

HIS/POL 214
Modern Latin America

Summer-II
Online Asynchronous

Satisfies GLO, SBS [DEC: J]
Thematic Categories: "Art, Ideas & Culture,"
"Empire, Violence, & Global Connections," "Law, Politics & Social Justice"

Instructor: José Miguel Munive Vargas

This survey course explores the history of the part of the American continent known as “Latin America” and engages students in a discussion that deconstructs traditional historical narratives of the nation. Our study will move chronologically as well as thematically from the era of the Independence Revolutions of the early 19th century to the present. While our emphasis is on social movements, politics, war, and revolutions, we will examine the cultural variables of such dynamics expressed in themes of race, nation, and gender. These concepts will also illuminate how the development of institutional systems of science, health, and education, were critical to the construction of modern Latin American nation-states. Each topic will position groups historically marginalized in national discourses, such as women, indigenous peasants, and enslaved people at the center of historical analysis. Scholarly readings and lectures will give particular attention to Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador, Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru. As we examine how the newly independent countries struggled to find their way into modern nations, we will enrich our study through the analysis of literary texts, photography, graphic arts, film, and music. Students will write weekly responses, and a final essay based on a primary visual or written source. No textbook is required. All the materials will be available on Brightspace.