

# LATIN AMERICA SINCE INDEPENDENCE

HIST 3327-01, Spring 2018. Pafford 204, Tu Th 5:30 - 6:45 PM

Dr. Gary Van Valen

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Office hours: Tu Th 10:00-11:00 AM and 4:30-5:30 PM, 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 challenges 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

The two sources of information in this class are readings and class lectures.

Students will be expected to keep up with the reading and the assignments based on this reading.

It is important to attend class and take notes on the lectures. This is the only way you will be able to acquire all the information necessary for your exams. Information obtained from sources other than this class's readings and lectures (such as unauthorized internet sources) will not count positively toward your grade.

Attendance will be taken for administrative purposes and it is essential because of the large amount of material to be covered. Do not leave class early as this may disrupt other students' learning. If you absolutely have to leave class early, please let me know before class as a courtesy.

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.

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

## 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 Sobrevilla Perea and Arguedas books, each worth 13% of the final grade. You will have a written assignment on historiography based mainly on documents from the Wood and Chasteen book worth 10% of the final grade. You will have three other written assignments based on documents from the Wood and Chasteen book, each worth 8% of the final grade.

Disruptive behavior may 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. The Writing Center is in the TLC building (Room 1201) and can be reached at 678-839-6513.

### **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. Such excessive collaboration will result in the division of the grade between the students involved. 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 a test 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_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

### Required Books:

James Wood and John Chasteen, eds. *Problems in Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, ISBN 9781442218604).

NOTE: Students can get a 30% discount off of the list price of Rowman & Littlefield e-textbooks by using promo code **STUDENT30** when placing an order online at [rowman.com](http://rowman.com)

Natalia Sobrevilla Perea. *The Caudillo of the Andes: Andrés de Santa Cruz* (Cambridge University Press, 2011, ISBN 9780521719964).

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

### Course Schedule:

DATE	LECTURE OR DISCUSSION TOPIC
Jan. 9	Introduction to the course; Overview of Colonial Latin America
Jan. 11	Independence
Jan. 16	Independence continued; Overview of the Early National Period
Jan. 18	Early National Andean Countries
Jan. 23	Early National Argentina & Chile
Jan. 25	Early National Mexico & Central America
Jan. 30	Discussion of Early National documents <b>Historiographic assignment due</b>
Feb. 1	19 <sup>th</sup> -Century Brazil & Cuba
Feb. 6	Overview of the Neocolonial Period <b>Review of Sobrevilla Perea, <i>The Caudillo of the Andes</i> due</b>
Feb. 8	Neocolonial Argentina & Chile

- Feb. 13 Neocolonial Argentina & Chile, continued
- Feb. 15 No class
- Feb. 20 Neocolonial Andean Countries
- Feb. 22 Discussion of Neocolonial documents  
**Assignment due**
- Feb. 27 Neocolonial Andean Countries, continued
- Feb. 28 *Last day to withdraw with a grade of W*
- Mar. 1 Neocolonial Mexico & Central America
- Mar. 6 **Midterm Exam**
- Mar. 8 Mexican Revolution
- Mar. 13 Overview of the Nationalist/Statist Period
- Mar. 15 Populism in Brazil, Mexico, & Argentina; Revolution in Guatemala & Bolivia  
**Review of Arguedas, *Deep Rivers*, due**
- Mar. 19-23 **NO CLASS** (Spring Break)
- Mar. 27 Early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century & Revolutionary Cuba
- Mar. 29 Discussion of Nationalist/Statist documents, Modern Art & Music in Latin America  
**Assignment due**
- Apr. 3 Begin Film
- Apr. 5 End Film
- Apr. 10 Military Dictatorships; Other Revolutions and Guerrilla Wars
- Apr. 12 Nationalist Mexico & North Andes
- Apr. 17 Issues affecting the U.S.: Immigration
- Apr. 19 Issues affecting the U.S.: Drug Trafficking
- Apr. 24 Neoliberalism, Discussion of Neoliberal documents  
**Assignment due**

Apr. 26      Challenges to Neoliberalism

May 8        **Final Exam 5:00-7:00 PM**

May 14      Final grades will be submitted by 12:00 noon