

Ibero-American Studies
&
Department of History
SPRING 1988

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., 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 19 Stern Course Orientation
Jan 21 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 26 Salomon The Pre-Columbian Achievements of Andean Peoples
Jan 28 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. 2 Stern Past and Present in Latin America: Legacies of the
Colonial Past
- Feb. 4 Stern Colonial Domination: Enduring Patterns

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

Week 4 The Poverty of Progress

- Feb. 9 Stern The Transition to Capitalist Economies
- Feb. 11 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. 16 Stern Introduction to Some Loaded Concepts
- Feb. 18 Barham Agrarian Reform in Economic Development Strategies

Reading: Merilee S. Grindle, State and Countryside: Development
Policy and Agrarian Politics in Latin America (Baltimore,
1986), 1-10, 19-111.

ASSIGNMENT: A one-page statement of the companion book chosen for your
paper, and including your rationale for choosing it, is due no
later than the discussion section in Week 5.

Week 6 Development: Definitions and Strategies (continued)

- Feb. 23 Stallings Foreign Capital: Aid or Obstacle?
- Feb. 25 Stern Foreign and Local Capital Interlocked: A Case Study

Reading: Grindle, State and Countryside, 112-194.

FILM: "IRACEMA" is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 25, at 8:00 p.m.

Week 7 Human Dimensions of Development: Latin Americans as Migrants

- Mar. 1 Stern City, Countryside, and the Sociology of Migration
- Mar. 3 Stern Multiple Hats and "Cholo" Culture

Reading: Janice E. Perlman, The Myth of Marginality: Urban Poverty
and Politics in Rio de Janeiro (Berkeley, 1976), 1-191
(pp. 195-262 are optional).

Week 8 The Politics of Economic Development

Mar. 8 Stern The Politics of Economic Models
 Mar. 10 SEMESTER EXAM, covering materials through March 8.

SPRING BREAK: March 12 -- March 20.

NOTE: Papers on books corresponding to Units I or II are due no later than the discussion sections of Week 9.

UNIT III. THE POLITICS OF REVOLUTION AND COUNTER-REVOLUTION

Week 9 The Historic Revolution: Mexico

Mar. 22 Stern Mexico: The Multiple Strands of Revolution (two
 Mar. 24 lectures)

Reading: Morris J. Blachman et al., eds., Confronting Revolution: Security through Diplomacy in Central America, (New York, 1986), 3-20, 206-226, 21-87.

Week 10 The Crisis of Latin American Politics

Mar. 29 Stern The Roots of Political Crisis and Polarization
 Mar. 31 Skidmore The Rise and Fall of Military Rule: Brazil

Reading: Blachman et al., eds., Confronting Revolution, 88-124.
 Omar Cabezas, Fire from the Mountain: The Making of a Sandinista (New York, 1985).

FILM: "The Official Story" tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, at 8pm.

Week 11 The United States and Latin America

Apr. 5 Stern Goals and Tactics of U.S. Foreign Policy: Origins
 Apr. 7 Stern Aid and Intervention in the Cold War Era

Reading: Blachman et al., eds., Confronting Revolution, 125-182, 229-292.

Week 12 Whither Central America?

Apr. 12 ? Agrarian Reform Under Fire: Nicaragua and El Salvador Compared
 Apr. 14 Stern Nicaragua's Sandinista Revolution

Reading: Blachman et al., eds., Confronting Revolution, 295-368.

NOTE: Papers on books corresponding to Unit III are due no later than the discussion sections of Week 13.

UNIT IV. CULTURE AND CULTURE CHANGE

Week 13 Woman and Man in Latin America

Apr. 19 Stern Classic Machismo: Historical Origins and Functions
 Apr. 21 Mallon Women and Feminism

Reading: None scheduled. Begin next week's reading.

FIILM: "Portrait of Teresa" or "Habanera" tentatively scheduled for
 Thurs., April 21, at 8pm.

NOTE: Papers on books corresponding to Unit IV are due no later than
 the discussion sections of Week 14.

Week 14 The Artist and Society

Apr. 26 Stern Dilemmas of the Latin American Artist
 Apr. 28 ? The Literature of the "Boom": Isabel Allende in Context

Reading: Isabel Allende, The House of Spirits (New York, 1985).

Week 15 Latin America: Past, Present, Future

May 3 Stern Legacies and Prospects (summary/overview)
 May 5 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 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 10 and the final exam during finals week.

The paper is designed to enable students to enrich the assigned materials by reading complementary or contrasting points of view, and will take the form of a critical book review. Choose one or two books that enrich the assigned reading (or lectures) on a given topic. The book(s) must be closely related

to the discipline for which you are receiving credit in the course. Then write a critical review-essay of ca. 10 pages. Normally, the essay should summarize clearly the book's argument and findings; evaluate critically its assumptions, line of reasoning, evidence, and conclusion; compare, contrast, or otherwise connect the book with the pertinent assigned course materials, and discuss the implications of the assigned and supplementary materials for one another; and present your own conclusions. Papers will be evaluated both for the quality of your supplementary selection, and the quality of the paper itself. Papers should be thoroughly footnoted, and the TAs and I reserve the right to consult your copies of the book(s) you review. Please note that deadlines for the papers vary according to the topic (consult the schedule above for deadlines). Please also note the deadline in Week 5 for a statement on the books you select for your review-essays.

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