

**LAST 311: Critical Contemporary Issues in Latin America**  
University of Calgary  
Winter 2017

Instructor: Dr. Jose M. Gordillo  
Classes: Tuesday and Thursday (12:30 – 13:45)  
Classroom: PF 126  
Office: SS 643  
Office hours: Tuesday (14:00 –14:50) or by appointment.  
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**Course description:**

Over the last two decades, Latin America has experienced profound socioeconomic, political, and cultural transformations. The late twentieth century neoliberal agenda was replaced by the neopopulist policies of the early twenty-first century. Although free market policies did not entirely shift towards protectionism, national governments involvement in the economy and the new social movements' role in politics greatly increased. The Latin American cultural environment, therefore, was entirely renovated.

In this course, we will explore how these transformations occurred, by analyzing specific topics related to regional society, economy, culture, political culture, and international relations. Based upon a historical perspective, the course will use a multidisciplinary approach towards the understanding of the region's contemporary challenges and problems. Students will actively participate in the teaching and learning process through thematic groups' oral presentations. Students will also write a documentary and a film reports, and a research essay will be required.

**Course Text Book:**

- Prevost, Gary and Harry E. Vanden. **Latin America. An Introduction.** Oxford University Press, 2011.

**Selected Mandatory Readings:**

- Selected mandatory readings are academic articles and book chapters to be used both for the oral presentations and the exams. All these readings will be posted on D2L.

**Course Assignments and Grading:**

Midterm	20%	<b>February 28</b>
Oral Presentation	10%	
Film Report	10%	

Documentary Report	10%	
Research Proposal	5%	
Final Essay	25%	
Final Exam	20%	<b>TBA by Registrar</b>

**You must complete all assignments to pass the course**

- **Midterm and Final Examinations:**

Both the midterm and the final examinations are comprehensive. They will include material from the textbook, lectures, and selected mandatory readings. The midterm examination will be held in class on **February 28**. The final examination will be held during the examination period (**April 15 - 26**), at the time and place to be scheduled by the registrar.

- **Documentary Report.**

Students will watch and discuss a documentary in-class. Based upon a questionnaire, students will write a documentary report, which is **due on January 24**.

- **Oral Presentation.**

Oral presentations will be delivered in groups of 4 students. Each group will orally present an assigned article or book chapter from the selected readings list. During the oral presentation session (45 minutes), the group will describe the text's content and identify its central idea. The group and the individuals' performance in the oral presentation sessions will be evaluated by the instructor.

- **Film Report.**

Students will watch and discuss a film in-class. Based upon a questionnaire, students will write a film report, which is **due on March 14**.

- **Research Paper Bibliography and Outline:**

The research paper bibliography and outline (or essay proposal) is **due on March 21**. The bibliography should include **at least four substantial sources** (both books and articles, and excluding textbooks). The use of Web sources is not recommended; however, if you wish to use Web resources for your research paper, they must be included in your bibliography and outline, and **they must be specifically approved by the instructor**. There is no set format for the outline; but the bibliography should conform to "The History Student's Handbook". **The outline must include a thesis statement or at least a set of questions, the answers to which will constitute your thesis**. The outline should also include a list of the specific topics that you plan to address in your research essay. **Late essay proposals will be penalized a full letter grade.**

- **Research Essay:**

The research essay should be about 2500 words (ten pages) in length. In matter of style and format, it must conform to “The History Student’s Handbook”. **It is due on April 06 and late essays will be penalized a full letter grade.**

**Oral Presentations Schedule:**

Group 1	Ethnicity	Class 8 (02/02)
Group 2	Society, Family, and Gender	Class 10 (02/09)
Group 3	Religion	Class 12 (02/16)
Group 4	Culture and Thought	Class 14 (02/23)
Group 5	Political Economy	Class 19 (03/14)
Group 6	Political Culture	Class 21 (03/21)
Group 7	Politics and Power	Class 23 (03/28)
Group 8	Struggling for Change	Class 25 (04/04)
Group 9	US-Latin American Relations	Class 27 (04/11)

**Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments**

(Readings must be finished for the week on which they are assigned)

**WEEK 1: Introduction & Documentary.**

Class 1 (01/10): Introduction.  
 Class 2 (01/12): Introduction and Documentary.  
 Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 1, p. 1-18.

**WEEK 2: Early History.**

Class 3 (01/17): Precolonial Societies and the Conquest.  
 Class 4 (01/19): Colonial Societies.  
 Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 2, p. 19-44.

**WEEK 3: Modern and Contemporary History.**

Class 5 (01/24): From Independence to the Mexican Revolution.  
 Class 6 (01/26): Liberalism, Nationalism, Neoliberalism, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Socialism.  
 Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 3, p. 45-87.

**WEEK 4: Ethnicity.**

Class 7 (01/31): Contemporary Ethnic Struggles.  
 Class 8 (02/02): Oral Presentation: Group 1.  
 Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 4, p. 88-112.

<b>WEEK 5:</b>	<b>Society, Family, and Gender.</b>
Class 9 (02/07):	Class, Gender, Race, and Mobility.
Class 10 (02/09):	Oral Presentation: Group 2. Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 5, p. 113-140.
<b>WEEK 6:</b>	<b>Religion.</b>
Class 11 (02/14):	The Catholic Church and the Impact of Liberation Theology.
Class 12 (02/16):	Oral Presentation: Group 3. Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 6, p. 141-160.
<b>WEEK 7:</b>	<b>Culture and Thought.</b>
Class 13 (02/21):	Latin American Thought. The Boom and the Post Boom.
Class 14 (02/23):	Oral Presentation: Group 4. Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 7, p. 161-185.
<b>WEEK 8:</b>	<b>Film Exhibit.</b>
Class 15 (02/28):	<b>MIDTERM EXAM.</b>
Class 16 (03/02):	Film Exhibit.
<b>WEEK 9:</b>	<b>Political Economy.</b>
Class 17 (03/07):	Film Discussion.
Class 18 (03/09):	On Economics and Political Economy Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 8, p. 186-216.
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<b>WEEK 10:</b>	<b>Political Culture.</b>
Class 19 (03/14):	Oral Presentation: Group 5.
Class 20 (03/16):	Democracy and Authoritarianism. Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 9, p. 217-236.
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<b>WEEK 11:</b>	<b>Politics and Power.</b>
Class 21 (03/21):	Oral Presentation: Group 6.
Class 22 (03/23):	Politics, Power, Institutions, and Actors. Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 10, p. 237-286.
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<b>WEEK 12:</b>	<b>Struggling for Change.</b>
Class 23 (03/28):	Oral Presentation: Group 7.
Class 24 (03/30):	Revolution, Social, and Political Movements. Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 11, p. 287-315.
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- WEEK 13: US-Latin American Relations.**  
Class 25 (04/04): Oral presentation: Group 8.  
Class 26 (04/06): US\_LA Relations.  
. Assigned reading: Prevost & Vanden, Chap. 12, p. 316-340.
- WEEK 14: US-Latin American Relations.**  
Class 27 (04/11): Oral presentation: Group 9.

### **Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information**

#### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist** - For departmental updates and notifications

#### **Writing:**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

#### **Writing Support:**

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc).

#### **Copyright:**

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders.

In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

**Red Box Policy:**

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: course name and number, instructor, your name and your student number. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

### Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* ([http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history\\_students\\_handbook\\_2015.pdf](http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf)), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

### Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

### Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

**Other Useful Information:**

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).
- *Safewalk and Campus Security*: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

- *Freedom of Information*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>
- *Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
- *Safewalk*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>
- *Student Union Information*: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>
- *Graduate Student Association*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>
- *Student Ombudsman Office*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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