

# LATIN AMERICA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

HIST 3327-01, Fall 2015. Pafford 206, MW 3:30-4:50 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

Office: TLC 3206

Office hours: MW 11:00 AM-12:30 PM and 2:00-3:30 PM, Tu 8:00 AM-12:00 noon, or by appointment

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## Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to the history and civilization of Latin America from Independence until the present. We will discuss the creation of new nations, their evolution in the context of the world economy, and the problems that face Latin America (and the U.S.) today.

This course is designed to help you appreciate the multicultural nature of the world we live in. You will be introduced to important concepts, ideas, and events that will allow you understand the recent history of the Latin Americans, our nearest neighbors and our largest minority group. You will use primary and secondary sources and be introduced to the historiography of Latin America. In addition, you will be able to improve the skills of writing, analysis, and critical thinking that all of your other important endeavors will require.

## Course Requirements

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading. Because of the large amount of material to be covered, class attendance is absolutely essential. Attendance will be taken. You are allowed up to five absences for all reasons (including sporting events, illness, and family issues). More than five absences will result in the loss of 5% of your final grade. More than 10 absences will result in the loss of 10% of your final grade.

It is important to attend class and take notes. This is the only way you will be able to prepare for the exams. Information obtained from sources other than this class's books and lectures will not count positively toward your grade.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus. It is your responsibility to attend class so that you may be aware of any changes.

## Grading

There will be two written examinations: a midterm and a final, each worth 20% of the final grade. You will have two reviews of the Arguedas and Kruijt books, each worth 14% of the final grade. You will have four other written assignments based on documents from the Wood and Chasteen book, each worth 8% of the final grade. As noted above, excessive absences may result in the loss of up to 10% of your grade. Disruptive behavior may also result in points taken out of your grade.

Your exam dates are noted on this syllabus. Do not make travel plans that conflict with your exam dates.

Written work handed in late will be graded according to its quality and will have 2 points deducted if turned in after the class meeting when it is due, with a further 2 points deducted for each 24-hour period that has elapsed since the class in which it was due.

To facilitate grading your written work, I may use the following symbols:

✓ for good information that helps answer the question correctly

✗ for something that is completely wrong

~ for something that is partially or not quite correct

? for something that does not make sense

^ for a missing word

... for when you need more information or more details

In addition, I will underline all sections of your written work that are misspelled or are grammatically incorrect. If you wish to learn how to correct these problems, you should make an appointment with the Writing Center and bring your graded paper to one of their tutors.

### **Academic Honesty**

You are expected to be familiar with and abide by the university's policies on academic honesty. As a West Georgia student, you have pledged not to lie, cheat, steal, or commit plagiarism. It is equally wrong to give aid as it is to receive it. When copying word for word from another source, you must use quotation marks and cite your source. When paraphrasing material or borrowing another author's ideas, you must also cite your source. Plagiarism on the written assignments will result in an F for the course. Assignments are to be done independently. Two or more students cannot hand in variations of the same paper, even if they study together. You are not allowed to submit your own work from a previous course without the prior instructor's and my permission.

### **Special Accommodations**

If you are on record with the university's Accessibility Services as having special academic or physical needs requiring accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. We need to discuss your accommodations before they can be implemented.

If you believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not formally contacted Accessibility Services, please call (678) 839-6428 or drop by the Counseling Center at 123 Row Hall.

Please also check their webpage at <http://www.westga.edu/counseling/4486.php>.

### **Policy on Electronic Devices and Communication**

Cell phones and pagers must be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Laptops are to be used only to take notes or view course readings. Do not text, check your messages, or use the internet on any device during class time. The use of any electronic device during an in-class assignment is strictly prohibited and will be considered a breach of academic honesty, with the result of a grade of zero for the assignment.

To protect your privacy, all electronic communication with me must be conducted through your West Georgia e-mail. As all e-mail is potentially insecure, I will only discuss your grades with you in person. Please be aware that I will not always be able to respond to e-mails or phone messages immediately, and will not answer e-mails asking for information that can be easily found on the syllabus. If you have an urgent matter, talk to me in person—either in class, or in my office.

### University-Wide Policies

Please refer to the following document for additional information on university-wide policies that apply to this class:

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common Language for Course Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common%20Language%20for%20Course%20Syllabi.pdf)

### Required Books:

James Wood and John Chasteen, eds. *Problems in Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2009, ISBN 9780742556454).

José María Arguedas, *Deep Rivers* (Waveland Press, 1978, ISBN 9781577662440).

Dirk Kruijt, *Guerrillas* (Zed Press, 2008).

### Course Schedule:

DATE	LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPIC
Aug. 24	Introduction to the course; Overview of Colonial Latin America
Aug. 26	Independence
Aug. 31	Independence continued; Overview of the Early National Period
Sept. 2	Early National Andean Countries
Sept. 7	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Labor Day)
Sept. 9	Early National Argentina & Chile
Sept. 14	Early National Mexico & Central America
Sept. 16	Discussion of Early National documents <b>Assignment due</b>
Sept. 21	19 <sup>th</sup> -Century Brazil & Cuba
Sept. 23	Overview of the Neocolonial Period
Sept. 28	Neocolonial Argentina & Chile
Sept. 30	Neocolonial Andean Countries <b>Review of Arguedas, <i>Deep Rivers</i>, due</b>
Oct. 5	Neocolonial Mexico & Central America

- Oct. 7 Discussion of Neocolonial documents  
**Assignment due**
- Oct. 12 Mexican Revolution
- Oct. 14 **Midterm Exam**  
*Last day to withdraw with a grade of W*
- Oct. 19 Overview of the Nationalist/Statist Period
- Oct. 21 Populism in Brazil, Mexico, & Argentina; Revolution in Guatemala & Bolivia
- Oct. 26 Modern Art & Music in Latin America
- Oct. 28 Early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century & Revolutionary Cuba
- Nov. 2 Military Dictatorships; Other Revolutions and Guerrilla Wars  
**Review of Kruijt, *Guerrillas*, due**
- Nov. 4 Begin Film
- Nov. 9 End Film; Nationalist Mexico & North Andes
- Nov. 11 Discussion of Nationalist/Statist documents  
**Assignment due**
- Nov. 16 Issues affecting the U.S.: Immigration & Drug Trafficking
- Nov. 18 Neoliberalism
- Nov. 23-25 **NO CLASS** (Thanksgiving Break)
- Nov. 30 Discussion of Neoliberal documents  
**Assignment due**
- Dec. 2 Challenges to Neoliberalism
- Dec. 9 **Final Exam 2:00-4:30 PM**