

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
Department of History

Semester II Year 1977-78

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
260	Latin America: An Introduction	Skidmore

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a general introduction to Latin American culture and society.

To achieve this goal, the course will use two basic approaches. One is an explicitly interdisciplinary orientation, shown in a variety of guest lectures from specialists in literature, geography, economics, sociology, journalism, music, anthropology, and political science. There will also be some panel discussions, which should enable students to look at Latin America from several perspectives.

The second approach reflects a commitment to bring students, insofar as possible, into immediate contact with the realities of contemporary Latin America. For this we will use movies and other audio-visual materials. We hope to have Latin Americans address the class. And the reading list is designed to provide first-hand information plus a feeling about Latin America, rather than bury social reality under a mountain of facts.

Instead of dealing with Latin America on a country-by-country basis, this course will concentrate on several major themes: economics, social structure, cultural life, and politics. It is hoped that, in combination with TA-led discussion sections, this kind of organization will produce unity within diversity (and vice versa).

LECTURES

Twice weekly plus a discussion section.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

1. A map of Latin America
2. 8-week exam
3. one 8-10 page paper
4. a final exam

GRADING SYSTEM

1. Map = 0% (but it must be done for satisfactory completion of the course)
2. 8-week exam = 20%
3. Paper = 25%
4. Final exam = 25%
5. Participation in discussion sections = 30%

REQUIRED READINGS

Simon Collier, From Cortez to Castro  
Lee Lockwood, Castro's Cuba, Cuba's Fidel  
Gabriel Garcia Marquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude  
Eric Wolf & Edward Hansen, The Human Condition in Latin America  
Octavio Paz, The Labyrinth of Solitude