography.

By the end of the course, students should have a solid understanding of the foundational issues facing the development of the nation-state in Latin America, from an historical as well as contemporary perspective. Reading and writing assignments are designed to help students develop critical reading and thinking, and to provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their capacity as self-guided, interdisciplinary learners capable of independent analysis.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Lectures will be done synchronously via Zoom during the assigned course period. All lectures will be automatically uploaded to the Zoom Cloud on Blackboard. Lectures will feature a combination of Power Point presentation, break-out sessions among small groups of students, and occasional short videos or other audiovisual materials. You will need access to a computer with a video monitor and headphone connection. (Please do not watch lectures on an iPhone except in exceptional circumstances.) It is essential that you do the assigned readings prior to class in order to adequately participate in the break-out sessions with your peers. You may wish to consult these links, established by the Dean of Students, to assist with the on-line learning environment: [Keep Learning Student Tech Guide](#) and [4 Simple Ways to Succeed in Online Classes](#)

Participation/Attendance (15%): Participation grade incorporates Recitation attendance record, in-class participation during break-out rooms, and a brief response on BB to a weekly question that corresponds with class readings. If you are unable to attend your assigned Recitation class for a particular week, you may (with permission of the professor) switch to a different section for that week only in order to receive attendance credit. All students are allowed one "excused absence" from Recitation. Subsequent absences will be marked down by 2 points from the Participation Grade for each instance.

Map Quiz (5%): Requires proper identification of countries and capitals of Latin America (see p. 5 in Mead, *History of Modern Latin America* textbook). You may retake the map quiz for credit (highest grade will be assigned) but this must be done before the midterm and during TA/professor's office hours only. See the practice map (identical to the quiz) attached to the syllabus; it is also located under "Quizzes" in Blackboard.

Quizzes (20%): There will be five announced quizzes throughout the semester based on readings and lecture material.

Midterm (30%): In-class exam based on identifications, matching, and map information. The exam will draw from lectures and assigned readings.

Final Essay Outline/Draft (5%): Initial outline with draft introductory paragraph and selected bibliography due on/before Week XIII. See below for websites that are useful for Latin American current events. Further guidelines to be distributed.

Final Essay (25%): 5-7 page essay examining any contemporary topic in Latin America viewed through the lens of historical interpretation. Due on date of final exam.

STATEMENT ON GRADING

I expect a high level of professionalism for all written work. For insights on how to write properly and use Chicago Style footnote citation, please visit the [Undergraduate Resources](#) page at the [History Department](#) website. To receive an "A" in this course, you must have an exceptional attendance record and demonstrate an upper-level of competency on quizzes, the midterm, and final writing assignment. This means showing that you understand the course material not simply at a narrative or factual level, but also analytically. To receive a "B" in this course, you must have a strong attendance record and demonstrate a solid level of competency on the quizzes, midterm exam, and final writing assignment. Similar to the "A" level, you are expected to demonstrate an active engagement with the course materials, though the difference between an "A" and "B"-level student is revealed in the degree of analytical thought and professionalism that goes into the final assignment. Students who receive a "C" in this course will have a solid attendance record and demonstrate competency on the quizzes, midterm, and final writing assignment. A competent grasp of the materials shows that you are able to discern the narrative arguments and have a firm grasp of the factual materials.

EXTRA-CREDIT

During the course of the semester there will be various public events related to Latin American politics & culture, sponsored by the [Latin American and Caribbean Studies](#) (LACS) Center and other programs. You are strongly encouraged to attend these events and as an added incentive may turn in a 1-2 page [reflective analysis](#) of any event for Extra Credit. These reflections will not be graded formally but will factor into your final mark for the course. You may also watch one of the films noted on the syllabus and submit a 1-2 pg. reflection that incorporates course work into your discussion of the film. All work

must be turned in within 10 days of the event. Students interested in becoming a [Latin American & Caribbean Studies](#) (LACS) Minor should speak with the professor. If you are interested in knowing more about LACS events, please consider following LACS @StonyBrookLACS (Twitter) and StonyBrookLACS (Facebook).

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT CENTER

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the [Student Accessibility Support Center](#), 128 ECC Building, (631) 632-6748, or at sasc@Stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation are confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and review information at the [Student Accessibility Support Center](#).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student will be asked to read and sign a “Honor Code” form designed for our Zoom age. This Honor Code expects that all students will pursue academic goals honestly and accept personal accountability for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Instances of academic dishonesty will receive a “zero” for that assignment and may be reported to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the website of academic [judiciary](#).

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.

COMPUTER/BLACKBOARD ASSISTANCE

The Division of Information Technology provides assistance to all who are having trouble accessing a system and/or connecting to the campus network. Should you have any issues, please contact the [service desk](#) or call 631-632-9800.

BOOKS REQUIRED FOR PURCHASE

Teresa Meade, *A History of Modern Latin America: 1800 to the Present* (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell Press; 2nd ed)

Robert Buffington and Lila Caimari, eds., *Keen's Latin American Civilization (Vol. 2): A Primary Source Reader* (Boulder: Westview Press).

It is not necessary to purchase the most recent edition, but you are responsible for keeping on top of the readings even if the page numbers on the syllabus seem out of alignment with your edition.

English-language Websites for Latin American News (to assist with final paper):

Andean News Agency: <http://www.andes.info.ec/en>

BBC Americas (British news agency): https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/latin_america

Cuba Trade Magazine (US-based): <http://www.cubatrademagazine.com/>

The Economist: <https://www.economist.com/sections/americas>

The Guardian (Americas): <https://www.theguardian.com/world/americas>

Imagen News (Mexican Radio show): <http://www.imagenradio.com.mx/ana-maria-salazar>

Latin American Herald Tribune: <http://www.laht.com/index.asp>

Mexico Daily Review (linked to radio station above): <http://mexicodailyreview.com.mx/>

NACLA (US academic/activist news source): <https://nacla.org/>

New York Times (Americas): <https://www.nytimes.com/section/world/americas>

Prensa Latina (Cuban-founded, Latin American news agency): <http://www.plenglish.com/>

WEEK I: INTRODUCTION

2/1: Introduction

Reading Assignment:

Meade, *History of Modern Latin America* [**Hereafter: HMLA**], start Chapter 1 ("Introduction")

2/3: What is "Latin America"?

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, finish Chap. 1.

WEEK II: IMPACTS OF INDEPENDENCE

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Liberal Revolution in Mexico" (p. 15)

2/8: Collapse of the Colonial Order

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 2 ("Latin America in 1790") to p. 42.

Buffington & Caimari, *Keen's Latin American Civilization* [**Hereafter: KLAC**], "Struggle for Independence" (p. 3); "A Question of Leadership" (p. 7); "Man of Destiny" (p. 10)

2/10: *Patrias Chicas, Patrias Grandes*

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 3 ("Competing Notions of Freedom"); skip section on slavery (p. 53-65); we will return to this later.

KLAC, "Searching for a New Road" (pp. 34-5)

WEEK III: CAUDILLO POLITICS

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Civilization and Barbarism: Facundo Quiroga" & "Civilization & Barbarism: Dangerous Classes" (pp. 51-64).

Map Quiz (Countries & Capitals of principal Latin American & Caribbean nations; see practice map at end of syllabus and in "Documents" folder on Blackboard). Given in Recitation Class.

2/15: Liberals vs. Conservatives

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, start Chapter 4 ("Fragmented Nationalisms")

KLAC, "The Age of Violence" (pp. 47-51)

2/17: Argentina under Rosas

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, finish Chapter 4

Extra Credit Movie: *Camila* (Dir. María Luisa Bemberg, 1984)

WEEK IV: GENDERED & RACIALIZED NATIONS

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Liberal Family Values" (p. 93-5)

Quiz-I given in Recitation Class.

2/22: Gendered Nations

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, 42-48, 100-105 (review)

2/24: Colonial *Castas* and the Legacies of Racial Mixing

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, 53-65

KLAC, "Black Slavery Under the Empire" (p. 102), "The Antislavery Impulse" (p. 104), "On Racial Miscegenation in Brazil" (p. 114).

WEEK V: FORGING NATION-STATES

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Roads to the Future" (p. 82)

3/1: Attaining an Oligarchic Consensus-I

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 5 ("Latin America's Place in the Commodity Chain") to p. 122.

KLAC, "Real and Imagined Communities" (p. 81)

3/3: Attaining an Oligarchic Consensus-II

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 6 ("Immigration, and Urban & Rural Life")

KLAC, "Modernity and the Emergence of the Nation State" (p. 117), "Political Stability and Economic Development" (p. 118)

WEEK VI: OLIGARCHIC CONSENSUS & COLLAPSE IN MEXICO

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Porfirio Díaz Assesses His Legacy" (p. 129), "A Revolutionary Constitution" (p. 161)

Quiz-II given in Recitation Class.

3/8: The Porfiriato: Mexico's Oligarchic Consensus

HMLA, start Chapter 7 ("Revolution from Countryside to City: Mexico")

KLAC, "A Popular Perspective on Modernity" (p. 133)

3/10: Mexico's Revolutionary Upheaval

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, finish Chapter 7

KLAC, "For Land and Liberty" (p. 159)

Extra Credit Film: *Viva Zapata!* (Dir. Elia Kazan, 1952)

NOTE: Last week to retake Map Quiz (contact TA or professor to retake)

WEEK VII: MIDTERM/PAN-AMERICANISM

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Monroe Doctrine" (p. 329)

3/15: MIDTERM

3/17: Origins of Pan-Americanism

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, pp. 122-27

KLAC, "The Two Americas" (p. 325)

WEEK VIII: CHALLENGES TO U.S. HEGEMONY

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Our America" (p. 145) & "On the Uniqueness of Latin American Spirit" (p. 332)

3/22: 1898 as Turning Point

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, pp. 127-139

KLAC, "White Man's Burden" (p. 335), Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine" (p. 338), "Mexico's President Looks North" (p. 342)

3/24: "Arielism" and the Search for National Form
HMLA, Chapter 8 ("The Left and the Socialist Alternative") to p. 190.
KLAC, "To Roosevelt" (340)

WEEK IX: GOOD NEIGHBORS & POPULIST COALITIONS

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Cárdenas Speaks" (p. 176)
Quiz III given in Recitation Class

3/29: Becoming 'Good Neighbors'
HMLA, pp. 190-97

3/31: Populist Coalitions-I

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, start Chapter 9 ("Populism and the Struggle for Change")
KLAC, "The Rise of Mass Politics and Culture" (p. 157), "On the Protection of the
Brazilian Worker" (p. 182)

Extra Credit Film: *The Three Caballeros* (Walt Disney, 1944)

WEEK X: POPULIST COALITIONS

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Eva Perón" (p. 189), "Letter to President Perón"
(p. 192)

4/5: Populist Coalitions-II

Reading Assignment:

KLAC, "Cárdenas Speaks" (p. 176)

4/7: Peronism: Argentine Populism

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, finish Chap. 9
KLAC, "Perón Appeals to the People" (p. 187)

WEEK XI: COLD WAR AND THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "History Will Absolve Me" (208)
Quiz-IV given in Recitation Class.

4/12: The Coming Cold War

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 10 ("Post-World War II Struggles for Sovereignty")
KLAC, "National Security" (p. 344), "Operation Guatemala" (346)

4/14: Cuban Revolution

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, start Chapter 11 ("Cuba: Guerrillas Take Power")

KLAC, "Revolution, Democracy, and Dictatorship" (197)

WEEK XII: OLD LEFTS, NEW LEFTS & MILITARY BACKLASH

To Read for Recitation Class: KLAC, "Castro Defines the Theory of the Cuban Revolution" (212)

4/19: From "Old Left" to "New Left"

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, finish Chapter 11

KLAC, "Advice for the Urban Guerrilla" (p. 217)

4/21: Bureaucratic Authoritarianism, Dictatorships and Dirty Wars

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 12 ("Progress and Reaction")

KLAC, "Open Letter to the Military *Junta*" (226), "Mothers of the Disappeared" (233)

Extra Credit Film: *Four Days in September* (Dir. Bruno Barreto, 1997)

WEEK XIII: YOUTH CULTURAL POLITICS OF 1960S

Recitation Class: Writing Workshop. Minimum of draft outline, introductory paragraph, and preliminary bibliography for final paper due.

Quiz-V given in Recitation

4/26: Rock Culture

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 13 ("Revolution and its Alternatives")

Eric Zolov, "[From The Vault: Why Sing it in English?](#)"

4/28: Protest Song

KLAC, "Death of Victor Jara" (221)

Document: "First Protest Song Conference" (distributed on BB)

Eric Zolov, "[From the Vault: Cuban Rock and the Revolution \(Part 1\)](#)"; and "[Cuban Rock and the Revolution \(Part 2\)](#)"

Extra Credit Film: *Break it All* (Netflix, 2020)

WEEK XIV: NEO-LIBERALISM & AFTERMATH

Recitation: Discussion of paper topics (comments on draft proposals will be distributed in advance)

5/3: Forging and Opposing a "Washington Consensus"

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 14 ("The Americas in the Twenty-First Century")

KLAC, "Democracy, Civil War, and Neoliberalism" (p. 242) "The Three Lefts of Latin America" (291).

5/5: Wrap-Up

Reading Assignment:

HMLA, Chapter 15 ("A Future of Sustainable Cooperation?")

Final Paper Due: Wednesday, May 12th. Please submit all papers in Word Doc format (not PDF) using the file format LastName.FinalPaper.214.docx directly to eric.zolov@stonybrook.edu.

Practice Map (this will be identical to the Map Quiz). Identify names and capitals for all major countries, as denoted by a black dot (indicating capital).

