

LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETY AND POLITICS

INTA 3241/INTA 8803 BL1

Instructor: Barbara Deutsch Lynch

T, Th 4:35-5:55 pm

Office hours: Wednesdays, 10 am-noon or by appointment

This seminar course for advanced undergraduates and graduate students provides an introduction to the fundamental societal forces that have driven Latin American politics. The first part of the course focuses on the social foundations of agrarian, extractive and urban societies. The second analyzes right and left political responses to the contradictions within these three socioeconomic arenas and to the issues that transcend them. We conclude with an analysis of current hemispheric debates over extraction, the nature of citizenship, and violence.

Course requirements:

Mindful and informed attendance. This is a seminar course. I may lecture briefly from time to time to introduce a topic, but will expect students to come to class having done the assigned readings and ready to participate in a discussion of these readings. I also expect that students will interact with one another. For this reason, I will ask that cell phones, laptops and other electronic devices be stowed during class meetings.

Roundtable presentations. Each major unit of the course will conclude with a roundtable. In preparation for the roundtable every student will be required to prepare a 5-page briefing paper that answers a set specific questions to be posted on T-Square. In class, students will be asked to address one of the assigned questions. All students are expected attend and to turn in briefing papers prior to or at the roundtable session.

Final paper. Students taking the class for a letter grade will be asked to choose one of their four briefing papers and develop it into a longer research paper. This paper should be informed by an expanded bibliography and should respond to comments made on the briefing paper during the roundtable. Paper grades will be based on the thoroughness of the research, the quality of the argument, and technical writing skills. Papers are due Wednesday, December 14.

Required Readings

Most readings will be available on T-square. You can download others directly from the library website. In addition, you will be required to read all or most of the texts listed below. These should be purchased.

Enrique Desmond Arias and Daniel Goldstein, eds., *Violent Democracies in Latin America*.

Eduardo Galeano. *Open Veins of Latin America*

Janice Perlman. *Favela*

Michael Taussig. *Law in a Lawless Land*

Jim Shultz and Melissa Draper, eds. *Dignity and Defiance*

I. THE SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS

August 23. Introduction: extractive, agrarian, and urban societies

A. AGRARIAN SOCIETIES

- August 25 Sugar and Slavery in the Caribbean
 Galeano, *Open Veins*. Chapter 2 (King Sugar)

 Barnet, Miguel. Biography of a Runaway slave. Pp. 17-60
- August 30 Sugar, Imperialism, and Revolution
 Ayala, *American Sugar Kingdom*. Ch. 7.8

 Castro, Fidel. History will absolve me
- Sept. 6 Bananas: United Fruit in Guatemala and Colombia
 Kinzer, *Bitter Fruit*. Chapter 5

 LeGrand, Catherine. 1998. Living in Macondo: Economy and Culture in a United Fruit Company Banana Enclave. In Gilbert Joseph, et al, *Close Encounters of the Imperial Kind*
- Sept. 8 Agrarian reform and peasant agriculture: The Peruvian Experiment
 Mayer, Enrique. 2010. Ugly stories of the Peruvian Agrarian Reform. Paper prepared for Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Toronto

Sept. 13 **Roundtable I: Soy, asparagus and biofuels: recent agrarian transformations and Latin American food security, 1985-2011**

B. EXTRACTIVE SOCIETIES

Sept. 15 Going for the Gold: Mining in colonial Latin America
Eduardo Galeano. *Open Veins of Latin America*, Ch. 1,3,5

Sept 20 Underdeveloping the Amazon
Bunker, Stephen. 1984. Modes of Extraction, Unequal Exchange, and the Under-Development of an Extreme Periphery: The Brazilian Amazon, 1600-1980. *American Journal of Sociology* 89: 1017-1064.

Sept. 22 Rainforest Crunch
Keck, Margaret. 1995. Social Equity and Environmental Politics in Brazil: lessons from the rubber tappers of Acre. *Comparative Politics* 27 (July 1995).

Sept. 27 Legacies of Potosi: Hard rock mining in the Andes
Bebbington, Tony. The new extraction: Rewriting the political ecology of the Andes? *NACLA Reports on the Americas*.

Sablowski, David. 2002. Mining, displacement and the World Bank. *Journal of Business Ethics* 39: 247-273.

Sept 29 Petropolitica
Dignity and Defiance, Chapters 2,3

Sawyer, Susanna. *Crude Chronicles*. Chapter 1

Oct 6 **Roundtable II: Indigenous Identity and the politics of extraction**

C. URBAN SOCIETIES

Oct 11 An urbanizing continent
Perlman, *Favela*. Intro, ch. 1,2

Oct 13 Maquiladora urbanization
Beautiful flowers of the Maquiladora, pp. xix-28

Parenti, Christian. 2011. Mexican Golgotha. In *Tropic of Chaos*.

FALL BREAK OCT 15-18

- Oct. 20 Favela I: marginalizing the poor
Perlman, Ch. 3-7
- Oct 25 Favela II: criminals and marginals in democratic Brazil
Perlman, Ch. 8-12
- Oct 27 **Roundtable III: Experiments in urban governance**

II. THE POLITICS OF VIOLENT TRANSFORMATION

- Nov 1 Indigeneity and impunity in Guatemala
Lynch, Barbara. 2007. Chixoy working paper

Francisco Goldman. 1999, *Annals of Crime: Murder Comes for the Bishop*. *The New Yorker*. March 15
[Download directly from library website]
- Nov 3 Ushering in Neoliberalism I: Chile under Pinochet
Constable and Valenzuela. In *Nation of Enemies*.
Chapter 7, 10
- Nov 8 Ushering in Neoliberalism II: Argentina's Dirty War and its
aftermath

Sarlo, Beatriz. Cultural Landscapes: Buenos Aires from
Integration to Fracture. In *Other Cities; Other Worlds*

Sikiink, Karthryn. 2008. From pariah state to global
protagonist: Argentina and the struggle for international
human rights. *Latin American Politics and Society* 50(1): 1-29
- Nov 10 Colombia: Drugs, guerrillas and paramilitaries
Taussig, *Law in a Lawless Land*. All

III. SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

- Nov 15 Neoliberalism and backlash in Bolivia
Dignity and Defiance. Chapter 1,4,5
- Nov 17 The new indigenous politics
Yashar, Deborah. 2007. Resistance and identity politics
in an age of globalization. *Annals, AASS 610* (March):
160-181

NOVEMBER 24-25 THANKSGIVING

Nov 22 Violent democracies I: Colombia
 Violent democracies, Chapters by Arias and Goldstein,
 Roldan, Ramirez

Dec 6 Violent democracies II: Brazil and Argentina
 Violent Democracies. Chapters by Auyero, Stanley,
 Gay, Conclusion

Dec 8: ROUNDTABLE IV: Violence and Democratic Futures