

**History 508:262**  
**Modern Latin America**  
**Fall 2016**  
**Monday and Wednesday**  
**4:30-5:50; FH-A6**

This is the syllabus for Modern Latin America (History 508:262) from Fall 2016. Specific assignments, readings or topics may be different in Fall 2018; but the general structure of the course will be very similar.

Professor

Gail D. Triner  
VanDyck 106  
email: [gtriner@gmail.com](mailto:gtriner@gmail.com)

Office Hours:

Mon. 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
Tues. 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Or by appointment

**Core Curriculum Goals met by History 508:262**

**Social Science and History**

- h. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.**
- j. Identify and critically assess ethical issues in social science and history.**
- k. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.**

This course on Modern Latin America is designed to introduce you to contemporary Latin American life, and to show you how the historical development of the region has shaped today's Latin America. Inevitably for a region as large (more than 20 countries) and diverse as Latin America, covering a period of 2 centuries, we cannot address every significant trend and occurrence in every country. We will focus our attention on how people have lived their lives in Latin America, paying attention to their personal lives as well as the effects of large-scale political, economic and cultural circumstances on the opportunities and constraints for Latin Americans.

Class sessions will include lectures, discussion sessions, videos, and music. The readings are from a wide selection of books. In addition to the text (Martin and Wasserman, *Latin America and its People*), readings include novels, personal accounts, journalistic descriptions, and scholarly articles. Articles and chapters are available from the Sakai site for the course. The assigned readings and class sessions are complementary; they do not repeat each other. So, to follow the lectures, it will be necessary for you to stay current on the readings.

**Readings**

Books available at Rutgers University Bookstore or Alexander Library Reserve Desk

C.E. Martin and M. Wasserman *Latin America and its People*, volume 2.

M. Guzman Bouvard; *Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo*

Short pieces in the Resources page of the Sakai site

I may assign a few additional short readings through the semester.

- T. Holloway "Latin America: What's in a Name?"
- Chasteen, ed. "Making Sense of Caudillos in Nineteenth Century Latin America"
- Selections on living in Mexico, 19<sup>th</sup> century
- M. Azuela; *The Underdogs*
- F. Calderón; *Life in Mexico*, Letters 14, 31 & 32
- J. Amado *Gabriela: Clove and Cinnamon*; selections
- A. Farnsworth-Alvear; *Dulcinea in the Factory*; Introduction, Chapter 2
- R. Levine & Crocetti (eds.) *The Brazil Reader* selected readings on Getúlio Vargas
- N. Scheper-Hughes; *Death Without Weeping*; Chapter 6
- D Cave *NY Times*, 5 Jan. 2012 "Migrants New Paths..."

## Course Requirements

The components of the final grades for this class are:

- 25% mid-term essay (take-home)
- 35% final essay (take-home)
- 25% class participation, including responses to questions on films and thought questions posted on the Discussions page (left-hand menu) of Sakai through the semester; respond to the question, by commenting within the same topic, in Sakai before the next class session  
I will not grade these responses, but will keep track of whether you submit responses. If your response clearly indicates that you have not considered the material (assigned reading and material from class sessions) I will notify you and you will not receive credit for your submission.
- 5% Map test – see attached map of Latin America (also available in Sakai in the file labeled \_political map.doc\_ within the Resources section)
- 5% Semester-end group discussion question and presentation
- 5% Final reflection essay

### Participation and Discussion sessions:

Preparation for class participation is an essential component of the course. For several of the classes, short questions on the readings will be passed out before the class, or at the beginning of class sessions. Your written answers to the questions will not receive a letter grade, other than to note if you do not provide an answer. Missing more than one out of every five of these questions will result in a deduction of one-half of a letter grade from your participation grade for the course.

#### Note on Participation:

I consider disruptive or disrespectful classroom behavior to be negative contributions to class participation. Some forms of these behaviors during class sessions include: chatting, texting, repeated leaving and re-entering the classroom, use of computers for non-class related purposes. I weight negative contributions to participation very heavily.

### Map Quiz

Every student must pass the map quiz (scheduled for 22 Sept.) A map of Latin America, identifying countries and their capital cities accompanies this syllabus and on the Sakai site. The quiz will draw from this map. If you pass the map quiz on the first try, you will receive an A (counting for 5% of your course grade); if you do not pass the quiz at all (you will be allowed additional tries) you will lose a full letter grade from your final course grade.

### Essays:

The course requirements include take-home midterm and final essays. I will distribute the exam questions to allow sufficient time for all students to consider the questions and write well-developed answers. I do not accept late essays.

## Class Sessions

Below is my current expectation for our class sessions. Please keep in mind that this may change as the semester progresses. I will keep you informed of any changes.

### Introduction

- Read
- T. Holloway "Latin America: What's in a Name?"
  - *New York Times* 27 July 2016 "Who is Polluting Rio's Bay?"
  - *New York Times* 2 Sept. 2014 "36 Hours in Rio"
- Link to these articles from the menu in the class Sakai site.  
Be prepared to discuss the differences in the views presented by the 2 articles.

7 Sept.

12 Sept.

### The New Nations of Latin America

Read Martin & Wasserman Chapter 8

14 Sept.

### Regionalism, War & Reconstruction, 1821-1880

Read Martin & Wasserman Chapter 9 [1<sup>st</sup> class of this group]  
Chasteen, ed. "Making Sense of Caudillos in Nineteenth Century Latin America" [2<sup>nd</sup> class of this group]  
Film: *Camila*  
Discussion session

19-26 Sept.

### Everyday Life in an Uncertain Age

\*\*\*Map quiz

Read Martin & Wasserman, Chapter 10  
F. Calderón; *Life in Mexico*; Letters 14, 31, 32

28 Sept.-3 Oct.

(28 Sept.)

Discussion group

Small group discussions on "Life in an Uncertain Age" (probably on 30 Oct.)

### **Class cancelled**

**5 Oct.**

### Economic Modernization, 1880-1920

Read Martin & Wasserman, Chapter 11; up to section on "Dictatorship: Mexico"

10 Oct.

### Revolution

Read Martin & Wasserman, Chapter 11; remainder of chapter [1<sup>st</sup> class of this group]

12-17 Oct.

M. Azuela; *The Underdogs* [2<sup>nd</sup> class of this group]

\*\*\*Questions for the midterm essay will be available on Sakai after class on 17 Oct.

You will have as much time as you need for questions on 17 October.

### Review session for essays

19 Oct.

**Midterm essays due, in your Sakai Assignment Box by the beginning of class**

**24 Oct.**

### Between Revolutions: The New Politics and Economics

24-26 Oct.

Read Martin & Wasserman, Chapter 12 [1<sup>st</sup> class of this group]  
Levine & Crocetti (eds.) *The Brazil Reader* selections on Getúlio Vargas [2<sup>nd</sup> class of this group]

### People and Progress, 1910-1959

31 Oct.-2 Nov.

Read Martin and Wasserman, Chapter 1 [1<sup>st</sup> class of this group]  
Farnsworth-Alvear; *Dulcinea in the Factory*; Chapter 2 [2<sup>nd</sup> class]

31 Oct.

2 Nov.

## Class Sessions

<b>Class cancelled</b>	<b>7 Nov.</b>
<u>Revolution, Reaction, Democracy</u>	9-21 Nov.
Read <u>Revolution</u> Martin & Wasserman, Chapter 14; up to section on “The Tyrannies”	9 Nov.
<u>Reaction</u> Martin & Wasserman, Chapter 14; section on “The Tyrannies” & Guzman Bouvard, <i>Revolutionizing Motherhood</i> (entire book)	14 Nov.
<u>Democracy</u> Martin & Wasserman, Chapter 14, remainder and Ribeyro “Featherless Buzzards”	16 Nov.
Group Discussion	21 Nov.
HAPPY THANKSGIVING (no class)	23 Nov.
<u>Challenges at end 20<sup>th</sup> &amp; beginning 21<sup>st</sup> centuries</u>	28Nov-5Dec
Read Martin & Wasserman, Chapter 15	28 Nov.
<u>Poverty</u> Read: Scheper-Hughes, <i>Death Without Weeping</i> , Ch. 6	30 Nov
<u>Transnational Lives</u> Read: Cave “Migrants’ New Lives...” Film: <i>La Bestia</i>	5 Dec.
<u>Semester Review question/presentation</u> I will distribute broad questions that cover the material from the entire semester (similar in nature to the final essay questions.) For one class session, you will work in groups to develop your answers. In the next class session, your group will discuss your answer. ***I will post the questions for the final essay at the end of class on 12 Dec.***	7-12 Dec.
<u>Conclusion</u>	14 Dec.
<u>Due:</u> Final reflection essay: 2-3 pages on “How I think about Latin America differently now than I did before this course.”	

# Latin America

