

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

INTA 3241a • FALL 2023 • Latin American Politics • Habersham 136 • Tue./Thu. 9:30-10:45

Dr. Kirk Bowman, [kirk.bowman@inta.gatech.edu](mailto:kirk.bowman@inta.gatech.edu)

Office Hours • Tuesdays noon to 1 pm or by appointment

NOTE: This syllabus may change at professor's discretion

No Screens of Any Type Allowed in Class. If you need to text, please step out of class.

Latin America is an exciting, diverse, and dynamic region that has considerable variation in economic success, political stability, and development. The purpose of this course is to learn the historical, cultural, political, and economic foundations of the region. We will use a variety of methods and sources to give you a flavor of Latin America. We will also follow contemporary events in the region through readings from the *Economist*.

This is an advanced undergraduate course suitable for senior level students and first year grad students. It is reading intensive and you are expected to carefully read the assignments before class, and not merely skim them. If you do not like to read, this is possibly not the class for you.

For every Thursday class, you must read the free articles on Latin America at two sites.

[https://www.bbc.com/news/world/latin\\_america](https://www.bbc.com/news/world/latin_america)

<https://www.aljazeera.com/latin-america/>

### **Learning Outcomes:**

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

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

*Students will demonstrate mastery of Latin American geography and be able to describe how geography shapes societal and political outcomes*

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

*Effective communication skills. Students will be able to express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and in their research and oral presentations.*

### **Books, required:**

Eduardo Galeano, *The Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*. 1997 Edition. Monthly Review Press. PDF in Files in Canvas. Don't buy.

Michael Reid, *Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America*. 2017 edition. Yale.

Stuart Esterling, *The Mexican Revolution: A Short History 1910-1920*.

Using course materials, conversation with professor, and research resources, the student will produce an original and polished TedX Talk of one research question. More to come.

Assignments and grades:

It is important that students come prepared for discussion. There will be no quizzes but I will be randomly calling on students to discuss the readings including the news. If you are not in class or have not read, I will take note. Up to 10 percent of your grade will be participation.

**You must meet me in office hours or by appointment to discuss your TedX Talk. If you do not meet with me once during the semester before March October 15, you will lose 10 percent of your final grade.**

<b>Participation</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>TedX Talk</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Final</b>	<b>40</b>

### Schedule of Readings, Exams, and Assignments

8/22	INTRODUCTION	10/17	Midterm
8/24	INTRODUCTION 2	10/19	Reid, Chapter 4 plus news
8/29	Galeano, Chapter 1	10/24	Reid, Chapters 5-6
8/31	NEWS	10/26	Reid, Chapter 6 plus news
9/5	Galeano, Chapter 2	10/31	Reid, Chapters 7-8
9/7	News and TBD	11-2	Reid, Chapter 9 plus news
9/12	Galeano, Chapter 3	11/7	Reid Chapters 10-11
9/14	News and TBD	11/9	Reid, Chapters 12-13
9/19	Mexico, Chapter 1	11/14	TedX Talks
9/21	News and TBD	11/16	TedX Talks
9/26	Mexico, Chapter 2	11/21	TedX Talks
9/28	News and TBD	11/23	Thanksgiving
10/3	News and TBD	11/28	TedX Talks
10/5	Mexico, Chapter 3	11/30	TedX Talks
10/10	No class, fall break	12/5	TedX Talks
10/12	Reid, Chapter 1-3		Final Exam—December 11, 9-10:50

**USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS.** The most complete website on Latin America <http://lanic.utexas.edu/>, with comprehensive link pages for individual countries. For a quick overview of current developments in Latin American countries, see [www.americas.org](http://www.americas.org). You may also consult [www.wola.org](http://www.wola.org). Organization of American States ([www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)) has loads of information. For data and reports, see the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Latin American Research Group with excellent links <https://www.atlantafed.org/americascenter>. The UN Economic Commission for Latin America <https://www.cepal.org/en> and the Interamerican Development Bank [www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org). Additional Sources to learn about Latin America

BBC country briefings: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country\\_profiles/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm)

Library of Congress Country Studies for Latin America: [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/continent\\_americas.html](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/continent_americas.html):

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to come to class and to come prepared to discuss the readings.

**ADAPTS:** We strive to help every student succeed. (<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>)

**Honor Code statement:** You are responsible for understanding and avoiding plagiarism in your written work.

- *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.*
- GT Honor Code at <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>