

**Modern Latin America**  
**HIST 249 • Spring 2017**  
**University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point**  
**Mondays and Tuesdays, 3:35 to 4:50 pm, 227 CCC**

Instructor:	Dr. Anju Reejsinghani	Office Hours:	Mondays, 5 to 8 p.m.,
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**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the history of Mexico and Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Central America, South America, and the Caribbean – known collectively as Latin America – from the early 19th century to the present. No previous knowledge of the region is required.

While providing a brief introduction to pre-Columbian indigenous societies and to the contours of Spanish and Portuguese colonial rule in the Americas, the bulk of the course focuses on the emergence of Latin American nations from the early 19th century onward. We consider the political, economic, and social challenges confronting these new nations; the rise of commodity agriculture, industrialization, and trade; the consequences of unequal development, especially for indigenous people and descendants of slaves; and the circumstances contributing to U.S. military and political intervention in the region.

During the Cold War, we explore why left-wing governments and social upheavals, rooted in colonial and neocolonial inequities, emerged to challenge U.S. hegemony and how U.S. business and political interests responded. Finally, we consider the rise (and recent eclipse) of popular left-wing democratic governments and the wave of right-wing populist governments that have taken root throughout the Americas, including in the United States.

**Grading**

Attendance/Participation	20%
Map Quiz of the Americas	5%
Interactive Timeline	15%
Short Papers (Three)	60% (20% each)

There are no grade curves in this class. Course grades are determined based on the above criteria and are determined according to the following point system:

92.5 points and above	A	72.5 to 76.4 points	C
89.5 to 92.4 points	A-	69.5 to 72.4 points	C-
86.5 to 89.4 points	B+	66.5 to 69.4 points	D+
82.5 to 86.4 points	B	59.5 to 66.4 points	D
79.5 to 82.4 points	B-	59.4 points and below	F
76.5 to 79.4 points	C+		

## Required Texts

### Texts for purchase (available at the UWSP University Store)

- Mariano Azuela. *The Underdogs: With Related Texts*. Translated with an introduction by Gustavo Pellón. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2006.
- Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer. *Bitter Fruit: The Story of the American Coup in Guatemala*. Rev. and expanded edition. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005.
- Juliana Barbassa. *Dancing with the Devil in the City of God: Rio de Janeiro and the Olympic Dream*. New York: Touchstone, 2015.

### Textbook for rental (available at the UWSP University Store)

- John Charles Chasteen. *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. 4th Edition. New York: W.W. Norton, 2016. (Please do not use an earlier edition.)

### Articles/Book excerpts (Available on E-Reserves)

- Ernesto Guevara. *The Bolivian Diary of Ernesto Che Guevara*. New York: Pathfinder Books, 1994. Excerpts.
- Lars Schoultz. "U.S. Policy toward Latin America since 1959: How Exceptional Is Cuba?" In *Fifty Years of Revolution: Perspectives on Cuba, the United States, and the World*, ed. Soraya M. Castro Mariño and Ronald W. Pruessen, 13-29. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2012.
- Additional readings on the Pink Tide will be posted to D2L at least one week before our April 25 guest lecture by Dr. Collins.

## Required Films (Screened in Class or Online)

*The Silence of Neto [El Silencio de Neto]*. Directed by Luis Argueta. 1994. 108 min.

*Cold War*. Episode 10: "Cuba, 1959-1962." Produced by Jeremy Isaacs. 46 min.

*Ernesto "Che" Guevara: The Bolivian Diary*. Directed by Richard Dindo. 1994. 92 min.

*Black in Latin America*. "Brazil: A Racial Paradise." Directed by Ricardo Pollack. 2011. 54 min.

(We may schedule additional films as circumstances permit.)

## Course Requirements (Attendance/Participation, Map Quiz, and Papers)

**Attendance/Participation.** To earn a high attendance/participation grade, worth 20% of the course grade, you must have regular attendance and participate in class lecture and discussion. (During the two weeks we have online classes, you are required to submit short online film reflections in lieu of in-class participation.) This includes signing the daily attendance sheet, being on time, and remaining for the duration of class. It also includes attending the one evening event on May 9 that has been scheduled in lieu of class on February 14. Should you need to arrive late or leave early, please inform me ahead of time. I will upload lecture outlines to D2L/Content no later than 9 p.m. the night before class, so you are advised to consult those before each lecture. I will also display the outline at the start of each class, but you will need to print out your own copy if you wish to use it while taking notes.

**Map Quiz.** The map quiz (5% of the course grade), scheduled for Week 3, seeks to instill in students a basic knowledge of Latin American geography. A study map is posted on D2L, along with a list of possible questions. Students will be asked to match 10 of 20 possible nations or territories to letters on a map. You will have 10 minutes to complete this quiz.

**Interactive Timeline.** Using university-provided software, students will create an interactive timeline on one of several possible topics related to the formation of new Latin American nations. An online tutorial and sample timeline will be made available on D2L, and guidelines for the project will be forthcoming shortly. Students will have over two weeks to complete this assignment, which is worth 15% of your overall course grade.

**Short Papers.** Three short papers (each between 1,000 to 1,250 words, or approximately 4 to 5 double-spaced pages) are assigned during the course. Each short paper is worth 20% of your final grade; collectively, they are worth 60% of your course grade. Each short paper prompt consists of three questions; you will answer the question of your choice. Prompts will be posted to D2L and discussed in class two weeks before the paper deadlines.

## Reading, Make-Ups, Extra Credit, and Accommodations

**Reading.** You are expected to finish each day's reading assignment before class that day.

**Make-Ups.** Should there be significant reasons outside of your control (e.g., major personal or family issues, illness, bereavement for the loss of a family member) that prevent you from completing an assignment, please contact me immediately and we shall discuss your situation. I require documentation for absences prior to scheduling a make-up. Oversleeping, forgetting a quiz/assignment deadline, vacation plans, or the loss of a pet are NOT acceptable excuses to obtain a make-up.

**Extra Credit.** Extra-credit opportunities require the writing of short reflection papers on an event or online film related to the course content. These opportunities bolster students' attendance/participation grades and are limited to three per student per semester. Each makes up for one unexcused absence; those with perfect or near-perfect attendance may earn attendance/participation grades in excess of 100 points (105 points maximum). When tied to an event, e.g., a free public lecture on campus, extra-credit reflection papers are due two weeks after that event. Extra-credit opportunities tied to online opportunities must be completed by the end

of our last regular class day (May 9). As extra-credit opportunities arise, I will post them to D2L and announce them in class. These are specific to your attendance/participation grade and are not applicable to any other coursework in this class.

**Accommodations.** Students with learning and/or physical disabilities requiring special accommodations must provide appropriate documentation to UWSP Disability Services (609 Albertson Hall, tel. (715) 346-3365, <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>) at the start of the semester. Disability Services staff will work directly with the instructor to provide suitable learning accommodations.

### **Policy on Electronic Devices and Copyright Notice**

You are not permitted to use laptops, tablet computers, smart phones or other cellular phones, MP3 players, headphones, or any other electronic devices and accessories during our class meetings, whether for personal reasons or as an aid to your note taking. (Such devices may be brought to the classroom but must be stored among your personal items for the duration of the class period.)

As an enrolled student in this class, you may download and/or utilize the instructor's course materials for your own personal academic purposes outside of class time, although doing so does not in any way infringe upon the instructor's copyright protections. You are not permitted to video record, audio record, photograph, digitize, upload to another web site, or otherwise reproduce or distribute any images, data, and other course materials – including syllabus, lecture outlines, and handouts – produced by the instructor.

This electronic device and copyright policy will be strictly enforced. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave class. Violators may also be subject to Academic Misconduct charges (see below). Exceptions may be made for students with prior written documentation of a disability from UWSP Disability Services and with the instructor's written consent.

### **Student Academic Misconduct**

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of student academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. They are a mark of disrespect to your peers, your instructor, your university, and yourself. Students who violate University policy on this matter will be subject to disciplinary penalties, including (but not limited to) the possibility of failing this course. Please consult Chapter 14 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11>), for more information on what types of activities are considered "academic misconduct" and what the disciplinary sanctions are for students who engage in them.

### **Course Drops and Withdrawals**

Students wishing to "clear drop" this course may do so via myPoint until the end of the business day on Wednesday, February 1, 2017. After that, students withdrawing from this course no later than Friday, April 7, 2017, will receive a "W" on their transcripts. After April 7, drops are generally not permitted. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/AddDropSchedule.aspx> for information.

### Use of Email for Official Correspondence to Students

Email is an official mode of university correspondence; you are therefore responsible for reading your email for university- and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible for keeping the university informed about changes to your email address. Please check your email regularly to stay current with course-related communications, some of which may be time-critical.

### Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change (though major change is unlikely). Should there be a modification of lecture topic, required film or reading, assignment deadline, or other item, I will strive to give you adequate notice.

## Course Schedule

All times listed below are in Central Standard Time (CST).

### Week 1: Understanding Latin America

- M 1/23                    Introduction to the Course  
  
                                 Read: None assigned
- Tu 1/24                    Lecture 1: Indigenous Societies and the Columbian Encounter  
  
                                 Read: Chasteen, Chapter 1, pp. 1-15, and Chapter 2, pp. 16-34  
                                 Also read over the section entitled, "A Tour of Latin America," pp. M-2 to  
                                 M-12 (in the middle of the Chasteen book)

### Week 2: Conquest and Colonization

- M 1/30                    Lecture 2: Spanish and Portuguese Conquests and the African Slave Trade  
  
                                 Read: Chasteen, Chapter 2, pp. 34-49, and Countercurrents, pp. 50-53
- Tu 1/31                    Lecture 3: Colonial Culture, Society, and Economy  
  
                                 Read: Chasteen, Chapter 3, pp. 54-90, and Countercurrents, pp. 91-93

### Week 3: Building Nation-States

- M 2/6                    Lecture 4: Spanish American Independence Wars  
  
                                 Read: Chasteen, Chapter 4, pp. 94-121, and Countercurrents, pp. 122-125
- Tu 2/7                    Lecture 5: Nation-Building: The Age of Caudillos  
  
                                 Read: Chasteen, Chapter 5, pp. 126-155, and Countercurrents, 156-159

<p>Assignment:    The map quiz will be held at the start of class.                          The interactive timeline guidelines will be distributed and discussed.</p>
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### Week 4: Ideological Schisms

- M 2/13                    Lecture 6: Conservative-Liberal Struggles and the Triumph of Liberalism  
  
                                 Read: Chasteen, Chapter 6, pp. 160-188, and Countercurrents, pp. 189-191
- Tu 2/14                    **No class today** (because of May 9 evening event)

### Week 5: Neocolonialism and Revolution/Mexico

- M 2/20            Lecture 7: From Colonies to Neocolonies  
  
                         Read: Chasteen, Chapter 7, pp. 192-226, and Countercurrents, pp. 227-231
- Tu 2/21            Lecture 8: The Mexican Revolution, 1910-1940  
  
                         Read: Chasteen, Chapter 8, pp. 232-262, and Countercurrents, pp. 263-265  
                         Also read Azuela, Translator's Note, Chronologies, and Map, pp. vii-xvi

Assignment:    The interactive timeline is due by 3:35 p.m. today. The Short Paper #1 prompt will be distributed and discussed.
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### Week 6: Mexico/El Salvador/Guatemala

- M 2/27            Lecture 9: Mexico since 1940/Discussion of *The Underdogs*  
  
                         Reading: Azuela, pp. 1-87, and Appendix, pp. 89-111
- Tu 2/28            Lecture 10: Dictatorship and Repression in El Salvador and Guatemala  
  
                         Reading: Schlesinger and Kinzer, Chapters 1-2, pp. 7-35

### Week 7: Guatemala

- M 3/6              Lecture 11: The Arévalo and Arbenz Administrations  
  
                         Reading: Schlesinger and Kinzer, Chapters 3-4, pp. 37-63
- Tu 3/7              Lecture 12: UFCo, the CIA, and the 1954 Coup  
  
                         Reading: Schlesinger and Kinzer, Chapters 5-6, pp. 65-97

Assignment:    Short Paper #1 is due in the relevant D2L drop box by 3:35 p.m. today.
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### Week 8: Guatemala

- M 3/13 and        Online film screening and reflection paper in lieu of in-person classes  
Tu 3/14
- Reading: Schlesinger and Kinzer, Chapters 7-9, pp. 99-146
- Screen: *The Silence of Neto* (on your own device)

Assignment:    The <i>Neto</i> film reflection due by 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15.
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**\*\*\* ENJOY YOUR SPRING BREAK! (Week of March 20-24) \*\*\***

### Week 9: Guatemala

- M 3/27            Lecture 13: The Guatemalan Civil War  
                      Read: Schlesinger and Kinzer, Chapters 10-12, pp. 147-190
- Tu 3/28            Discussion of *Bitter Fruit*  
  
                      Read: Schlesinger and Kinzer, Chapters 13-15, pp. 191-255

### Week 10: Cuba

- M 4/3              Lecture 14: The Cuban Revolution, 1953-1961  
  
                      Read: Chasteen, Chapter 9, pp. 266-292, and Countercurrents, pp. 293-295

Assignment:	The Short Paper #2 prompt will be distributed and discussed in class today.
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- Tu 4/4              Lecture 15: The Bay of Pigs Invasion and Cuban Missile Crisis, 1961-1962  
  
                      Read: Chapter 10, pp. 296-323, and Countercurrents, pp. 324-327  
  
                      Screen: *Cold War* Episode 10: "Cuba, 1959-1962" (in class)

### Week 11: Cuba/Bolivia

- M 4/10 and        Online film screening and reflection paper in lieu of in-person classes  
Tu 4/11            Reading: Guevara excerpts (on E-Reserves)  
  
                      Screen: *Ernesto "Che" Guevara: The Bolivian Diary* (on your own device)

Assignment:	The <i>Che</i> film reflection is due by 3:35 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12.
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### Week 12: Cuba/Central America

- M 4/17              Lecture 16: Cuba and the World since 1963  
  
                      Reading: Schoultz chapter (on E-Reserves)

Assignment:	Short Paper #2 is due by 3:35 p.m. today.
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- Tu 4/18              Lecture 17: Central America in Transition  
  
                      Reading: Chasteen, Chapter 11, pp. 328-356

### Week 13: Post-Cold War Democratization

- M 4/24              Lecture 18: Legacies of Narco-Violence and Dictatorship



Reading: Barbassa, Introduction, pp. xiii-xxiii, and Chapters 1-4, pp. 1-56

Tu 4/25

Lecture 19: Understanding the Pink Tide  
Guest Lecturer: Prof. Jennifer Collins, Political Science, UWSP

Reading: TBD (these will be posted to D2L by 4/18)

**Week 14: Brazil**

M 5/1

Discussion: Race in Brazil

Reading: Barbassa, Chapters 5-8, pp. 57-115

Screen: *Black in Latin America, Brazil: A Racial Paradise* (in class)

Tu 5/2

Lecture 20: Lula, Dilma, and the Workers' Party

Reading: Barbassa, Chapters 9-12, pp. 116-182

Assignment:	The Short Paper #3 prompt will be distributed and discussed in class today.
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**Week 15: Brazil/Cuba**

M 5/8

Discussion: Brazil and 21st-Century Globalization

Reading: Barbassa, Chapters 13-16, pp. 183-249, and photo insert

Tu 5/9

Discussion: Brazil, the World Cup, and the Summer Olympic Games

Reading: Barbassa, Chapters 17-18 and Afterword, pp. 250-292

Tu 5/9

**Additional evening event (mandatory attendance):  
"Rebuilding U.S.-Cuba Relations"**

COLS Community Lecture Series featuring Prof. Reejhsinghani and Prof. Jennifer Collins  
Pinery Room, Portage County Library, 1001 Main St., Stevens Point  
Starts at 6:30 p.m.

Reading: No additional assigned reading

Assignment:	All extra-credit reflection papers must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. today.
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<b>Short Paper #3 is due by 7:00 p.m. (the end of our final exam period) on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. Please see the Paper #3 prompt for submission information.</b>
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