



Academic Inquiries: Jinan University

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JINAN UNIVERSITY

Latin History

Lecturer: Dr. Guillermo Gibens

Time: Monday through Friday (June 18, 2018-July 20, 2018)

Office hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Location: Huiquan Building

Office: Huiquan Building 518

E-mail: ggibens@ccbcmd.edu

Course Description

This course is a survey of Latin American history from the era of Independence (1810s and 1820s) to the present. The goal of this class is to introduce you to this fascinating and complex region through an examination of important historical and literary themes. Although we might speak of Latin America as a single cultural area with unifying characteristics, extraordinary diversity is one of its most notable features. We will explore in broad detail what makes Latin America unique as a cultural area and what historical events shaped the region's development. Among the themes to be discussed in lectures and readings are: the colonial background; the breadth and scope of the revolutions for Independence; caudillos versus Liberals; neo-imperialism; monoculture; dictatorships; the Indian problem; trials (and failures) in democracy; the Brazilian monarchies; Fidel Castro and Cold War diplomacy; U.S. intervention in Central America; coca, bananas, and coffee; sports, art, and music in Latin America; Hispanics in the United States; and what the future holds for Latin America.

Required Text (Subject to change if a better book is found)

Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America (Fourth Edition), John Charles Chasteen (2016).

Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total; each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

Grading Policy

Mid-term - 30%

Final examination - 30%

Case studies - 20%

Cooperative learning - 20%

Attendance and class participation can affect borderline grades and attendance is expected

Academic integrity is assumed.

Examinations

There will be a mid-term and a final exam at the end of the summer session. The examinations cover information from the textbook and lectures. The course will enforce Jinan University standards of academic integrity.

Case studies

Students will submit a short essay/questions regarding case studies presented in class. The textbook and the Internet should be sufficient for any necessary research. The professor and teaching assistant are available for consultation as needed, in addition to Friday's sessions for reviewing the week's materials and case studies.

Cooperative learning

Students will have the opportunity to engage each other in discussions of critical historical events and in reviewing such events, with the professor acting as a facilitator for the assignment. Group presentations may be used.

Special needs

Students with disabilities and special needs should consult with the professor early in the semester. Recording of lectures is permitted.

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90-100
Good	B	80-89
Satisfactory	C	70-79
Poor	D	60-69
Failed	E	Below 60

Lecture Schedule and Main Topics

Week 1: Latin America, 1492 to 1870

Introductions and Explanation of Syllabus; Colonial Latin America

The Road to Independence; Independence in Spanish and Portuguese America

Nation Building, 1808 – 1870

Readings: Chasteen, 1 – 122; Caudillismo

Films and Discussion, Latin America: 1492 to 1870

Week 2: Mexico and Argentina

Latin America and the World Economy, 1808 – 1870: Spotlight on Argentina

The Case of Mexico, 1808 to 1876

The Porfiriato and the Mexican Revolution

Readings: Chasteen, 127 – 156; The Mexican Revolution

Films and Discussion, Mexico and Argentina

Week 3: Political Turmoil

The Rise of Socialism and Populism

Dictatorships: Argentina

Dictatorships: Brazil

Readings: Chasteen, 161 - 227; Getulio Vargas

Films and Discussion

Mid-term

Week 4: Dictatorships: Continued

Dictatorships: Dominican Republic

Dictatorships: Chile

Dictatorships: Central America

Readings: Chasteen, 233 – 293; Pinochet and Somoza

Films and Discussion, Dictatorships: Continued

Week 5: The USA and Latin America

The Case of Cuba

The USA and Latin America

Final Thoughts, Latin American and the World Today

Readings: Chasteen, 297 – 329

Review and Final Exam

NOTICE: In order to provide students with an interesting and enjoyable educational experience, this syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor at any time with notification.

Academic Honesty

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.