

Syllabus

LAH3300: Contemporary Latin America
Spring Semester 2021

Professor Jeffrey D. Needell

Office hours: Tuesdays, 1-2:30 and Thursdays, 2-3:30

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This course is intended to introduce the history of contemporary Latin America to students with some background in the region or to students interested in knowing something about the region's most recent past at a more sophisticated level. We will explore how many nations of the region achieved successful political integration under oligarchical rule and often managed economic integration with the world market in the era 1880-1914. We will go on to analyze the nature of development in the transitional era of industrialization and urban growth that began by World War I and shifted dramatically with government intervention by the 1930s. We will examine the increased role of populism and repression as characteristic responses to the socio-economic changes of the post-1930 era. We will conclude with observations regarding the trends visible by the beginning of this century. The region is a varied one, with more than a score of nations. Thus, we will concentrate on four countries that are both especially important and suggestive of the many experiences common in the region: these countries are Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, and Peru.

Given the pandemic, the sessions will be on Zoom and scheduled as indicated in the *Schedule of Courses* for when we would have met in class. The lectures, which include the instructor's responses to questions raised during the lectures, will be recorded for the benefit of those affected by pandemic or temporary technology issues. See **Penalties, Catastrophes, Warnings, and Required Information** (below) in regard to the privacy issues, etc., involved in such recordings. The lectures are intended for, and open to, registered students only and only for this semester. To access them, go to Zoom Conferences on Canvas and click on Cloud Recordings.

My **office hours** will be held as indicated above; I shall be sending all registered students the data necessary to access office hours on Zoom. Scheduled office hours or substitute appointments will not be recorded.

The **Canvas** site for the course will contain, in Files, a copy of this syllabus, the necessary handouts for success at the map examination, the criteria for the term paper, and, given the unusual circumstances of the pandemic, optional topics and online sources for the term paper. Students unfamiliar with Canvas might find the following useful: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/>

Course Requirements: Undergraduate students are expected to complete the weekly readings detailed below in a timely manner.

1. All students will take a **map examination** in the second week of class, during the first twenty minutes of the second session. The map examination is discussed on a file separate from the syllabus and accessible in the Canvas Files set up for this course. **Note that, if a student fails to pass the examination, s/he must pass it before the midterm to avoid the penalty of a drop of one grade for the student's course grade.** Veterans of the instructor's other 3000-level courses in which the same examination was administered are excused from taking the examination again.
2. All students will also undertake a **historiographical essay** (the essay's criteria are accessible as a hand-out in the Canvas Files set up for this course). The essays will be typewritten, double-spaced, in formal academic style and format, with footnotes or endnotes when appropriate (parenthetical-style notes are not permitted), using the models of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The essays are limited to up to ten pages in length. **The essay can be on one of the topics made available on the essay topics file, complete with online-accessible sources,** in the Canvas Files set up for this course. **If the student prefers to work on a topic of his/her own choosing, that should be decided upon only in consultation with the instructor, preferably in the first four weeks of the semester.** The research for this essay will be limited to 300 to 400 pages of reading done in the works of four different historians. As noted just above, I have listed in the essay topics file, under several optional topics, pertinent scholarly monographs accessible online through the Smathers Library catalog and/or articles (accessible through the same catalog – see the file) from scholarly journals (e.g., *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, *The Journal for Latin American Studies*, *The Latin American Research Review*, etc.). **The paper is due at the beginning of the second session of the eleventh week.** It is sent to the instructor as a Word document, uploaded through the Canvas

module for the course, in Assignments. Penalties will be levied against papers that are of an inappropriate length or submitted late (see below).

3. Students will also take two **regular examinations**: a midterm and a final. **Both are based on the course lectures, supplemented by the required reading.** The midterm examination will take place during the class session, the final, as noted on the *Schedule of Courses*. They will be made up of essay questions, which will be selected at the time of the examination by the professor from a list of possible questions distributed to students a week before as a study guide. The midterm will likely be administered second session of the ninth week; the final, as per the online *Schedule of Courses* or an earlier date during the examination period that is decided upon as acceptable to all.

Course Grades: Undergraduate students' grades will be computed from the average of three grades: those of the two regular examinations and the historiographical essay. Note the penalty for failure to pass the map examination, stated above and in the **Penalties** section of the syllabus, below.

Reading Responsibilities: Students will read the text noted below, keeping pace with the subject of each week's lecture.

Keen, Benjamin and Keith Haynes. *A History of Latin America*, vol.2, *Independence to the Present*, 8th ed.. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2009. This edition may be substituted for by another, so long as it includes the twenty-first century.

Lecture Schedule:

- I. Brazil: Fall of the Monarchy.
- II. Brazil: The Old Republic.
- III. Mexico: The Positivist Dictatorship.
- IV. Mexico: The Revolution.
- V. Peru: The Recovery from War, Domestic Conflict, and Dictatorship.
- VI. Peru: The Rise of APRA.
- VII. Cuba: The Wars against Spain.
- VIII. Cuba: Neo-colonialism and Nationalism.
- IX. **MIDTERM** (review and examination).
- X. Brazil: The Vargas Years and Their Legacies.
- XI. Mexico: The Rise of the PRI and Its Crises.
- XII. Peru: The War Within.
- XIII. Cuba: The Revolution.
- XIV. The Spoken and the Unspoken.
- XV. Review (one session – classes end Wednesday)

Advice:

Prudent students will note that the assigned reading, when combined with the additional reading for the term paper, demands disciplined, constant attention. It will be apparent that students who prefer not to use one of the suggested topics and readings in the Canvas File (see above) and do not have a research topic worked out with the instructor by the date of the midterm risk a crisis in meeting their responsibilities. Since very few students are familiar with Latin American history, few come up with a topic quickly on their own. **If you prefer to work on a topic of your own, the instructor does not expect you to develop it alone. He expects you to consult with him at your earliest possible convenience either to decide upon a topic from the list in Files in Canvas or to decide upon a different topic that you prefer, and to receive his guidance in regard to an appropriate bibliography for either the Files topic or your own topic.**

Penalties, Catastrophes, Warnings, and Required Information:

1. Please note the map examination penalty noted above. Note, as well, that there **are severe penalties for missing the deadline of the term paper** (it must be turned in at the beginning of the session indicated). If it is turned in during the session, it is penalized a half grade; if it is turned in within the twenty-four hour period following the deadline, it is penalized a full grade; if it is turned in within the second twenty-four hour period, it is penalized two full grades; and so on. "Turned in" means delivered by submission of the paper as a Word document through Canvas in Assignments. It will be returned to you marked and graded through the same site.
2. **All components of the course must be submitted to the instructor and a grade for each component recorded by the instructor in order to earn a course grade.** Thus, students who have completed everything else but do not have a recorded grade for the map examination, or for the midterm, or for the final examinations,

or for the term paper **will fail the course**.

3. As life has been arranged so that **unexpected catastrophes** occur for which even the prudent and virtuous student cannot prepare, the instructor will be willing to review student petitions for a waiver of penalty (or lessening of penalty) or an extension. Such waivers will be granted at the discretion of the instructor, and are most likely to be granted in those cases in which the instructor deems that the catastrophe is credible and can be reliably documented.
4. There is no **extra credit** option or possibility in this course.
5. The instructor will not tolerate **cheating**. The instructor will not tolerate **plagiarism** (the use of others' materials without appropriate citation, credit, or permission). A student guilty of either will fail the course and the matter will be referred to, and recorded by, the appropriate university authority.
6. The instructor does not keep records of **attendance**. It is his assumption that adults are the best judges of their best interest in this regard. The prudent student will have noted, for example, that the examinations are based on the lectures, supplemented by the required reading. If you miss the lecture and do not study the recording, you risk doing poorly in the examinations.
7. Students requesting classroom accommodation because of a **disability** must first register with the Dean of Students' Office. That office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide that same documentation to the instructor when requesting the appropriate accommodation.

The instructor provides here **required information** in regard to recording the lectures, taking the course, information on grading, the honor code, and evaluation of the instructor. Here is that information:

1. Given the online nature of the course during the pandemic, **our class sessions will be audio-visually recorded** for enrolled students in the class who are unable to attend live due to temporary technical issues or issues related directly to the pandemic. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voice recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. **As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials by students or any other party is prohibited.**
2. For the university's policies with regard to grades, see:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>
3. Regarding university policy on matters of honor, such as cheating or plagiarism, note that the Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obliged to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.
4. What follows is the updated information on campus policies in regard to evaluation. Note that, in regard to the information and links below, there are references to the use of CANVAS for evaluation. The CANVAS evaluation system is called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_ufl.bluera.com_ufl_&d=DwIGaQ&c=sJ6xIWYx-zLMB3EPkvcnVg&r=1qtWVKU2uNohMAWR5pYYVu0F_ty9jxk4wL-DcSEfmKub76k8eaDIYyGQkZMpCQZ6&m=KCOMaruvDccGkQ95LBWWejChKpHpd3olzGps63zo0Ao&s=2ry1lk1Sd2MT9xMTXgaRslOLmzE7-Mky8W2E_HUO3wQ&e=. Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> <<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>/><https://evaluations.ufl.edu><<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>/>.