World Cultures: Latin America
V55.-0515008
Tuesday and Thursday 3:30-4:45
714 Silver Building
Prof. Greg Grandin
998-3534
grandin@nyu.edu
office hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:15, or by appointment
611 53 Washington Square South

Preceptors:

Yuko Miki (ym310@nyu.edu):
Friday 9:30
Friday 11:00

Ramón Suárez (ras336@nyu.edu):
Monday 8:00
Monday 9:30

Matthew Vitz (mwv203@nyu.edu):
Monday 3:30
Monday 4:55

Drawing on literature, primary sources, documentaries, music, and scholarly interpretations, this course is designed to introduce students to Latin American society, culture, and history. A first set of lectures will use Gabriel García Márquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude to lay out the themes that will thread through the semester. We will then begin with the colonial "encounter," examining different ways to interpret its historical significance. The first half of the course will examine the cultural, political, and economic dimensions of Spanish colonialism, colonialism's overthrow, the rise of independent states and nationalism, the spread of capitalism, and relations with the United States. The second half will mostly focus on specific countries to explore Latin America's tumultuous twentieth century, examining transformations in political culture, struggles to advance democracy, political terror, and the construction, destruction and evolution of collective identities based on race, politics, gender, and class.

All required books are for sale at NYU's main book store and on reserve in Bobst Library:

1. Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude
2. Benjamin Keen, Latin American Civilization: History and Society, 1492 to the Present
3. Mark Danner, The Massacre at El Mozote: A Parable of the Cold War
4. Ariel Dorfman, *Death and the Maiden*

All other readings can be found in a packet for sale at the New University Copy Shop, 11 Waverly Place, one and a half blocks east of Washington Square Park, on the left hand side as you are walking away from the park.

All students are required to attend lectures and recitation sections, to arrive on time and to participate in class discussion, both following the lectures and during the recitation sections. Students are expected to complete the weekly readings by the meeting of their recitation section (unless otherwise instructed) and be prepared to discuss both the readings and recent lectures.

There will be two in-class midterms (on **October 7** and **November 9**; students will choose one essay from a choice of two and will answer 5 short questions); one short paper (details will be discussed in class) due on **December 7**; and a take-home final exam, which will be due on the date scheduled for the final exam. **Only hard copies will be accepted for all exams and papers.** Students will also be expected to keep a weekly journal, based on newspaper reports on Latin America. This requirement will be factored into the participation component of the final grade.

Final grades will be calculated as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First mid-term</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second mid-term</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Week 1**

**Introduction: One Hundred Years of Solitude**

*Tuesday, September 7: Introduction*
*Thursday, September 9: Five Centuries of Solitude and Solidarity*

Required Readings:
- First half of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

**Week 2**

**The Conquest of Mexico**

*Tuesday, September 14: Spain and America*
*Thursday: September 16: Encounter, Invasion, Genocide, or Anti-imperialist Rebellion?*

Required Readings:
- Second half of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*

Optional Readings:
- *Latin American Civilization*, chapters 1, 2, and 3
Week 3  
**Colonialism, Slavery and Native Americans**

Tuesday, September 21: The Economic Basis of Colonialism  
Thursday, September 23: Colonial Cultures

Required Readings:  
*Latin American Civilization*, pp. chapters 4 and 5

Week 4  
**Independence, Liberals, Conservatives, and Popular Culture**

Tuesday, September 28: Nation and State I  
Thursday, September 30: Nation and State II

Required Readings:  
*Latin American Civilization*, chapter 14

Week 5  
**The Second Conquest of Latin America**

Tuesday, October 5: The Second Conquest of Latin America  
Thursday, October 7: First midterm

Required Readings:  
*Latin American Civilization*, chapter 15 and 16

Week 6  
**The United States and Latin America**

Tuesday, October 12: The Cultural, Political, and Economic Roots of US-Latin American Relations  
Thursday, October 14: The Exoticization of Latin America: "Bananas is My Business"

Required Readings:  
*Latin American Civilization*, chapter 22  
Course Packet:  
1. José Martí, “Our America”

Week 7  
**The 1930s**

Tuesday, October 19: The Mexican Revolution  
Thursday, October 21: Saving the United States from Itself

Required Readings:  
*Latin American Civilization*, chapter 17

Week 8  
**The Cold War**
Tuesday, October 26:  Communists, Nationalists, Populists, and Democrats: Guatemala 1954
Thursday, October 28:  The Cuban Revolution(s)

Required Readings:

On web page of National Security Archive: Documents related to 1954 CIA operation in Guatemala:
http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB4/index.html

Week 9  Cuba

Tuesday, November 2:  The Cuban Revolution(s)
Thursday, November 4:  The Cuban Revolution(s)

Required Readings:

Latin American Civilization, in chapter 20:
“History will Absolve Me”
“The Cuban Educational Achievement”
“Women’s Liberation in Duba”
“Cuba Under the Hammer”

Course packet:
2. John Kennedy, “Preliminary Formulations of the Alliance for Progress”
3. Che Guevara, “Create Two, Three, Many Vietnams;” “To My Children”
4. Human Rights Watch on Cuba

Week 10  Chile

Tuesday, November 9:  Second mid-term
Thursday, November 11:  The Chilean Road to Socialism

Required Readings:

Latin American Civilization, in chapter 20:
“The Death of Victor Jara”
“Henry Kissinger on Salvador Allende”

Plus course packet:
1. Pablo Neruda, *Canto General*
2. Testimonies from Pinochet supporters and opponents

**Week 11**

**Liberation Theology**

Tuesday, November 16: The Preferential Option for the Poor
Thursday, November 18: Christ and Marx

**Required Readings:**

*Latin American Civilization*, in chapter 20:
   “The Church in Nicaragua”
and in chapter 21:
   “Flora Tristan”
   “A New Feminism”

**Plus course packet:**
1. Pope Paul VI, "On the Development of Peoples"
2. Leonardo Boff and Clodovis Boff, “The Basic Question: How to Be Christians in a World of Destitution”
3. “A Rebel Creed, Stifled by the Pope,” *New York Times*
4. Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

**Week 12**

**The Central American Wars**

Tuesday, November 23: Inevitable Revolutions
Thursday, November 25: Thanksgiving Recess

**Course packet:**
1. Jeane Kirkpatrick, "Dictatorships and Double Standards"
4. Vidaluz Menese, "As a Women I Think the Revolutionary Process was Worth Living"
5. “Guatemala and Counter-Terror, Viron Vaky
6. ”We’ve not been honest”
7. “The Spies Who Never Came in From the Cold”

From the National Security Archive Web Page, “US Policy in Guatemala, 1966-1996,” at:
Week 13  
**Terror and Memory**

Tuesday, November 30:  Inevitable Counterrevolutions  
Thursday, December 2:  Pictures from a Revolution

Required Readings:  
Dorfman, *Death and the Maiden*

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Week 14:  
**Wrap Up (Short Paper Due)**

Tuesday, December 7:  Obstinate Memory  
Thursday, December 9:  Counterinsurgency and neoliberalism:  Life and Debt

Required Readings:  
*Latin American Civilization*, in chapter 20:  
“Neoliberalism and Culture”

Plus course packet:  
1. Assorted newspaper articles on Chile and Argentina  
2. Assorted articles on Latin America today

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**Last Class:**  
Tuesday, December 14