

Ibero-American Studies
&
Department of History
SPRING 1986

Interdisciplinary 260

Professor Steve J. Stern
5105 Humanities Building
263-1841/263-1800

LATIN AMERICA: AN INTRODUCTION

Course Description

This course introduces students to Latin American history, society, and culture from an interdisciplinary perspective, and is therefore cross-listed in several departments (History, Afro-American, Ag Econ., Anthro., Econ., Geog., Journ., Poli. Sci., Rural Soc., Spanish & Portuguese). There will be two lectures (TR 2:25-3:40) and discussion sections each week. One or more discussion sections will be Spanish-speaking, if enough students so desire. Course materials will include Latin American literature and films, and studies by social scientists, historians, and journalists.

Our goal will be to gain a multi-faceted, yet coherent and substantive, understanding of the human condition in Latin America. We will address four themes in particular: the wounds and legacies of history; the elusive quest for economic "development"; the politics of revolution and counter-revolution; and the dynamics of culture and culture change. Our discussion of these themes will include specific case studies to provide depth, and general overviews to provide perspective.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 Introduction.

Jan 21 Stern Course Orientation
Jan 23 Stern Why Study Latin America?

Reading: Eric R. Wolf and Edward C. Hansen, The Human Condition in Latin America (New York, 1972), 3-27.

UNIT I. THE WOUNDS AND LEGACIES OF HISTORY.

Week 2 Heritage of Indian Civilization

Jan. 28 Feinman State and Empire in Pre-Columbian Central Mexico
Jan. 30 Stern Native Peoples Today

Reading: Wolf and Hansen, The Human Condition, 28-117.
Steve J. Stern, Peru's Indian Peoples and the Challenge of Spanish Conquest (Madison, 1982), Chapter 1.

Week 3 The Legacies of Colonial Rule

Feb. 4 Stern Colonial Domination: Enduring Patterns
 Feb. 6 Van Deburg The Slavery-Race Continuum

Reading: Stern, Peru's Indian Peoples, Chapters 2-8.

Week 4 The Poverty of Progress

Feb. 11 Stern The Transition to Capitalist Economies
 Feb. 13 Stern "Progress" and Race Relations

Reading: Jorge Icaza, The Villagers (Huasipungo) (Carbondale, 1964).

UNIT II. ECONOMIC "DEVELOPMENT": THE ELUSIVE QUESTWeek 5 Development: Definitions and Strategies

Feb. 18 Stern Introduction to Some Loaded Concepts
 Feb. 20 Carter Agrarian Reform in Economic Development Strategies

Reading: None assigned.

ASSIGNMENT: A one-page statement of the companion book(s) chosen for your paper, and the specific issue you will address in the paper, is due no later than the discussion section in Week 5.

FILM: "IRACEMA" is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 18 or Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 8:00 p.m.

Week 6 Development: Definitions and Strategies (continued)

Feb. 25 Stallings Foreign Capital: Aid or Obstacle?
 Feb. 27 Stern Foreign and Local Capital Interlocked: A Case Study

Reading: Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, Modern Latin America (New York, 1984), 145-186.

NOTE: Begin Perlman reading for next week. (Read at least through page 88.)

Week 7 Human Dimensions of Development: Latin Americans as Migrants

Mar. 4 Stern City, Countryside, and the Sociology of Migration
 Mar. 6 Stern Multiple Hats and "Cholo" Culture

Reading: Janice E. Perlman, The Myth of Marginality: Urban Poverty and Politics in Rio de Janeiro (Berkeley, 1976).

Week 8 The Politics of Economic Development

- Mar. 11 Stern The Politics of Economic Models
 Mar. 13 SEMESTER EXAM, covering materials through March 11.

UNIT III. THE POLITICS OF REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION

Week 9 The Historic Revolution: Mexico

- Mar. 18
 Mar. 20 Stern Mexico: The Multiple Strands of Revolution (two lectures)

Reading: Skidmore and Smith, Modern Latin America, 225-255.

SPRING BREAK: March 22 -- March 31.

Week 10 The Crisis of Latin American Politics

- Apr. 1 Skidmore Cuba: The Revolution as Myth and History
 Apr. 3 Stern The Roots of Political Crisis and Polarization

Reading: Skidmore and Smith, Modern Latin America, 3-13, 46-144,
 (review 145-186), 359-382.

Week 11 The United States and Latin America

- Apr. 8 Stern Goals and Tactics of U.S. Foreign Policy: Origins
 Apr. 10 Stern Aid and Intervention in the Cold War Era

Reading: Stephen Schlesinger and Stephen Kinzer, Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala (New York, 1982), xi-xv, 7-129.

Week 12 Whither Central America?

- Apr. 15 Stern The Crisis in El Salvador
 Apr. 17 Stern Nicaragua's Sandinista Revolution

Reading: Schlesinger and Kinzer, Bitter Fruit, 131-255.

NOTE: It is quite likely that a FILM on Central America will be scheduled for Week 12.

UNIT IV. CULTURE AND CULTURE CHANGE

Week 13 Woman and Man in Latin America

- Apr. 21 (8 p.m.) Stern Classic Machismo: Historical Origins and Functions
 Apr. 22 Mallon Women and the Cuban Revolution

FILM tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, at 8 p.m.: "Habanera."

Reading: None scheduled. Begin next week's reading.
 (See NOTE, top of page four.)

NOTE: 1) PAPERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN DISCUSSION SECTION OF WEEK 13

2) THE DATES AND TIMES LISTED FOR WEEK 13'S LECTURES ARE NOT MISTAKEN. DATES AND TIMES ARE REARRANGED TO ACCOMMODATE PASSOVER.

Week 14 The Artist and Society

Apr. 29 Stern Dilemmas of the Latin American Artist
 May 1 Netchinsky The Magical Realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Reading: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, The Autumn of the Patriarch, Gregory Rabassa, trans. (New York, 1976).

Week 15 Latin America: Past, Present, Future

May 6 Stern Legacies and Prospects (summary/overview)
 May 8 Teacher evaluations and review for final exam.

Course Assignments and Grading

There are three requirements for successful completion of this course: participation in discussion; examinations; and a paper of 10-12 pages.

Participation means contributing your presence and thoughts to weekly discussion sections. To do this effectively requires that one keep up with assigned readings, films, and lectures, and that one come prepared to speak thoughtfully about these materials.

There will be two examinations. They will ask you to analyze significant issues raised by the readings, films, lectures, and discussion. They will also ask you to demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of assigned materials. The semester exam is scheduled for March 13 and the final exam during finals week.

The paper is designed to enable students to probe more deeply an issue of interest raised by the course materials. Choose the equivalent of a book or two to serve as a complementary "companion" of the assigned course material for a given week or topic in the course. Define clearly the specific issue or question you wish to probe more deeply through the supplementary reading. Then write a succinct 10-12 page essay, based on the supplementary and relevant assigned materials, on the specific issue or question under study.

On a 100-point system (100 points is a perfect 100% grade), the grading will break down as follows:

semester exam	25 points
participation	15 points
paper	25 points
final exam	35 points.