

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester II, 1983-84

History 242

Florencia E. Mallon

Latin America from Independence to the Present

Description:

Much of what has been written on Latin American history has, in one way or another, attempted to explain why contemporary Latin America continues to exist in the shadow of economic dependence, underdevelopment, and stark differences between rich and poor. On one end of the spectrum lie those explanations that point to the importance of Latin America's traditional Iberian heritage in defining underdevelopment. On the other side are those theories that give a central importance to Latin America's continuing colonial or neo-colonial status, first with Spain, then England, and finally, with the United States.

This course will attempt a critical assessment of the various historical explanations for Latin America's continuing poverty and underdevelopment. Focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries, the lectures will give an overview of the most important general issues in Latin American history: the creation of nation states, the nature of the agrarian economy, peasant movements, foreign investment and imperialism, urbanization and industrialization, and revolution and counter-revolution. Focusing on specific case studies and on the human side of this history, the readings will provide both a complement and a counter-point to the lectures. By synthesizing these two levels in discussions and written assignments, students will be able to explore more fully why the burden of history lies so heavily on the societies of contemporary Latin America.

Requirements:

1. A semester project, to be developed in collaboration and consultation with the professor and the other students. You will each write a life history of 8-10 pages, detailing the experiences of a specific individual to be defined by you according to criteria set up and discussed in class, in a specific country over a period of forty years. In addition to the life history itself, you will also present a 1-page proposal for the project, due the fifth week of class; and an abstract of 1-2 pages, to be handed in with the life history. The details of the project, how to carry it out and what it entails, will be discussed periodically throughout the semester.
2. Exams: (a) There will be an in-class midterm, consisting of one essay question on Monday, March 5. (b) The final exam, on Tuesday, May 15, will consist of two essays and an I.D. section.
3. Grading: The semester project will be worth a total of 35% of the grade, divided as follows: life history, 25%; proposal, 5%; abstract, 5%. The rest of the grade will be calculated as follows: midterm, 20%; final exam, 30%; class participation, 15%.

List of Readings:

Maulio Argueta, One Day in the Life (New York: Random House, 1983).

Azuela, Mariano, The Underdogs (New York: New American Library, 1962).

E. Bradford Burns, Latin America: A Concise Interpretive History (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1972) OPTIONAL.

Carolina Maria de Jesus, Child of the Dark (New York: New American Library, 1962).

Florencia E. Mallon, The Defense of Community in Peru's Central Highlands: Peasant Struggle and Capitalist Transition, 1860-1940 (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1983).

June Nash, We Eat the Mines and the Mines Eat Us: Dependency and Exploitation in Bolivian Tin Mines (New York: Columbia University Press, 1979).

PLUS: A collection of documents and articles available in a Xerox Packet from Kinko's Copies, 620 University Ave.

Schedule of Lectures, Readings, Discussions, and Written Assignments

Unit I - The Nineteenth Century

Week 1 - Introduction
1/23 - Introduction
1/25 - Independence
1/27 - Aftermath

Optional Background Reading: Burns, 22-85

Week 2 - The Illusory Pursuit of Progress
1/30 - Neocolonialism vs. Autarky
2/1 - Peru in the Guano Boom

Discussion: Working session to set up semester life history project.
EVERYONE MEET TOGETHER AT 11:00 IN REGULAR LECTURE ROOM

Week 3 - The Illusory Pursuit of the Nation
2/6 - Nineteenth-Century Politics and the Nation-State: Mexico and Brazil
2/8 - Peasant Movements and the Nation: Brazil and Mexico

Discussion Reading: Mallon, xi-122; selected materials from xerox packet.

Week 4 - The Mexican Revolution
2/13 - Origins to 1915
2/15 - 1915-1920 and Beyond

Discussion Reading: Azuela, entire.

History 242 - Modern Latin America
Mallon
Page Three

Unit II - Foreign Investment and National Development, 1890-1945

Week 5 - The New International System and Latin America
2/20 - The Penetration of Foreign Capital: Peru and Cuba Compared
2/22 - Modernization and Industrialization

LIFE HISTORY PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE WEDNESDAY AT 5 P.M.

Discussion: Progress Report on Life History Project and setting up of work groups. EVERYONE MEET TOGETHER AT 11:00 IN REGULAR LECTURE ROOM.

Week 6 - The World Depression
2/27 - El Salvador, 1932
2/29 - Authoritarianism vs. Popular Front: Argentina, Brazil, and Chile

Discussion Reading: Mallon, 125-348

Week 7 - From the Depression to World War II
3/5 - MIDTERM EXAMINATION IN CLASS
3/7 - Import Substitution and National Industrialization: Broader Implications
3/9 - The Changing Life of the People: New Conditions and Experiences

No Discussion and No New Reading

Unit III - The Post-War World

Week 8 - City vs. Countryside
3/12 - The Countryside in the Post-War World
3/14 - The City and the Migrant

Discussion Reading: De Jesus, entire.

SPRING BREAK, MARCH 17-25

Week 9 - The Populist Solution (I)
3/26 - Peronist Argentina
3/28 - The Bolivian Revolution

Discussion: Final working session on Life History Project
EVERYONE MEET TOGETHER AT 11:00 IN REGULAR LECTURE ROOM

Week 10 - The Populist Solution (II)
4/2 - Reform or Revolution? Populism in Guatemala
4/4 - Neither Socialist nor Capitalist: The Peruvian Experiment

Discussion Reading: Nash, entire.

History 242 - Modern Latin America
Mallon
Page Four

Week 11 - The Revolutionary Option: Cuba
4/9 - The Cuban Revolution in the 1960s and the 1970s
4/11 - Cuba in the 1980s: Portrait of a Changing Culture

Discussion Reading: Materials from Xerox packet

Unit IV - Whither Latin America?

Week 12 - Revolution, Counter-Revolution, and Authoritarianism
4/16 - The Origins of Authoritarianism: The Chilean Case
4/18 - Authoritarianism: Nature and Future

*** LIFE HISTORIES DUE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18th, 5 P.M. ***

No Discussion and No New Reading -- EASTER RECESS, APRIL 20-22

Week 13 - New Trends in the 1980s (I)
4/22 - The New Role of the Catholic Church
4/24 - The Nicaraguan Revolution

Discussion Reading: Materials from Xerox Packet

Week 14 - New Trends in the 1980s (II)
4/30 - Guerrilla War in Central America: El Salvador and Guatemala
5/2 - The New Latin American Feminism

Discussion Reading: Argueta, entire.

Week 15 - Interpretations of Latin American Reality
5/7 - Modernization vs. Structuralism
5/9 - Dependency vs. Marxism

Discussion: Review Session for the Final Exam

FINAL EXAM, Tuesday, May 15th, 2:45 P.M.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

Semester II Year 83-84

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
242	Modern Latin America: From Independence to the Present	Mallon

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Much of what has been written on Latin American history, has, in one way or another, attempted to explain why contemporary Latin America continues to exist in the shadow of economic dependence, underdevelopment, and stark differences between rich and poor. On one end of the spectrum lie those explanations that point to the importance of Latin America's traditional Iberian heritage in defining underdevelopment. On the other side are those theories that give a central importance to Latin America's continuing colonial or neo-colonial status, first with Spain, then England, and finally, with the United States.

This course will attempt a critical assessment of the various historical explanations for Latin America's continuing poverty and underdevelopment. Focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries, the lectures will give an overview of the most important general issues in Latin American history: the creation of nation states, the nature of the agrarian economy, peasant movements, foreign investment and imperialism, urbanization and industrialization, and revolution and counter-revolution. Focusing on specific case studies and on the human side of this history, the readings will provide both a complement and a counterpoint to the lectures. By synthesizing these two levels in discussions and papers, students LECTURES will be able to explore more fully why the burden of history lies so heavily on the societies of contemporary Latin America.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS and EXAMINATIONS

Two five page papers with very limited extra reading; a mid-term and a final

GRADING SYSTEM

on a 100 point system, each paper will be worth 20 points; the midterm, 20 points; the final 30 points; class participation, 10 points.

REQUIRED READINGS

NB ALL TITLES IN PAPERBACK

Florencia E. Mallon, The Defense of Community in Peru's Central Highlands

Mariano Azuela, The Underdogs

Carolina Maria de Jesus, Child of the Dark

June Nash, We Eat the Mines and the Mines Eat Us.

Maulio Argueta One Day in the Life