

Latin American Studies 311-L01
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The University of Calgary
Winter 2019
TR 9:30-10:45

Critical Contemporary Issues in Latin America

Course Grading

Your grade will be based upon:

News Article Analysis Essay I (Due 1 February).....	10%
Mid-Term Examination (14 February)	20%
News Article Analysis Essay II (and Discussion Leadership) (Due on Dates to be Selected after Reading Week)	10%
Participation in News Article Discussions (Throughout the Semester)	5%
Research Paper Proposal (Due 8 March)	5%
Research Paper on a Contemporary Issue (Due 27 March)	25%
Final Examination (To Be Scheduled by Registrar)	25%
Total	100%

You must complete all assignments to pass this course.

Required Textbooks:

Phillip Berryman, *Latin America at 200: A New Introduction* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016).

The History Student's Handbook (available on the course D2L site).

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to contemporary Latin America (the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking countries of the Americas). The first two-thirds of the course provide an overview of recent social and economic trends in the region, while the last third of the course focuses on a selection of problems and issues. This semester, these are likely to include migration; the new governments in the region's largest countries, Mexico and Brazil; and crime and corruption. Other issues to be considered may include the ongoing crisis in Venezuela, Canada-Latin America relations, democracy, social welfare programs, and natural resource extraction. Additional issues may become important in the next three months and we will endeavor to take them into account.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will gain (1) a multi-disciplinary perspective on recent social, economic, and political trends in Latin America; (2) an understanding of Latin America's importance in the world; (3) an understanding of Canada's role in region; (4) the ability to apply this knowledge to critical analysis of current events in the region; (5) improved critical thinking skills; (6) improved research skills; and (7) improved writing and oral communication skills.

Course Requirements:

Your grade in this course will be based on a combination of written work, a mid-term examination, participation in in-class discussions, and a final examination.

Readings: The core course readings consist of the course textbook, Phillip Berryman's *Latin America at 200* and other readings to be announced. In addition, one or more news articles will be posted to D2L to be read prior to Tuesday class meetings on 15, 22, and 29 January; and 5 and 12 February. These articles will serve as the basis for in-class small-group discussions. After reading week, students will be responsible for reading the news articles selected by fellow students in preparation for the Tuesday discussions. Additional readings may also be assigned to support the lectures or the presentations of guest speakers. As soon as possible, students should read Berryman, *Latin America at 200*, chaps. 10-12, which provide historical background to the region.

Submission of Written Assignments: All written assignments should be submitted in Word format to the D2L course dropbox.

News Article Analysis Essay I (Due 1 February): Students will select a news article on Latin America from a newspaper or newsmagazine to which the University of Calgary subscribes, published in the previous 30 days, of at least 700 words in length, and write a short essay (no more than 500 words) that summarizes the main points of the news article, identifies the periodical in which it was published, considers how the journalist frames the issues, and relates it to the themes of this course. The essay should also indicate what type of article this is, and particularly whether it is a news report, an editorial, or an opinion article. Other questions that may be addressed in these short essays include the following: What assumptions are embedded in the article? Is the journalist in favor or opposed to the developments discussed in the article? How does the journalist frame the issues? How does this article relate to themes of this course? What does the issue addressed in this article (or the way that it is presented) tell us about contemporary Latin America?

The assignment should include both the full citation of the newspaper article (e.g. John Smith [if there is a byline], "Bolivian Election Likely To Be Interesting," *Podunkville Times*, 15 January 2019.) and the URL that links directly to the article through the University of Calgary library. After you paste the URL into your document, test it to make sure that it works.

Further instructions for this assignment will be distributed in January. On 24 January, LAST 311 will meet in TFDL 440B and C (Learning Room) for a hands-on session about conducting research in media in the library's databases.

Mid-Term Examination (14 February): The in-class mid-term examination will consist of short-answer questions in the form of "Identify and explain the significance of four of the following seven terms for contemporary Latin America." It will be based on the lectures and the readings for first six weeks of this course.

News Article Analysis Essay II (and Small-Group Discussion Leadership) (Due on Dates to Be Selected for the First Six Weeks after Reading Week): This is a multi-part assignment that includes the following steps:

1. By noon on the Friday prior to the Tuesday class during which you will lead a group

- discussion, submit the full publication information and the University of Calgary Library URL of the news article that you have chosen on the course D2L site. Please ensure that your article is not one that has already been discussed. This article should be from a newspaper or newsmagazine to which the University of Calgary subscribes, published in the previous 30 days (7 days is preferable), and at least 700 words in length.
2. By 1:00 pm on the Monday before you will lead a small-group discussion, submit your News Article Analysis Essay on the course D2L site. This essay should follow the same format as your first News Article Analysis Essay (see the instructions above).
 3. Prepare a three-minute presentation on your article, based on the points raised in your News Article Analysis Essay and consider how it relates to the other articles selected for discussion that day.

By 5:00 pm on the Friday prior to the presentation, links to the news articles will be posted on the course D2L site. All students should read all of the articles prior to the Tuesday classes in preparation for the discussions.

Students are encouraged to select a news article that relates to their research paper topic or to one of the course themes.

Participation: This is an often misunderstood component of the course grade. It is based on the quality and frequency of your participation in the news article discussions that will start most Tuesday classes. It is not a grade for attendance but, of course, attendance is a necessary prerequisite for quality participation. These discussions will involve group work.

Research Paper on a Contemporary Issue in Latin America: You will write a research paper on a contemporary issue in Latin America. This essay should be about 2,000 words in length. Footnotes and bibliography entries should conform to the style mandated in *The History Student's Handbook*. The final essay's bibliography should include at least six to eight substantial sources (both academic books and academic articles) as well as at least three to four articles from newspapers or other media. This is a minimum and good essays always have substantially longer bibliographies. There are two parts to this assignment:

Proposal (Due 8 March): The proposal should include your preliminary bibliography and a set of questions, the answer(s) to which will constitute your thesis. The following example may give you some ideas on how to approach this part of the research paper proposal: Why did Mexico decide to open its oil industry to foreign investment? Who is in favor of this? Why? Who is opposed? Why? What will this change mean for the Mexican economy? Who will benefit from this? How is Mexico's new government likely to deal with the reforms instituted since 2014?

If your grade on the research paper is higher than the grade on your proposal, I will raise the latter to the same grade as the research paper.

Proposals received after 15 March will be penalized a full letter grade and will not be eligible to be raised to the same grade as the research paper.

Research Paper (Due 27 March): The final research paper should be submitted to the D2L dropbox by the end of the day on 27 March. Late research papers will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day.

Final Examination: A comprehensive final examination will be held during the examination

period (15-27 April). Do not make travel plans until after the examination schedule has been posted.

Access to Readings:

The textbook is available for purchase the bookstore and one copy is available on library reserve. All additional readings owned by the University of Calgary Library will be made available through the links on the course D2L site in conformity with the University of Calgary's interpretation of the Copyright Act.

Policy on Electronic Devices in the Classroom:

During class time, please turn off and put away your cell phones. If you must bring a tablet or notebook computer to the class to take notes, please disable the wireless access so that you are not distracted by incoming e-mail or tempted by Facebook or the many other distractions that the internet offers.

Office Hours:

Please come to see me during scheduled office hours, especially if you are having difficulty with this course. If you cannot meet me during this time, we can consult briefly after class or schedule an appointment for another time. Feel free to telephone me during office hours, or to e-mail me at any time. I usually answer e-mails at the end of the workday and normally do not attend to student e-mails on weekends.

Syllabus Attachment:

Please read carefully the attachment to this syllabus which contains important regulations about department, faculty, and university policies, including plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct.

Do You Need Any Other Help?

This course is intended for all University of Calgary students, and I am committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you have any foreseen or unanticipated conditions or circumstances that require reasonable accommodations, you are encouraged to contact the campus resources outlined below or contact me by email, phone, or during office hours to discuss how I can help you to be successful in this course.

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments

Part I: An Overview of Contemporary Latin America

10 January: **Course Organization and Introduction to Latin America**

Berryman, *Latin America*, introduction and chap. 1.

15-17 January: **Confronting Urban Challenges**

Berryman, *Latin America*, chap. 2.

15 January: News Articles Discussion

22-24 January: **Agriculture in Transition**

Berryman, *Latin America*, chap. 3.

22 January: News Articles Discussion

24 January: LAST 311 Meets in TFDL 440B (Learning Room)

29-31 January: **Corner Stores and Multilatinas**

Berryman, *Latin America*, chaps. 4, 13

29 January: News Articles Discussion

1 February: News Article Analysis I Due

5-7 February: **Growth with Sustainability**

Berryman, *Latin America*, chap. 5.

5 February: News Articles Discussion

12-14 February: **Highly Unequal—and Middle Class?**

Berryman, *Latin America*, chap. 6.

12 February: News Articles Discussion

14 February: Mid-Term Examination

19-21 February: Reading Week (No Class Meetings)

26-28 February: **Overcoming the Legacies of Conquest and Slavery**

Berryman, *Latin America*, chap. 7

26 February: News Articles Discussion

5-7 March: **Machismo Contested and a Changing Religious Landscape**

Berryman, *Latin America*, chaps. 8-9

5 March: News Articles Discussion

8 March: Research Paper Proposal Due

Part II: Select Contemporary Issues

Berryman, *Latin America*, chaps. 14-17

Additional Readings: TBA

12-14 March: **TBA**

12 March: News Articles Discussion

19-21 March: **TBA**

Berryman, *Latin America*,

19 March: News Articles Discussion

26-28 March: **TBA**

26 March: News Articles Discussion

27 March: Research Paper Due

2-4 April: TBA

2 April: News Articles Discussion

9-11 April: TBA

11 April: Final Examination Review

15-27 April: Final Examination (To Be Scheduled by the Registrar)

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.

Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580, or email 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 (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

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 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL). 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.

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 (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) **course name and number**, 2) **instructor**, 3) **your name** and 4) **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	
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), 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 (USRI):

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

Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Campus Resources for Mental Health:

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>) and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

Other Useful Information:

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.
- Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.
- 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>
- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.