Social Change in Latin America

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the origins and nature of social change in contemporary Latin America, with a special emphasis on Central America and Venezuela. A socio-historical approach will be used to describe the region's development, which will lay the groundwork for understanding the emergence over the past 50 years of movements promoting social change in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Venezuela. We will examine the socioeconomic and geopolitical aspects of the conflicts, the actors involved, and the dilemmas that have arisen where social movements have succeeded in gaining power and initiating a process of social transformation. While particular focus will be placed on these four countries, the course will also provide students with the theoretical and analytical tools required to comprehend social change elsewhere in Latin America.

Course Requirements

Written work will consist of one take-home, essay mid-term exam (worth 30% of the final grade), a research paper (worth 38% of the final grade), and a take-home, essay final exam (worth 20% of the final grade). The research paper will examine some specific aspect of social change in one of the four countries the course is focused on. A brief (half page) synopsis of the paper will be required in order to assist students in selecting a researchable topic. See due dates in the course outline with regard to each one of these assignments. Participation in discussion sections will make up the remaining 12% of the final grade.

Students will be expected to do all of the required readings listed below and attend class and discussion section. The written assignments will test your comprehension of readings and lectures. Students should also follow current events in Latin America in the news, and be prepared to discuss recent developments in class. Attached to this syllabus please find and read several pages selected from the university's guide on Academic Dishonesty. Academic Honesty will be taken very seriously in this course.

Course Materials

A reader of required articles has been put together for the course and is available from University Copy (2425 Channing Way - 549-2335). Articles included in the reader are designated with an * in the Course Outline. In addition, three required books are on
Week 3: Origins of the Central American Crisis (Continued) (8-14 September)

Required Readings:
Williams, Robert, *Export Agriculture and the Crisis in Central America*. Part 2 and Part 3 (just Chapter 7), (pp. 77-165).

Recommended Readings:

Week 4: Nicaragua: Pre-1979 (15-21 September)

Required Readings:

Recommended Readings:

Week 5: Nicaragua: Post-1979 (22-28 September)

Required Readings:
*Booth, John, *The End and the Beginning*. Chapter 9 (pp. 185-223).

Recommended Readings:
Walker, Thomas W., *Nicaragua: The First Five Years.*

[PAPER SYNOPSIS DUE: 28 SEPTEMBER]

**Week 9: Guatemala: Post-1980** (20-26 October)

**Required Readings:**

**Recommended Readings:**

**Week 10: Emigration from, and Drug Trafficking and Gangs in, Central America** (27 October-2 November)

**Required Readings:**

**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 11: A More Recent Revolution, Venezuela: Its Origins** (3-9 November)

**Required Readings:**
* Lombardi, John, “Prologue: Venezuela’s Permanent Dilemma.” In *Venezuelan
Recommended Readings:

**Week 15: Prospects for the Future** (29-30 November)

**Required Readings:**
* Booth & Walker, *Understanding Central America.* Chapter 11 (pp. 197-212).

**Recommended Readings:**

[Hand Out Final Exam: 30 November]

**Week 16**

[Turn in Final Exam: By 11:30 AM, 11 December]
Academic Dishonesty - Definition

Academic dishonesty consists of any deliberate attempt to falsify, fabricate or otherwise tamper with data, information, records, or any other material that is relevant to the student's participation in any course, laboratory, or other academic exercise or function. Most, although not all, such attempts fall into one or more of the following three categories:

Plagiarism: Deliberately presenting work, words, ideas, theories, etc., derived in whole or in part from a source external to the student as though they are the student's own efforts. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following:

- Failing to use proper citations as acknowledgment of the true source of information included in a paper, written or oral examination, or any other academic exercise.
- Presenting any work completed in whole or in part by any individual or group other than the student, as though the work is the student's own, in any academic exercise.
- Buying, selling, bartering, or in any other fashion obtaining or distributing material to be used fraudulently as part of any academic exercise.

Cheating: Disseminating or receiving answers, data, or other information by any means other than those expressly permitted by the instructor as part of any academic exercise. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to the following:

- Copying answers, data, or other information (or allowing others to do so) during an examination, quiz, laboratory experiment, or any other academic exercise in which the student is not expressly permitted to work jointly with others.
- Assuming another individual's identity or allowing another person to do so on one's own behalf for the purpose of fulfilling any academic requirement or in any way enhancing the student's grade or academic standing.
- Using any device, implement, or other form of study aid during an examination, quiz, laboratory experiment, or any other academic exercise without the faculty member's permission.

Other Academic Misconduct: Falsifying or fabricating data, records, or any information relevant to the student's participation in any course or academic exercise, or tampering with such information as collected or distributed by the faculty member. Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to the following:

- Falsifying, or attempting to falsify, attendance records, graded exercises of any kind, or any information or document intended to excuse the student from participation in any academic exercise.
- Inventing, fabricating, or falsifying data as part of the completion of any academic exercise.
- Knowingly furnishing false information (or facilitating the furnishing or false information) to a faculty member. The foregoing list of offenses is not intended to be fully exhaustive of all potential instances of academic dishonesty. Faculty and administrators may identify cases of academic dishonesty not herein contemplated.