

Fall 2014

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Soc. & Behav. Science Bldg., N331
Office Hours: 1-2pm (Tues/Thurs); by appt.

Field Seminar: Modern Latin America
HIS542/CEG517
Soc&BehavSciences Bldg. (N303)
Wednesdays (5:30-8:30)

Description: This Field Seminar introduces students to some of the principal debates and literatures about Latin American history since independence. It is designed for MA and PhD students in the graduate program who intend to teach or to go on to a PhD in Latin American History. Advanced students from other geographic concentrations and disciplines are also welcome. Our focus will be on analyzing the methodological strategies used by authors, while discerning what epistemological assumptions underlie and inform each author's approach to "doing history." Although not inclusive of all historical approaches, the course aims to introduce students to many of the most relevant historiographical discussions across as broad a temporal and geographic range as possible.

Expectations: The success of weekly seminars will rest on the degree of preparation and engagement brought by students to each session. Keeping in mind that we are reading these texts as much for *approach* as content per se, my expectation is that students come prepared to discuss, analyze and critically explore each week's readings to the best of their ability. Not having finished a given set of readings is not reason for missing a class. Read as much as you can, but do so in a way that will allow you to engage in conversation and push our discussions in new and interesting directions. For example, you should learn to probe the archival research used to construct the author's argument, make connections to other readings (both from our course and in other areas), situate the text within a wider theoretical framework, and so forth. The "Recommended Readings" are meant to provide students with a minimal historiographical bibliography in which the assigned text is situated. Where possible (and as required, per below) students should try to familiarize themselves with some of these additional texts as a way of grasping how a particular historiography has emerged around the topic.

Oral & Writing Requirements:

1. Every student will be responsible to make a presentation for one week's reading assignment. Presentations should last no more than 20 min. and address the following four questions that will guide our discussions throughout the semester: 1. What is the thesis of the work (the argument in as succinct a distillation as possible)? 2. What is the methodological strategy or research approach used by the author to construct the argument? 3. What are the underlying epistemological or theoretical assumption(s) used by the author to frame the argument? 4. What do you see as the historiographical significance of this text in relationship to the field of Latin American history? Students presenting on a given week's primary text are expected to familiarize themselves with at

least two of the “recommended” texts for that week, in order to help place the book in its appropriate historiographical context. Presenters will receive written feedback in lieu of an assigned grade.

2. There will be four 3-page response papers due over the course of the semester. You may submit these at any stage, but it is recommended that you submit at least one no later than Week 4. Each paper should focus on one of the four aspects outlined above (i.e., thesis, method, theory, historiography), rotating among these components so that each is addressed in the four respective papers. I do not want a simple recitation of the contents of the work, but rather your own effort to present and interpret the work in light of one of these guiding questions (thesis, method, etc.). You should freely cite from other readings from the class and other courses as appropriate, for example when establishing a theoretical context or question about method. Intellectual risk and demonstration of a wider field of vision beyond the narrowness of the text itself will be rewarded! NOTE: Papers are due no later than 4pm on the day of class, distributed via email to every member of the seminar. Please come to class having read each other’s work so that we can incorporate the papers into our discussion. You may, if you choose, also submit a paper for the day you are presenting on the readings. Papers are each valued at 15% (60% total).

3. For Week 8 you will be required to submit a 3-4 page paper that critically analyzes a document, broadly defined, of your choice: cartoon, advertisement, photograph, newspaper editorial/story, government document, etc. You should choose a document that is of interest/relevance to your own teaching or research, but it must be a primary source document (not taken from a secondary collection of documents). Please submit a copy of the document along with your paper and be prepared to present in class (10 min. approx.) For this week, you do not need to submit your paper in advance of class but must bring a hard copy to class for me. (15% total)

4. There will be a final historiographical essay (12-15 pages) due at a date to be assigned. This paper should explore in greater depth a body of texts (on/related to Latin America) taken from your own research interests, either thematically or by country, and that incorporates some of the principal works that we have been discussing over the course of the semester. The expectation is that you will organize this paper by exploring shared and divergent aspects that link this body of texts into a historiographical “field” of knowledge. MAT students may, if they so choose, construct a course syllabus for a proposed class in Latin American history that demonstrates a close engagement in the critical ways of thinking about this topic that we have been discussing over the semester. (25% total)

NYC Latin American History Workshop (NYCLAHW): Throughout the semester, there will be monthly meetings of the NYC Latin American History Workshop. This is a congenial gathering at which area and visiting Latin American historians and graduate students present aspects of their research. Meetings are held Fridays, 11am-1pm at the CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, and are followed by a free luncheon. It is strongly encouraged, especially for PhD students, that you attend these workshops as they

offer a vibrant setting for intellectual exchange and critique. To receive the paper in advance, please send an email to the workshop coordinator, Julia del Palacio (ajd2128@columbia.edu) asking to be placed on the email list.

Recommended historical surveys: For MA students who have not taken an in-depth survey course in modern Latin America, the following texts (available cheaply in used editions) will be very helpful for piecing together the historical narrative and addressing questions of periodization:

- Thomas Skidmore, *Modern Latin America* (multiple editions)
- Benjamin Keen and Mark Wasserman, *A History of Latin America, vol. 2: Independence to the Present* (multiple editions)
- Robert Holden and Eric Zolov, eds., *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History* (2 editions)
- Jose Moya, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011).

Required Books for Purchase:

- Luis Castañeda, *Spectacular Mexico: Design, Propaganda, and the 1968 Olympics* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014).
- Michel Gobat, *Confronting the American Dream: Nicaragua Under U.S. Imperial Rule* (Duke University Press, 2005).
- Greg Grandin, *Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2000).
- Peter Guardino, *Peasants, Politics and the Formation of Mexico's National State, Guerrero, 1800-1857* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002).
- Daniela Spenser, *In From the Cold: Latin America's New Encounter with the Cold War* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2008).
- Daniel James, *Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentine Working Class, 1946-1976* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994).
- Valeria Manzano, *The Age of Youth in Argentina: Culture, Politics, & Sexuality from Perón to Videla* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014).
- Bryan McCann, *Hello, Hello Brazil: Popular Music in the Making of Modern Brazil* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2004).
- Pablo Piccato, *City of Suspects: Crime in Mexico City, 1900-1931* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2001).

Laura Isabel Serna, *Making Cinelandia: American Films and Mexican Film Culture Before the Golden Age* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014).

Week 1 (Aug. 27): Introduction

Barbara Weinstein, "Buddy, Can You Spare a Paradigm?: Reflections on Generational Shifts and Latin American History," *The Americas* 57:4 (April 2001): 453-466.
[Available via JSTOR through the Library]

Week 2 (Sept. 3): Peasant Politics & Nation-State Formation

Peter Guardino, *Peasants, Politics and the Formation of Mexico's National State, Guerrero, 1800-1857*

Recommended:

Ada Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation and Revolution, 1868-1898* (University of North Carolina Press, 1999).

Laura Gotkowitz, *A Revolution for Our Rights: Indigenous Struggles for Land and Justice in Bolivia, 1880-1952* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007).

Gilbert Joseph and Daniel Nugent, eds., *Everyday Forms of State Formation: Revolution and Negotiation of Rule in Modern Mexico*

Friedrich Katz, ed., *Riot, Rebellion and Revolution: Rural Social Conflict in Mexico*

Florencia Mallon, *Peasant and Nation: The Making of Postcolonial Mexico and Peru*

Mary Kay Vaughan, *Cultural Politics in Revolution: Teachers, Peasants, and Schools in Mexico, 1930-1940*

Brooke Larson, *Trials of Nation-Making: Liberalism, Race and Ethnicity in the Andes, 1810-1910*

Aldo Lauria-Santiago, *Landscapes of Struggle: Politics, Society and Community in El Salvador*

Richard Turits, *Foundations of Despotism: Peasants, the Trujillo Regime, and Modernity in Dominican History*

John Tutino, *From Insurrection to Revolution in Mexico: Social Bases of Agrarian Violence, 1750-1940*

Week 3 (Sept. 10): Indigeneity and Nation

Greg Grandin, *Blood of Guatemala: A History of Race and Nation*

Recommended:

Marisol De la Cadena, *Indigenous Mestizos: The Politics of Race and Culture in Cuzco, Peru, 1919-1991*

Jeffrey Gould, *To Die in this Way: Nicaraguan Indians and the Myth of Mestizaje, 1880-1965*

Richard Graham, ed., *The Idea of Race in Latin America: 1870-1940*
 Rick López, "The India Bonita Contest of 1921 and the Ethnicization of Mexican National Culture," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 82:2 (May 2002): 291-328
 Nancy Stepan, *The Hour of Eugenics: Race, Gender and Nation in Latin America*
 Mary Kay Vaughan and Stephen Lewis, eds., *The Eagle and the Virgin: Nation and Cultural Revolution in Mexico, 1920-1940*

Week 4 (Sept. 17): Urban Popular Politics & Culture

Pablo Piccato, *City of Suspects: Crime in Mexico City, 1900-1931* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2001).

Recommended:

William Beezley, *Judas at the Jockey Club and Other Episodes in Porfirian Mexico*
 Susan Deans-Smith & Gilbert Joseph, eds., *Mexico's New Cultural History: ¿Una Lucha Libre?* (Special Issue), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 79:2
 Gilbert Joseph, Anne Rubenstein & Eric Zolov, eds., *Fragments of a Golden Age: The Politics of Popular Culture in Mexico Since 1940*
 Jeffrey Pilcher, "Tamales or Timbales: Cuisine and the Formation of Mexican National Identity, 1821-1911," *The Americas*, 53:2 (October 1996): 193-216.
 William Rowe and Vivian Schelling, *Memory and Modernity: Popular Culture in Latin America*
 Anne Rubenstein, *Bad Language, Naked Ladies and Other Threats to the Nation*

Week 5 (Sept. 24): NO CLASS (Rosh Hashanah)

Week 6 (Oct. 1): Working-Class Histories

Daniel James, *Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentine Working Class, 1946-1976*

Recommended:

Steven Bachelor, "Toiling for the 'New Invaders': Autoworkers, Transnational Corporations, and Working-Class Culture in Mexico City, 1955-1968" in Joseph, et. al., eds., *Fragments of a Golden Age: The Politics of Culture in Mexico Since 1940*
 Barry Carr, *Marxism and Communism in Twentieth-Century Mexico*
 Paulo Drinot, *The Allure of Labor: Workers, Race, and the Making of the Peruvian State*
 Thomas Klubock, *Contested Communities: Class, Gender and Politics in Chile's El Teniente Copper Mine, 1904-1951*
 Michael Snodgrass, *Deference and Defiance in Monterrey: Workers, Paternalism, and Revolution in Mexico, 1890-1950.*
 Barbara Weinstein, *For Social Peace in Brazil: Industrialists and the Remaking of the Working Class in São Paulo, 1920-1964*

Week 7 (Oct. 8): Cinema Histories

Laura Isabel Serna, *Making Cinelandia: American Films and Mexican Film Culture Before the Golden Age*

Recommended:

Seth Fein, "Everyday Forms of Transnational Collaboration: U.S. Film Propaganda in Cold War Mexico, in Gilbert Joseph, et. al., eds., *Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations*, pp. 400-50.

Joanne Hershfield, *Mexican Cinema/Mexican Woman, 1940-1950*

Matthew Karush, *Culture of Class: Radio and Cinema in the Making of a Divided Argentina, 1920-1946*

John King, *Magical Reels: A History of Cinema in Latin America*

Donald Stevens, ed., *Based on a True Story: Latin American History at the Movies*

Paul Vanderwood, "An American Cold Warrior: *Viva Zapata!* (1952)" in John O'Connor and Martin Jackson, eds., *American History/American Film: Interpreting the Hollywood Image* (New York: Frederick Ungar Publishing, 1979), pp. 183-201.

Week 8 (Oct. 15): Document Analysis

Week 9 (Oct. 22): Musical Nationalisms

Bryan McCann, *Hello, Hello Brazil: Popular Music in the Making of Modern Brazil*

Recommended:

Christopher Dunn, *Brutality Garden: Tropicália and the Emergence of a Brazilian Counterculture*

Robin Moore, *Nationalizing Blackness: Afrocubanismo and Artistic Revolution in Havana, 1920-1940*

_____, *Music and Revolution: Cultural Change in Socialist Cuba*

Deborah Pacini-Hernandez, *Bachata: A Social History of a Dominican Popular Music*

Deborah Pacini-Hernandez, et. al., eds., *Rockin' Las Américas: The Global Politics of Rock in Latin/o America*

Peter Wade, *Music, Race and Nation: Música Tropical in Colombia*

Week 10 (Oct. 29): Pan Americanisms

Michel Gobat, *Confronting the American Dream: Nicaragua Under U.S. Imperial Rule*

Recommended:

Lesley Bethell and Ian Roxborough, "Latin America between the Second World War and the Cold War: Some Reflections on the 1945-48 Conjuncture," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 20:4 (May 1988): 168-89.

Lauren Derby, *The Dictator's Seduction: Politics and the Popular Imagination in the Era of Trujillo*

Gerald Haines, "Under the Eagle's Wing: The Franklin Roosevelt Administration Forges an American Hemisphere," *Diplomatic History* 1:4 (October 1977): 373-88.

Gilbert Joseph, Catherine LeGrand and Ricardo D. Salvatore, eds., *Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations*

Alan McPherson, *Yankee No!: Anti-Americanism in U.S.-Latin American Relations*

Louis Pérez, Jr., "Incurring a Debt of Gratitude: 1898 and the Moral Sources of United States Hegemony in Cuba," *The American Historical Review* 104:2 (Apr., 1999): 356-398.

Eric Roorda, *The Dictator Next Door: The Good Neighbor Policy and the Trujillo Regime in the Dominican Republic, 1930-1945*

Sandhya Shukla and Heidi Tinsman, eds., *Imagining Our Americas: Toward a Transnational Frame*

Week 11 (Nov. 5): Cold War

Daniela Spenser *In From the Cold: Latin America's New Encounter with the Cold War*

Recommended:

Hal Brands, *Latin America's Cold War*

Jean Franco, *The Decline of the Lettered City*

Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War*

_____ and Gilbert Joseph, eds., *A Century of Revolution: Insurgent and Counterinsurgent Violence During Latin America's Long Cold War*

Tanya Harmer, *Allende's Chile & the Inter-American Cold War*

Richard Immerman, *The CIA in Guatemala: The Foreign Policy of Intervention*. Austin: Texas University Press, 1982.

"Latin America in the Global Sixties," Special Issue: *The Americas* (January 2014).

Stephen Rabe, *Eisenhower and Latin America: The Foreign Policy of Anticommunism*

_____, *The Most Dangerous Area in the World: John F. Kennedy Confronts Communist Revolution in Latin America*

Rebecca Schreiber, *Cold War Exiles in Mexico*

Eric Zolov, "Expanding Our Conceptual Horizons: The Shift from an Old to a New Left in Latin America," *A Contracorriente* 5:2 (Winter 2008): 47-73.

Week 12 (Nov. 12): Youth Cultures

Valeria Manzano, *The Age of Youth in Argentina: Culture, Politics, & Sexuality from Perón to Videla*

Recommended:

Patrick Barr-Melej, "Siloísmo and the Left in Allende's Chile: Youth, 'Total Revolution,' and Humanism in the Road to Socialism," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 86:4

(2006): 747-84.

Sebastian Carrasai, *The Argentine Silent Majority: Middle Classes, Politics, Violence, and Memory in the Seventies*

Christopher Dunn, *Brutality Garden: Tropicália and the Emergence of a Brazilian Counterculture*

Van Gosse, *Where the Boys Are: Cuba, Cold War America and the Making of a New Left*

Vania Markarian, "To the Beat of 'The Walrus': Uruguayan Communists and Youth Culture in the Global Sixties," *The Americas* 70:3 (January 2014): 363-93.

Eric Zolov, *Refried Elvis: The Rise of the Mexican Counterculture*

Week 13 (Nov. 19): State Monumentalism & Visual History

Luis Castañeda, *Spectacular Mexico: Design, Propaganda, and the 1968 Olympics*

Recommended:

Mary Coffrey, *How a Revolutionary Art Became Official Culture: Murals, Museums, and the Mexican State*

Fernando Coronil, ed., *Can the Subaltern See?: Photographs as History* (Special Issue), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 84:1

Leonard Folgarait, *So Far From Heaven: David Alfaro Siqueiros' The March of Humanity and Mexican Revolutionary Politics*

Néstor García-Canclini, "The Future of the Past" in García-Canclini, *Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity*

Joanne Hershfield, *Imagining La Chica Moderna: Women, Nation and Visual Culture in Mexico, 1917-1936*

John Mraz, *Looking for Mexico: Modern Visual Culture and National Identity*

Laura Podalsky, *Specular City: Transforming Culture, Consumption and Space in Buenos Aires, 1955-1973*

Deborah Poole, *Vision, Race, and Modernity: A Visual Economy of the Andean Image World*

James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*

Mauricio Tenorio-Trillo, *Mexico at the World's Fairs: Crafting a Modern Nation*

Daryle Williams, *Culture Wars in Brazil: The First Vargas Regime, 1930-1945*

Week 14 (Nov. 26): NO CLASS

Week 15: (Dec. 3): Last Class