

Latin America after Independence:
Building a Postcolonial Society
History 3609
Uconn Stamford
Spring 2016

Professor

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 5:00 to 6:00pm and by appointment.

Office: 3.74

Class Meeting Place and Time

Monday 6:00pm to 8:40pm

Room 234

Course Description

This course surveys the social, cultural, economic, and political history of Latin America from the independence period to the present. We will devote special attention to understanding the structural conditions that resulted in the collapse of the Spanish and Portuguese empires, and the way these conditions developed over the next 200 years. The class also focuses on Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans, and the way that these groups and their interactions shaped Latin American society today.

To understand Latin America's existing nation-states, societies and cultures and Latinos in the U.S. – a skill increasingly in demand in business, education, health, and government – one must use a broad lens. This course provides an introductory overview of the history and culture of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Rather than solely focusing on Latin America from an outsider's point of view, we will seek to give full weight to how Latin Americans understood themselves and their development. We will analyze how the culture, economics, and politics of the region developed interdependently yet separately from that of the United States and Europe.

In studying the nineteenth century, we will study Latin America as a whole. Following this hemispheric study, we will focus on specific countries that best illustrate the most significant regional trends. We will analyze the period's significant events and movements and reach conclusions on defining themes in Latin American history.

Students will increase their understanding of the diverse nation-states that emerged from the revolutionary turmoil of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This will prepare them to make informed observations and judgments

about the contemporary political, economic, social, and cultural realities found in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States.

The class moves both chronologically and thematically, covering topics such as political economy, nationalism and national identities, U.S. - Latin American and Caribbean relations, transnational Latino migration, gender, slavery, human rights, and popular culture. It also focuses on questions of democratic representation, the struggles of different social sectors for political, social, cultural, and economic inclusion, and the ways in which these struggles have been repressed, accommodated, absorbed, or ignored. We will approach the hemisphere comparatively, drawing similarities and differences between different nation-states.

By endlessly contradicting the ridiculous assertions of the standard liberal narrative, we end up trapped by that same narrative. Their values just as much as their lives, have colonized our minds and our histories. It's not rejection that we seek; proving them wrong does nothing, it's only when we ignore them and retake our story on our terms as innocents that we are truly setting ourselves free.

Learning Intentions

- organize individual ideas to form thoughtful arguments
- form rigorous linguistic models to express logical conclusions
- general understanding of Latin America historically and contemporaneously

Textbook

PLEASE BRING BOOK TO CLASS: Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Eighth Edition (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2014).

Course Requirements / Grades

1) Attend all classes. Students are expected to arrive to class having read the material, prepared to be engaged in discussions, and ready and willing to contribute to making the classroom a friendly and respectful environment. Absences for medical reasons, religious observances, or family emergencies must be documented in writing in order to be counted as excused absences. Students with more than two unexcused absences should expect no higher than a "B" in this class.

2) Take all quizzes. **Readings should be done before coming to class on Monday.** There will be several unannounced quizzes over the course of the semester. The purpose of these quizzes is to hold students accountable for having done the reading, so as to make our discussions more fruitful; therefore, the quizzes will usually be given at the beginning of class, not at the end, after the discussion has already taken place. There will be no opportunity to make up quizzes missed, so each missed quiz would be counted as "zero"; the only exception will be in the case of an excused absence, which (see above) requires written documentation. If you arrive to class late, you run the risk of missing a quiz, so you should be punctual.

Assignments and Grading:

"There is no curve; there may be a tube or barrel or a pyramid, on its base or summit, depending on the distribution of the quality of work." J. Womack.

The structure and focus of the class is subject to change based on student input and/or angry deities.

If you miss class check the syllabus and get notes from a companion. Then come see me. Please do not email asking what you missed. This is all you need to know:

Did I Miss Anything?

Nothing. When we realized you weren't here
we sat with our hands folded on our desks
in silence, for the full two hours

Everything. I gave an exam worth
40 percent of the grade for this term
and assigned some reading due today
on which I'm about to hand out a quiz
worth 50 percent

Nothing. None of the content of this course
has value or meaning
Take as many days off as you like:
any activities we undertake as a class
I assure you will not matter either to you or me
and are without purpose

Everything. A few minutes after we began last time
a shaft of light suddenly descended and an angel
or other heavenly being appeared
and revealed to us what each woman or man must do
to attain divine wisdom in this life and
the hereafter
This is the last time the class will meet
before we disperse to bring the good news to all people on earth.

Nothing. When you are not present
how could something significant occur?

Everything. Contained in this classroom
is a microcosm of human experience
assembled for you to query and examine and ponder
This is not the only place such an opportunity has been gathered

but it was one place

And you weren't here

—Tom Wayman

- (Starting Week 2) Blog Posting and Class participation (35%):
 - By 5pm on Sunday you must submit 2 discussion questions

- By 1pm Monday, you must submit 1 meaningful comment or answer to someone else's question
- Be prepared to lead discussion in class on the questions/comments you pose
- **1 Map Quiz (10%):**
 - A basic knowledge of regional geography is necessary to understand the class material
 - A list of geographical features can be found on Husky CT
- **5 brief pop quizzes about content (25%)**
- **2 short 5-page analytical papers due during the semester (30%)**

Instructions:

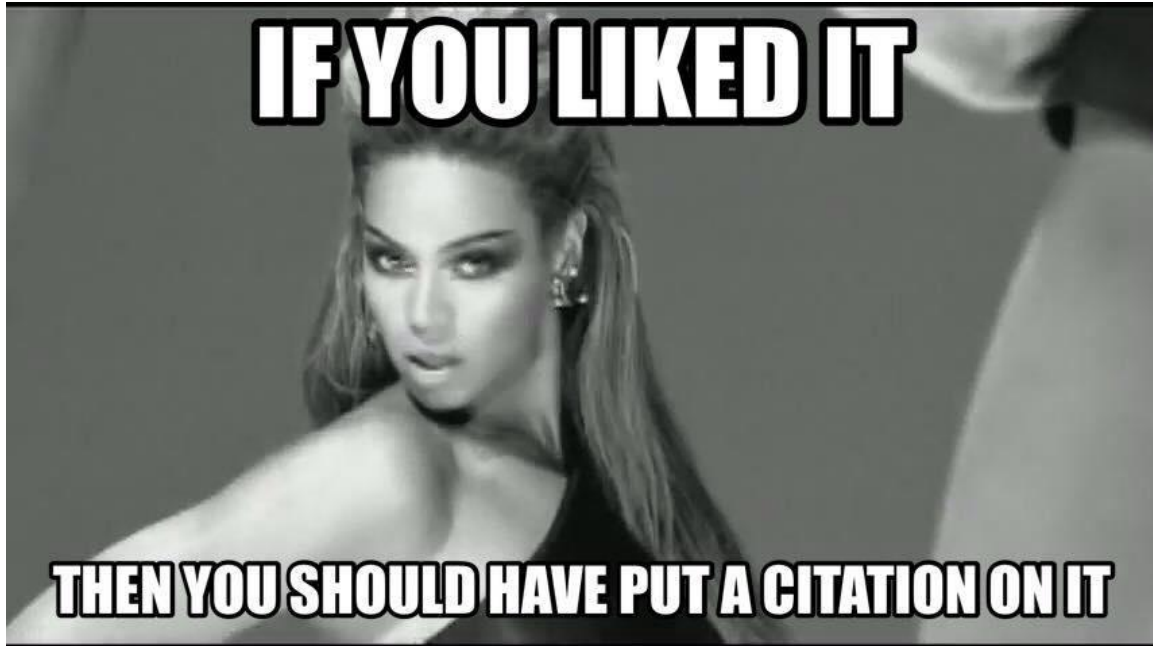
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Nj13MXySKC_VktTk4Hxh9EC5s5G9puYaN7FmG6QNEjE/edit?usp=sharing

The goal of the assignments is twofold. Increase knowledge of the class subject while building core academic skills. Therefore I will try to give you all the feedback possible. My notations and comments on your work are designed to help you understand your grade while highlighting areas and ways of improvement. Underlined, crossed out, and circled sentences indicate an area of interest, usually accompanied by a comment and/or one of the following abbreviations.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - [RW] Rewrite | - [FT] Format |
| - [DNF] Does Not Follow | - [CC] Chronological Consistency |
| - [SOP] Standard Operating Procedure | - [✓] Good Point |
| - [AN] Anachronistic | |
| - [RTP] Refer to Prompt | - [NAS] Non-Academic Source |

Academic Honesty:

- Uconn does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat.
- Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional.
- Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, must be cited.



Calendar and Readings

1. Monday, January 26nd

Introduction to the Course /Course Themes/ Why Latin America?

Readings

- "Latinoamerica" by Calle 13
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DkFJE8ZdeG8>
- Translated lyrics to "Latinoamerica" by Calle 13
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wdGKFhdnzdTEBlPju59zmwySzz2BKjp_T_xYWwDISjU/edit?usp=sharing
- I'm Latino. I'm Hispanic. And they're different, so I drew a comic to explain. by Terry Blas on August 19, 2015
<http://www.vox.com/2015/8/19/9173457/hispanic-latino-comic>
- The Guardian "Walled World" November 13, 2013
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2013/nov/walls#mexico>

Extras

- Tim Minchin "Oration"
<http://www.timminchin.com/2013/09/25/occasional-address/>
- Why are we happy? Dan Gilbert
http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_gilbert_asks_why_are_we_happy

2. Monday, February 2nd

What is Latin America? / Encounter and Conquest

Readings

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Chapter 1
- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs and Steel* (New York and London: Norton, 1999). Chapter 3.

Podcasts:

On this page <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ahow/all> listen to:

Podcast #051 Maya Relief of Royal Bloodletting

Podcast #73: Inca Gold Llama

Podcast #: Double-Headed Serpent

Extras

https://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are?language=en

3. Monday, February 9th

Independence of New Spain and Revolution in South America

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 2
- Jeremy Adelman, *Sovereignty and Revolution in the Iberian Atlantic* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2009). Introduction.
- Bethell, Leslie. "The Independence of Brazil." from *Cambridge History of Latin America Vol. 3*. (1985)

Podcasts:

On this page <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ahow/all> listen to:

Podcast #80 Pieces of Eight

4. Monday, February 16th

Searching for Legitimacy and Constructing New States

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 12 & 13.
- Imperialism: Crash Course World History #35
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alJaltUmrGo>
- War & Expansion: Crash Course US History # 17
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkdF8pOFUfl>
- How Billionaires Control the American Radical Right:
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-leonard-lopate-show/id74254710?mt=2&i=361099616>
- Cartels and Drug Wars Plague Latin America:
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-leonard-lopate-show/id74254710?mt=2&i=361038809>

- Akala- white Man's Burden, Inherited privilege & The Fall of the Western Empire <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVmb1QK1nEI>

5. Monday, February 23rd

Latin America in the 20th Century: Overview

Map Quiz

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 14 & 15.
- Gay Rights in Latin America:
<http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21675515-argentina-brazil-and-uruguay-have-legalised-same-sex-marriage-what-explains-advance-gay-rights>
- ****LISTEN CAREFULLY**** Democracy on Trial BBC:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00sfwwr#play>
- NPR Report on Red Cross in Haiti:
<http://www.npr.org/2015/06/03/411524156/in-search-of-the-red-cross-500-million-in-haiti-relief>
- Have immigrants taken most of the new jobs? Yes and no.
http://www.marketwatch.com/story/native-born-americans-not-getting-crushed-by-foreign-born-workers-2015-09-14?mod=MW_story_trending&Link=obnetwork
- Guess How Much Of Uncle Sam's Money Goes To Foreign Aid. Guess Again!
<http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2015/02/10/383875581/guess-how-much-of-uncle-sams-money-goes-to-foreign-aid-guess-again-q>
- Mia Birdsong: The story we tell about poverty isn't true
http://www.ted.com/talks/mia_birdsong_the_story_we_tell_about_poverty_isn_t_true
- The Guardian, The man who exposed the lie of the war on drugs:
<http://gu.com/p/4fabx/sbl>

6. Monday, March 2nd

Mexico: the Perils of Progress

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 3
- John H. Coatsworth, "Obstacles to Economic Growth in Nineteenth-Century Mexico," in *The American Historical Review*, February 1978, pages 80-100. (HuskyCt)
- The Deadly Genius of Drug Cartels
http://www.ted.com/talks/rodrigo_canales_the_deadly_genius_of_drug_cartels

- The E.R. How Is the War on Terror Like the War on Drugs?
<https://www.acast.com/foreignpolicypodcast/how-is-the-war-on-terror-like-the-war-on-drugs->
- The Economist "The Two Mexicos" September 19th 2015 (HuskyCt)
- Child of Undocumented Immigrants Hands Pope Francis A Letter
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ie_ToUdrS7I&feature=youtu.be
- One Year After Ayotzinapa, Can Mexico Stop The Disappearances?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG65hBeitxs>
- 'Donald Trump' In Mexico: We Asked Mexicans What They Thought About Trump
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pg0Ziwu45k4&feature=youtu.be>
- **En Español!** Discurso de Lázaro Cárdenas sobre la expropiación
<http://www.adnpolitico.com/gobierno/2013/08/07/discurso-de-lazaro-cardenas-sobre-la-expropiacion-petrolera>

7. Monday, March 9th Central America

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 4.
- "Rios Montt on Trial for Genocide in Guatemala", Kate Doyle, February 7, 2013 <http://nsarchive.gwu.edu/guatemala/>
- "The Drug War Hits Central America" and "The Tormented Isthmus," *The Economist*, April 16, 2011.
- "Drug War No More" *International Herald Tribune*, November 27, 2013
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/28/opinion/drug-war-no-more.html? r=0>
- How to End Drug Violence in Central America:
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/03/18/we-know-how-to-end-drug-violence-in-central-america-colombia-drug-war/>
- Central American Gangs are all Grown Up:
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/01/19/central-americas-gangs-are-all-grown-up/>
- Last Week Tonight with John Oliver: Prison
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pz3syET3DY>
- Living on One Dollar a Day in Guatemala:
<http://livingonone.org/livingonone/>
- Living on One, Rosa's Story in Her Words: <http://livingonone.org/rosa/>

8. Monday, March 16th **Spring Break**

Read, Listen, and Ponder:

The Economist, Special Report on America's Hispanics:

<https://www.acast.com/theeconomistspecialreports/america-s-hispanics>

World Bank, Latin America and the Caribbean:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/region/lac>

World Bank, Youth Entrepreneurs: <https://youtu.be/27TV5RLvW5w>

World Bank, Five trends in the fight against extreme poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/10/15/five-tendencies-fight-against-extreme-poverty-latin-america-caribbean>

TED, Misha Glee, Underworld Investigator:

https://www.ted.com/speakers/misha_glenny

Gay Rights in Latin America: <http://econ.st/1LyaqQe>

Being a Man in 2014 - Akala on Taboos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wPlZzCQnBM>

The Economist, Venezuela's Crisis, Heading for a Crash:

<http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21688865-president-and-opposition-are-talking-each-other-does-not-mean-they-will-fix?cid1=cust%2Fnoenew%2Fn%2Fn%2Fn%2F20160125n%2Fowned%2Fn%2Fn%2Fnw1%2Fn%2Fn%2FNA%2Femail>

The Economist, A New Plan for Colombia:

<http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21688936-juan-manuel-santos-seeks-support-peace-washington-new-plan-colombia>

9. Monday, March 23rd

Brazil

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, Modern Latin America. Chapter 11.
- Andrew Kahn & Jamelle Bouie, Slate, "The Atlantic Slave Trade in Two Minutes"
http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html
- "A Special Report on Business and Finance in Brazil," The Economist, November 14, 2009
http://www.cps.fgv.br/ibrecps/clippings/The_Economist_14.11.2009.pdf
- "Grounded", "Brazil in a Quagmire", The Economist, (PDF on HuskyCT)

- Brazil junked. (2015, Sep 10). The Economist (Online), Retrieved from <http://ezproxy.lib.uconn.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com/docview/1711138933?accountid=14518>
- The Economist, Brazil's Fall: <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21684779-disaster-looms-latin-americas-biggest-economy-brazils-fall>

Podcasts:

On this page <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/ahow/all> listen to:

Podcast #77: Benin Plaque: The Oba with Europeans

10. Monday, March 30th

The Andes

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 6.
- "It's Only Natural"&"Desire Delayed"&"Patience the Big Virtue", The Economist, (PDF on HuskyCT)
- "Latin American Indigenous Groups Join Forces to Fight Dams", Joao Fellet, BBC, 25 April 2012 <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-17827131>
- NYT, In Bolivia, Legitimizing Child Labor By Mathias Meier, Dec. 19, 2015 <http://nyti.ms/1NDa3Bk>
- Bolivian women, Feminism vs Faith: <http://www.economist.com/news/americas/21688939-mar-galindo-fiery-feminist-takes-christianity-feminism-v-faith>

11. Monday, April 6th

Chile

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 10.
- **Read carefully and come prepared to discuss!** "A Special Report on Democracy" *The Economist*, March 3, 2014. <http://www.economist.com/node/21596796?fsrc=nlw%7Cchig%7C2-27-2014%7C7912528%7C158619972%7CNA>

12. Monday, April 13th

Cuba

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 5.
- BBC Health in Cuba: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0392fzj>

- National Geographic, "Cuba's New Now",
<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2012/11/new-cuba/gorney-text>

13. Monday, April 20th Argentina

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*. Chapter 9.
- Visual History of Argentina
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9c537xXtyY&feature=youtu.be>
- BBC "Who killed Alberto Nisman?"
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p038n4kw>
- "The tragedy of Argentina. A century of decline." *The Economist*, February 15, 2014.
<http://www.economist.com/news/briefing/21596582-one-hundred-years-ago-argentina-was-future-what-went-wrong-century-decline>
- "The parable of Argentina" *The Economist*, February 15, 2014.
<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21596515-there-are-lessons-many-governments-one-countrys-100-years-decline-parable?fsrc=nlw%7Cchig%7C2-13-2014%7C7790603%7C158619972%7CNA>
- Argentina activist reunited with 'wrong granddaughter'
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-35184744>

14. Monday, April 27th Latin America Today

Readings:

- Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, *Modern Latin America*.
- The Guardian "The County: the story of America's deadliest police":
<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/01/the-county-kern-county-deadliest-police-killings>
- Living on One Dollar a Day in Haiti:
<https://youtu.be/VGeFpz10baw?list=PLmBjurjDYO10YkYlj1Wn9Rm-ft9FGHJj>
- How M.I.A. Is a Lifeline in Times of Terror by Anupa Mistry:
<http://pitchfork.com/thepitch/967-how-mia-is-a-lifeline-in-times-of-terror>
- The Economist, Venezuela's 2015 Parliamentary Election, Dec 4th 2015, BY THE DATA TEAM:
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/graphicdetail/2015/12/election-primer?cid1=cust%2Fnoenew%2Fn%2Fn%2Fn%2F2015127n%2Fowned%2Fn%2Fn%2Fnwl%2Fn%2Fn%2FNA%2Femail>

- M.I.A., Borders and the West, NPR Music Interview:
<http://www.npr.org/2015/12/15/459114242/m-i-a-how-can-the-west-turn-people-away>
- In 2015, Race And Tolerance Permeated The National Dialogue
<http://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=460906877:460906878>