COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course will study the cultures, history, economy, and politics of the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean from the early nineteenth century to the present. Beginning with the wars of independence, we will examine the process of state formation and discuss how national identities, histories, and communities were (and continue to be) constructed. The global political, economic and social developments of the twentieth century brought unforeseen transformations to the Southern American hemisphere and a never-ending struggle between authoritarianism and revolution, tradition and modernity. These dichotomies will serve as the analytical framework to study the impact of the United States in the region and the resulting migrations of people from Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States. Finally, we will examine recent events in the region and how they continue to impact the population of these nations (and the Latino diaspora) today.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

During the semester, we will build a learning community, where we will exchange ideas freely and honestly. To do so, it is imperative that we adhere to an ethical code of conduct. We will follow the guidelines set forth in the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and we will adhere to accepted online etiquette. Please see these two documents posted on the “Course Information” tab in our Blackboard site.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are many required readings for this class, and they are listed in detail on the course outline in the following pages. Our main textbook will be:


Each week, several chapters from this book will serve as a general framework and foundation from which to discuss more specific cases. Other books needed for the course will be easily available electronically, and unless otherwise noted, any edition of the book will be acceptable for the course. All of the additional articles and visual materials that we will use throughout the term will be posted on our course site on Blackboard.
REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1) **Historiographical Essay (50% of your final grade)**
   You will select a theme salient in Modern Latin American historiography and develop a historiographical essay that will identify, discuss, and critically evaluate the important scholarly contributions on that theme. We will meet to discuss your choice of theme and review the sources available, and you will receive approval of your theme after that meeting. The final essay should be between 20-30 pages in length and will be due no later than noon on May 24, 2018.

2) **Discussion Boards (30% of your final grade)**
   Every week, everyone will write a 500-750-word reflection of the readings. Your reflection will be thoughtful and well written. It will provide a short summary of the reading’s central argument(s) and a succinct yet critical evaluation of the author’s contribution to the historiographical debate(s) that the book deals with. The goal of these reflections is to assist you in preparing for our discussions in class. You must post your journal entry by Tuesdays at 5pm (prior to our Wednesday meetings) as a thread in the designated Discussion Board.

3) **Presentation (20% of your final grade)**
   All students will make two 20-minute in-class presentations that will synthesize and critique the most significant issues raised in the reading scheduled for the week. The presentation will lay the groundwork for discussion during that class and the presenter will assume a leading role in our discussions on that day. A schedule of presentations will be agreed upon during our first class meeting.

COURSE OUTLINE

This is a tentative outline of the topics that we will discuss during the semester and the dates when everything is due.

January 31 **Introduction, Independence, and The New Nations**
*Read:*
  - *Concise*, Chapters 1-5
  *Please come to our first class ready to discuss these first chapters.*

February 7 **Progress, War, and Neocolonialism**
*Read:*
  - *Concise*, Chapters 6 and 7


**Reflection DUE: Tuesday, February 6**

February 14 **Case Study: Brazil**  
**Read:**


**Reflection DUE: Tuesday, February 13**

February 21 **Nationalism and Populism**  
**Read:**

• *Concise*, Chapter 8


*Reflection DUE: Tuesday, February 20*

**February 28**  
**Case Study: Argentina**  
**Read:**


*Reflection DUE: Tuesday, February 27*

**March 7**  
**Revolution**  
**Read:**


• Motta, Sara C. “’We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For’: The Feminization of Resistance in Venezuela.” *Latin American Perspectives*, Vol. 40, No. 4, Reinventing the Lefts in Latin America: Critical Perspectives from Below (July 2013), pp. 35-54.


*Reflection DUE: Tuesday, March 6*

**March 14**  
**Case Study: Cuba**  
**Read:**


*Reflection DUE: Tuesday, March 13*

**March 21**

**Globalization, Dictatorship and Terror**

*Read:*

- *Concise*, Chapter 10


**Reflection DUE: Tuesday, March 20**

**March 28**  
**Case Study: Colombia**

Read:


**Reflection DUE: Tuesday, March 27**

**April 4**  
**NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**

**April 11**  
**NO CLASS – FRIDAY SCHEDULE**

*Schedule permitting, we will hold individual meetings to discuss final papers.*

**April 18**  
**Neoliberalism, Neocolonialism, and the U.S.**

Read:

• Concise, Chapter 11

• Cárdenas, Mauricio, Rafael de Hoyos, and Miguel Székely. “Out-of-School and Out-of-Work Youth in Latin America: A Persistent Problem in


**Watch:**

- *Harvest of Empire*

**Reflection DUE: Tuesday, April 17**

April 25

**Case Study: Mexico**

**Read:**


**Reflection DUE: Tuesday, April 24**
May 2

The New Latin American Left

Read:


Reflection DUE: Tuesday, May 1

May 9

The New Latin American City

Read:


**Reflection DUE: Tuesday, May 8**

May 24 **Final Paper Due**