

History 272- Spring 2024
INTRODUCTION TO MODERN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY (1810 TO THE PRESENT)
MWF 4:30-5:20 WALC 2127

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Course Description and learning outcomes:

This course is an introduction to the history of Latin America from the Independence (1810) to the present. The readings and lectures will explore the main social, economic, political and cultural developments in the three largest countries (by area and GDPs) in the region, which combined hold 2/3 of the Latin American population: Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina. The selection of countries will allow to examine the centrality of pre-Columbian, African, and European heritages in the shaping of modern national identities, which represent well the ethnic and cultural diversity of a large and varied continent. We will also cover significant processes, events, and figures in the region. The course studies relevant historical phenomena and famous figures in the history of these countries such as state- and nation formation, the Mexican Revolution, urban poverty, culture, and soccer in Brazil, the government of Juan Perón and the role of his wife Evita in Argentina, etc. At the same time, the work in the classroom will expose students to forms of historical reflection, including the role of critical thinking in the creation of historical knowledge and the research challenges that the latter entails. To achieve these goals we will read secondary and first hand accounts and combine lectures and discussions with essay exams and quizzes.

Books:

Textbook: Skidmore, Smith, and Green, *Modern Latin America* (Oxford University Press)

Special Reading Assignments:

There are several affordable editions (with minor changes) of these classic readings and any of them will do.

- Samuel Brunk, *Emiliano Zapata! Revolution and Betrayal in Mexico* (U. of New Mexico Press)
- Alma Guillermoprieto, *Samba*, (Vintage)
- N. Fraser and M. Navarro, *Evita: The Real Lives of Eva Perón* (Norton)

Any aspect of this syllabus and schedule (including but not limited to exam dates and readings) is subject to change. If a change is necessary I will announce it in class and/or through Brightspace and it is the student's responsibility to be informed about them.

Recording of classes and consultation meetings by students is strictly prohibited and any violation in this respect will be reported to the Dean of Student's Office. Also, in order to allow for a robust and open class experience, students are asked to refrain from posting any

images, chats, or videos from our class—including, but not limited to, class discussions, presentations, and lectures--without prior consent of the instructor and every student in our class. **Any student who posts images, chats, or videos from our class without permission will receive in an automatic F (failure) for the semester and the Dean of Student's Office will be informed.** In addition, content published on Brightspace might be the instructor's intellectual property, therefore, do not publish any content found on Brightspace without prior authorization from said instructor.

Communication Between Instructor and Students: the instructor will communicate with students via Brightspace announcements and/or through email; **it is students' responsibility to check regularly their Purdue email accounts for time sensitive announcements.**

Class notes available on Brightspace: slides with the class notes that I will use in my lectures throughout the semester are already available on Brightspace. I recommend that before coming to class you look at the slides that corresponds to the lecture of the day, so you can familiarize yourself with the subject, historical processes, names, dates, etc. that I will cover in class. You also might want to print the slides and complete them with your own notes during the lecture. This use of my class notes will help you focus on the most relevant material in the lectures, will make your learning less stressful, and, overall, will make our class time way more productive.

Course Outline and Class Schedule (tentative):

Week 1 (1/8)

Introduction

Geography of Latin America

The Colonial Legacy

The Latin American Independence and Periodization

Reading: Skidmore, Smith, and Green, *Modern Latin America*, chap.2,

“The Colonial Foundations”, pp.14-40

Week 2 (1/15)

MEXICO (1810-present)

Reading: Skidmore, Smith, and Green, *Modern Latin America*, chap.3, “Mexico: the Taming of a Revolution”, pp.45-81.

From Independence to the end of the Porfiriato (1810-1911)

Week 3 (1/22)

The Mexican Revolution (1910-1940)

Week 4 (1/29)
Mexico under the PRI and Democratization (1940-2010s)

Week 5 (2/5)
Peasants, Politics, and Revolution. Special reading assignment: Samuel Brunk, *Emiliano Zapata!* **Quiz and Discussion.**

Week 6 (2/12)
Review and First exam

Week 7 (2/19)

BRAZIL (1822-present)

Reading: Skidmore, Smith, and Green, *Modern Latin America*, chap.11, “Brazil: The Awakening Giant”, pp.306-348.

Empire and Republic (1822-1930)

Week 8 (2/26)

Varguismo, Military Rule, and Democracy (1930-2010s)

Week 9 (3/4)
Urban poverty, Afro-Brazilian Heritage, and popular culture. Special reading assignment: Alma Guillermoprieto, *Samba.* **Quiz and Discussion**

March 11-16, Spring Break

Week 11 (3/18)
Review and Second Exam: Brazil

Week 12 (3/25)

ARGENTINA (1810-present)

Reading: Skidmore, Smith, and Green, *Modern Latin America*, chap.9, “Progress and Stalemate”, pp. 244-277.

From Independence (1810) to 1880
The Modernization of Argentina: Agro-Export Economy and Immigration (1880-1930)

Week 13 (4/1)

The “Infamous Decade”, the Working Class, and Populism: the case of Peronism (1930-1955)
Military Rule and Democracy (1955-2010s)

Week 14 (4/8)

Women and Politics in Argentina. Special Reading Assignment: N. Fraser and M. Navarro,
Evita. Quiz and discussion.

Week 15 (4/15)

Argentina in Literature: Jorge Luis Borges (reading assignments available on Brightspace)
Quiz and Discussion

Week 16 (4/22)

Review

April 29-May 3, **Third Exam**

Grades will be determined as follows: three exams on individual countries= 75% (25% each); four
Quizzes= 20% (5% each); attendance (5%).

Students must take all quizzes and exams to pass the course.

Quizzes: Students will have 20 min. to write the answers. The question will be based on the
readings assigned for that week. The purpose of these questions is to work as reading control.

**Quizzes and exams will be taken during class time, in the classroom. The days when quizzes and
exams are given students should make sure to sign the attendance sheet; otherwise tests will not
be counted and students will receive an F.**

Grade Scale:

90-100=A

80-89=B

70-79=C

60-69=D

0-59=F

Attendance is mandatory: Students are allowed to have three absences (excused or not) without

penalty. Beginning with the fourth absence one percentage point will be deducted from the final grade for each class that is missed. Students are allowed a total of six absences. Incurring in a seventh absence (including excused ones) automatically translates into failing the course. The attendance sheet will be available until five minutes past the beginning of class; after the five minute grace time students will not be able to sign in and a late arrival will be counted as an absence.

Consultation: Fr.2:15-3:15, BRNG 6164

Conduct and ethics: Students are expected to follow the code of honor and academic ethics as set forth in University regulations. Violations of these codes will be penalized according to university regulations.

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information is submitted the greater the opportunity for the university to investigate the concern. More details are available on our course Brightspace table of contents, under University Policies.

Incidents of academic misconduct in this course will be addressed by the course instructor and referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) for review at the university level. Any violation of course policies as it relates to academic integrity will result minimally in a failing or zero grade for that particular assignment, and at the instructor's discretion may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct will be forwarded to OSRR, where university penalties, including removal from the university, may be considered.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

Diversity and inclusion: Purdue University is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion and welcomes individuals of all ages, religions, sex, sexual orientations, races, nationalities, languages, military experience, disabilities, family statuses, gender identities and expressions, political views, and socioeconomic statuses. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by everyone in this course. Behaviors that threaten, harass, discriminate or that are disrespectful of others will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviors will be addressed with disciplinary action, which may include being referred to the Office of the Dean of Students.

If you become quarantined or isolated at any point in time during the semester, in addition to support from the Protect Purdue Health Center, you will also have access to an Academic Case Manager who can provide you academic support during this time. Your Academic Case Manager can be reached at acmq@purdue.edu and will provide you with general guidelines/resources

around communicating with your instructors, be available for academic support, and offer suggestions for how to be successful when learning remotely. Importantly, if you find yourself too sick to progress in the course, notify your academic case manager and notify me via email or Brightspace. We will make arrangements based on your particular situation. The Office of the Dean of Students (odos@purdue.edu) is also available to support you should this situation occur.

For unanticipated or emergency conflict, when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email, through Brightspace, or by phone. When the student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department because of circumstances beyond the student's control, and in cases of bereavement, quarantine, or isolation, the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students via email or phone at 765-494-1747. Our course Brightspace includes a link on Attendance and Grief Absence policies under the University Policies menu.

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try WellTrack. Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please contact or see the Office of the Dean of Students. Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 am- 5 pm.

If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc. sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell. Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is completely free and can be done on BoilerConnect. If you have any questions, please contact Purdue Wellness at evans240@purdue.edu.

If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Any student with special needs or a health issue that may affect her/his performance in this course should speak in private with the instructor after class to make the necessary arrangements.