THE GRADUATE CENTER
The City University of New York
Department of History

The Latin American Cold War
Hist. 77100, 3 credits
Class number 55398
Spring 2021, Online
Mondays, 4:15-6:15pm

Dr. Mila Burns
Email: mila.burns@lehman.cuny.edu
Virtual Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description
This course provides an overview of the history of the Cold War in Latin America. It investigates the role of the United States and the Soviet Union in the shaping of democracies and dictatorships in the region. However, it proposes a new interpretation of the scope of such influence, focusing also on local politics and regional power disputes.

The military, activists, exiles, rural workers, diplomats, businesspeople, and artists are all actors of a period marked by revolutions, violence, and economic crisis. This seminar incorporates debates of gender, arts, and politics, featuring multiple methodological and geographical approaches.

The course is relevant not only to students whose primary field of study is Latin America but also to those who can benefit from the comparative analysis.

Grading Policy

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Essays - Due Mondays by 9am via email</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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Description of Requirements
Attendance and Participation (20%): Students are expected to contribute substantially to the weekly discussions, engaging and provoking discussions; attendance is essential.
Weekly Response Papers and Presentations (40%). Every week students must submit a one to two-page (double-spaced, 12 point font) critical essay about the reading via email to the entire class. They should briefly summarize the work, compare it to other readings and raise questions to be discussed in class. The essay should be submitted on Mondays by 9 am on the day of the class.

Final Paper (40 %). Students must submit one final essay about one topic connected to the class and previously discussed with the professor. It should have 15-20 pages (double-spaced 12 point font) and read as close as possible to a publishable paper.

Schedule of Meetings and Readings*

February 1: Hal Brands, *Latin America’s Cold War*

February 8: Ernesto Semán, *Ambassadors of the Working Class*

February 15: no class (President’s Day)

February 22: Mary J. Roldán, *Blood and Fire: La Violencia in Antioquia, Colombia, 1946-1953*

March 1: Renata Keller, *Mexico’s Cold War*

March 8: Aldo Marchesi, *Latin America’s Radical Left*

March 15: Alejandro Velasco, *Barrio Rising*

March 22: Lillian Guerra, *Visions of Power in Cuba*

March 29: no class. Spring Break

April 5: Michelle Chase, *Revolution within the Revolution: Women and Gender Politics in Cuba, 1952-1962*

April 12: Ben Cowan, *Securing Sex*

April 19: Tanya Harmer, *Allende’s Chile and The Inter-American Cold War*

April 26: Patrick Iber, *Neither Peace Nor Freedom: The Cultural Cold War in Latin America*

May 3: Patrick Barr-Melej, *Psychedelic Chile: Youth, Counterculture, and Politics on the Road to Socialism and Dictatorship*

May 10: Heidi Tinsman, *Buying into the Regime: Grapes and Consumption in Cold War Chile and the United States*
May 17: Kirsten Weld, *Paper Cadavers*

May 25: Final paper is due

*A list of suggested sources will be distributed prior to the start of the semester to registered students. It will include books, articles, podcasts, and movies.*