

Professor Lise Sedrez  
Spring 2010 T-Th 2:00-3:15PM  
Location: LA3 Room 110

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Office Hours: T 10-12, W 3:30-5:30, Th 5-6  
See <http://www.sedrez.com/html/officehours.html>

## THE LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS

This course will survey the major themes of Latin American history post-independence including, integration in the world economy in the 19th century, and the development of industry and agriculture in the 20<sup>th</sup> and the establishment of national societies. In the first part of the class, we discuss the creation of national states, keeping the focus on the region in its entirety. In the second part of the course, special attention will be paid to the diversity of the national experiences, identifying elements that were unique for each country and which trends instead crossed the national borders. Students will become familiar with political, economic, social, and cultural conditions that have produced conflict, change, and continuity in Latin America over the last two hundred years.

### A NOTE ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET CRISIS:

Faculty across the 23- campus CSU system voted during July 2009 to take a 9.23% salary reduction by going on unpaid furloughs. They did this to reduce the negative impact of a \$584 million budget cut to the CSU for this academic year. The vote for furlough was designed to mitigate the layoff of faculty and the canceling of classes. Furloughs mean that each faculty member must take nine academic days off per semester. This will result in fewer class meetings per course, reduced office hours and access to professors, and canceled events, even though student tuition was increased 30%. You can start to prevent this from happening again next year by logging on to <http://savethecsu.com> and getting involved in campus actions against further budget cuts.

Please note that budget cuts will completely close the CSULB campus on March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there will be days when staff are furloughed that will result in closed offices.

A list of when the History Department will be closed is available at the office and at the website [www.csulb.edu/history](http://www.csulb.edu/history). Please note that other campus services will be periodically unavailable to you throughout the semester because of budget cuts. The additional "faculty choice" furlough days when this class will not meet are indicated below on the course schedule.

### REQUIRED READINGS:

**HMLA** = Lawrence A Clayton and Michael L. Conniff. *A History of Modern Latin America*.

**ALA** = George Reid Andrews. *Afro-Latin America 1800-2000*

**PMLA** = John Chasteen & James Wood *Problems in Modern Latin America*

Required texts should be available for purchase in the bookstore. However you can also get copies at the library through Link + or buy them online, sometimes at considerable savings. I

suggest that you look at the following websites for used copies: [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com), [www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com). If you do order books online remember that you have to receive them in time to read them for class.

I have also uploaded several articles and chapters to the class website, at BeachBoard (**BB**). Some are required readings and some are suggested readings, as indicated in the syllabus.

The History Department has a *Grammar and Style Manual* available at the department office. You are encouraged to use the manual when writing your papers. In addition you can consult *The Chicago Manual of Style* for guidance on citation (footnote and bibliographic) styles. See Part II, Section 17 for footnotes, Part II, Section 16 for bibliographies. Visit also the Writer's Resource Lab at <http://www.csulb.edu/~wrl/home.htm>.

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After successful completion of the course of study, the student will be able to demonstrate the following skills and knowledge:

- 1) to evaluate the social, intellectual, political, and economic history of Modern Latin America
  - Assessment: essay exams, class discussions of readings, brief response papers, book reviews
- 2) to analyze the different historical experiences of Latin American societies
  - Assessment: essay exams, class discussions of readings, brief response papers,
- 3) understand history as a discipline
  - Assessment: essay exams, class discussions of readings, brief response papers
- 4) understand conceptual methods, i.e., periodization, interpretation
  - Assessment: essay exams, class discussions of readings, book review
- 5) develop writing, analytical, organizational, oral, mechanical, computer, and library skills
  - Assessment: essay exams, class discussions of readings, brief response papers, book review

### GRADING:

Participation	15% course grade
News Articles Postings	15% course grade
Quizzes (3)	20% course grade
Book Presentation (group)	10% course grade
Book Review (individual)	10% course grade
Final Exam	30% course grade

### ASSIGNMENTS:

#### 1. *Participation*

Attendance is required, it goes without saying. For EACH unjustified absence I will subtract 4 points from your participation grade. Therefore four absences means a participation grade equal to zero. But participation for this class entails more than just "showing up for class." You should contribute to your colleagues' learning, and you should learn how to learn about modern Latin America. You must keep up with your readings and relate the material of the lectures to what you read. You should discuss your progress with me and come to my office hours at least once in the semester.

#### 2. *News Articles*

You will post at least 3 (THREE) news articles about Latin America in the appropriate Beachboard Discussion Board, during the semester. Posts are due on Tuesday, and you cannot post more than one article in a given Tuesday. **QUOTE YOUR SOURCES.** You are also supposed to READ the articles posted by your colleagues and by the instructor. I will ask

questions about these articles—and how they relate to our readings—in class. Failure to come to class prepared will reflect on your grade. I expect you to comment on your colleagues' postings at least three times over the semester. A full grade for this assignment means three articles posted and at least three comments in class.

### 3. *Quizzes*

There will be 3 (three) in-class quizzes (15 minutes at the end of the class). I will announce them **ONLY IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK**. They may include:

- a) Map quiz. You will be asked to identify all or almost all modern Latin American countries in a map.
- b) Primary source analysis. Explain the main themes in a primary source and how it relates to the readings.
- c) Readings quiz. IDs or a short essay question about the readings

There are no make-up quizzes. Keeping up-to-date with your readings is important for the quizzes. Quizzes may cover material not discussed in class.

### 4. *Book Review/Presentation (novel)*

In groups of three or four, you will choose one of the novels below:

- One hundred years of solitude – Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- The death of Artemio Cruz – Carlos Fuentes
- Barren Lives – Graciliano Ramos
- The House of the Spirits – Isabel Allende

If you'd rather read a different Latin American novel, you must find a group of four people to read it with you, and you need my approval. You will make a brief presentation to class based on this novel, and hand me an individual book review. It is **NOT** a summary of the book, but a report on how the book is connected to the modern history of Latin America.

Book reviews and presentations are due on March 9.

### 5. *Final Exam*

It includes all covered material, readings AND lectures. Bring a bluebook. Final Examination is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010, 12:30PM - 2:30PM

### **GUIDELINES:**

Students are encouraged to see me during my **OFFICE HOURS** at least once in the semester. It helps you. Really. As the final weeks tend to be crammed, plan accordingly.

Factors such as attendance in class, participation in discussions, honoring due dates for assignments, and consistent quality of work may also be taken into account in assigning the final grade. Assignments will include material from the readings not covered in class discussions/lectures. In the rare case I accept late assignments, I will need written documentation, and they may be penalized, so plan ahead.

Papers for this class, unless stated otherwise, **MUST** be submitted via Turnitin AND hardcopy in class.

For the **LECTURES**, I will assume that the students are familiar with that week's reading assignments. Students are welcome to share their doubts in class. **DISCUSSIONS** will be based

on the readings and the lectures. See handout at Beachboard on what is considered good participation in discussions.

READINGS are assigned for each week, not necessarily per lecture. I will also recommend other readings and movies during the semester. Although we will not necessarily discuss suggested readings/movies in class, they provide invaluable insights to some of our discussions.

**CHEATING and PLAGIARISM are serious offenses and will not be tolerated.** They are violations of university regulations. Students in this class will be held to a high standard of academic integrity, which is defined as "the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception." Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Such actions will be subject to disciplinary action. If I suspect any of the above, I may ask to see notes and draft. If you have any questions about academic integrity, please talk with me. A single instance of cheating and plagiarism will result, at the very least, in a failing grade for that assignment. Depending on the severity of the case, other consequences may include a failing grade for the class, regardless of performance on other assignments, and further disciplinary actions, including suspension and expulsion, based on University policy as summarized in the Schedule of Classes. (Graduate students will be held to an even higher standard. A single act of cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the course, regardless of other graded course assignments.) While all written work must be exclusively your work, you are encouraged to work together when appropriate.

Please consult the schedule of classes and the university catalog for all academic policies, procedures, and deadlines covering **course withdrawals, plagiarism, excused absences, students with disabilities** and other university regulations.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the schedule and syllabus if necessary.

**FLU** - Because of an anticipated increase in seasonal and H1N1 flu, any student who has influenza-like illness should stay home until 24 hours after fever is gone. Absent students should notify instructors prior to each missed class by email or telephone. As much as possible, instructors will accommodate students who are absent due to influenza-like illness, but it may not always be possible to make up work missed. In considering students' requests to withdraw from courses, flu illness will be considered a "serious and compelling reason." More information about influenza is available by following the "Medical Advisory, Flu information" link on the university home page, [www.csulb.edu](http://www.csulb.edu)

## **READINGS AND SCHEDULE:**

### *First Part*

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**Week 1 – Introduction & expectations: What is Latin America?** (Jan 26, 28)

**Read:** Price, "Latin America: A geographic preface", Holloway, "Latin America: What's in a name?"

**FURLOUGH ON JANUARY 29**

**Week 2 – Independence Dreams** (Feb 2, 4)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 1-4; ALA, ch. 1; PMLA, ch. 2; Trouillot, “An unthinkable history.”

**Week 3 – Establishing Order: caudillos and kings** (Feb 9, 11)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 5-6, ALA, ch. 2, PMLA, ch. 4, Slatta, “Gaucha to Peón: changing ranch labor.”

**Week 4 – People and labor** (Feb 16, 18)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 7 and 10; ALA, Ch. 3; Menchú, *I, Rigoberta Menchú* (excerpts); Debret’s paintings of Brazilian slaves (PowerPoint presentation in class)  
*Novel and groups chosen by Feb 18*

**FURLOUGH ON FEBRUARY 15****Week 5 - The Development of Nations** (Feb 23, 25)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 8 & 9; Meade, “Latin America’s Place in the Commodity Chain.”  
*Feb 23 – Roundtable on food in world history, at 12:30, in LA1-301.*

**Week 6 – The Development of Nations II** (Mar 4 )

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 11 & 12, ALA 4; PMLA, ch. 7.

**FURLOUGH ON MARCH 2****Week 7 - Novel/group Presentations:** (March 9, 11)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 13 & 17, ALA, Ch.5, Bost & Ekstrom, “Latin American literature.”

March 09: Book reports due.

March 11: Movie.

**SECOND PART****Week 8 – Mexico** (March 16, 18)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 15 and 20; PMLA, ch. 6, Knight, “The Peculiarities of Mexican History: Mexico Compared to Latin America, 1821-1992.”

**Week 9 -- Brazil** (March 23, 25)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 14 , 16 and 18; PMLA , ch. 10; Miller, “Asphyxiated Habitats.”

**FURLOUGH ON MARCH 26****Week 10 – SPRING BREAK****Week 11 - Cono Sur: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay** (April 6, 8)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 24 & 25; PMLA, ch. 9; Guillermprieto, “Little Eva.”

Suggested reading: The Pinochet file debate

**Week 12 – Catch up class** (April 13)

**Read:** PMLA, ch. 11 & 12.

**FURLOUGH ON APRIL 15**

**Week 13 – Caribbean and Central America** (April 20, 22)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 22 & 23; Vanden & Prevost, “Cuba”; Wilentz, “Unrest.”

**Week 14 - Andean nations: Colombia, Venezuela, Equador & Peru** (April 27, 29)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 19 & 21; LeGrand, “The Colombian Crisis in Historical Perspective,” 165-209; Movie “Cocalero” (on reserve).

**Week 15 – Catch up class** (May 4)\

**FURLOUGH ON MAY 6 – NO CLASS**

**Week 16 – What is Latin America? Does it make sense in the 21st century?** (May 11, 13)

**Read:** HMLA, ch. 26; ALA, ch 6, PMLA, ch. 13. **Review for the Exam**

**THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010, 12:30PM - 2:30PM Final Examination**