

*The primary task of a useful teacher is to teach his students to recognize inconvenient facts—
I mean the facts that are inconvenient for their party opinions (Max Weber)*

Latin American Politics, Societies, Cultures

Kirk Bowman • INTA 2241 • Clough 102 • T-Th 12:00 to 1:15 • Kirk.bowman@inta.gatech.edu

OFFICE HOURS Thursdays 3-4 Habersham 145 (781 Marietta ST NW) and by appointment

NO SCREENS OF ANY KIND IN CLASS—phones, tablets, laptops. PERIOD. Failure to follow this policy will result in the professor asking you to leave class. If you cannot abide 1 hour and 20 minutes without social media or texting your friends, then this is not the class for you. Feel free to leave.

Course Description: Latin America is the most interesting, dynamic, and politically innovative region on the planet. With 20 countries, a population over 600 million people, a PPP GDP of nearly 8 trillion dollars, Latin America is a complex and globally important region that has been the source of multiple political, cultural, and economic innovations. From Cuba to Colombia, and from Mexico to Argentina, the region is currently undergoing tectonic historic shifts. This course is an introduction that will use literature, scholarship, a textbook, and media to bring to life the region's history, peoples, promise, and challenges. We will have extended coverage of Brazil, Venezuela, Chile and some additional countries TBD.

Learning Outcomes:

Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.

Cultural and ethical awareness. Students will become more aware of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world. Able to understand and articulate key issues with respect for a range of different variables.

Students will demonstrate mastery of the geography and political systems of each country in the region.

Students will demonstrate the ability to write a persuasive compelling argument.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory as is reading before class. There will be 6 short pop quizzes at the beginning of class on reading. The lowest score will be dropped and the remaining 5 quizzes will count as 15% of your final grade. If you don't like to read and prefer to wing your opinion in modern jackass, please leave now.

ADAPTS

The professor will work with ADAPTS so that all students have an equal opportunity for success. For information on ADAPTS, see <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

Honor Code Statement:

Plagiarizing is defined by Webster's as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source."

If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

For more information see: <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>

BOOKS: This course is reading intensive, and will require you purchasing the following book, on sale at B&N GaTech. Most readings will be supplied as PDF readings from a range of books, magazines, journals.

John Chasteen: [Born in Blood and Fire: A concise history of Latin America](#)

Isabel Allende: [House of the Spirits](#)

Latin America articles from the weekly *The Economist*, discussed every Thursday

Readings will also come from other the media to cover current events and major developments and TBA sections. These will be links or PDFs . Lectures will include significant information NOT included in the readings. Slides will NOT be posted.

Schedule of readings, exams, and other items.

1/8	Introduction	3/7	Chasteen 9, Revolution
1/10	Chasteen 1, Welcome	3/12	Chasteen 10, Reaction
1/15	Allende 1-3,	3/14	Turn in paper topic, book and movies, short description of what you will do. Chasteen 11, Neoliberalism & Beyond
1/17	Chasteen 2, Encounter	3/19	Spring Break
1/22	Chasteen 3, Colonial Crucible	3/21	Spring Break
1/24	Allende 4-6	3/26	Readings from Arocena and Bowman
1/39	Chasteen 4, Independence	3/28	TBA
1/31	Chasteen 5, Postcolonial Blues	4/2	TBA
2/5	Allende 7-9	4/4	TBA
2/7	Chasteen 6, Progress	4/11	TBA
2/12	Chasteen 7, Neocolonialism	4/16	Readings from Arocena and Bowman
2/14	Allende 10-12	4/18	TBA
2/19	Chasteen 8, Nationalism	4/23	TBA
2/21	Allende 13 though Epilogue	4/25	Conclusion. No reading or quiz
2/26	Midterm	5/2	Final Exam
2/28	TBA		
3/5	TBA		

Grading:

Quizzes: 15% • 6 short quizzes over semester, 5 will count towards grade. From assigned readings. Random.

Midterm: 30%

Final: 35%

Analytical paper on two films or one novel: 20%. Students are to read one novel or approved book and write a five-page paper that merges the book some of the topics from the class. A rubric will be found in canvas as well as a list of potential books. Students can also select their own book and please feel free to discuss with professor at office hours or by appointment. Students can alternatively watch two films that in part cover thematic topics of the course.

Professor reserves the right to make necessary changes to syllabus.