

**History 272**  
**Latin America in the Modern Era**

MW, 10:30-11:45AM  
Sci & Tech I 206  
Spring 2012

Professor: Matt Karush  
Office: Robinson B 339  
Office Hours: MW, 12:00-  
1:00 and by appt.  
mkarush@gmu.edu

This course will examine major themes in the history of Latin America from Independence to the present day. Focusing in particular on the cases of Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, and Cuba, the class will cover such topics as: national identity, dependent development, political instability, populism and military dictatorship, revolution, ethnicity and religion, and the influence of the United States in both the political and cultural spheres. Throughout the semester, we will pay particular attention to the changing experiences of women.

Requirements for this class include four multiple-choice reading quizzes, a midterm, a final exam and one paper (4-6 pages). In addition, students must complete the assigned reading before the class in which we are discussing it and are expected to participate in class discussion. The quizzes are listed in the class schedule; they cover the reading listed immediately above where it says Quiz. There will be no makeup quizzes. I will drop your lowest quiz score of the semester, so if you miss one, that's the one I'll drop. Both the midterm and final will consist of identifications and essays. For the paper, students will have the choice of writing on Danner's *Massacre at El Mozote* or on Bouvard's *Revolutionizing Motherhood*. The specific assignments are included in this syllabus [page 4, below].

Grades will be determined as follows:

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Class Participation and Quizzes | 20% |
| Midterm                         | 25% |
| Paper                           | 25% |
| Final Exam                      | 30% |

Books required for purchase

John Charles Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire* (Third Edition) [referred to below as "Chasteen"]

John Charles Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire: Latin American Voices* [referred to below as "Voices"]

Mark Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*

Marguerite Guzmán Bouvard, *Revolutionizing Motherhood*

All books are available at the University Bookstore.

Class Schedule

1/23, 1/25 - Colonial Legacies and Persistent Puzzles: Inequality,  
Underdevelopment and Instability  
Reading: Chasteen, 11-84

Part I - The Challenge of Independence

1/30, 2/1 – Spanish American Independence and its Impact  
Reading: Chasteen, 87-114

2/6, 2/8 – Society, Economics and Politics in the New Republics  
Reading: Chasteen, 117-147; Voices, 73-86, 91-105

**[2/8 – Quiz 1]**

Part II - Modernization: The Rise and Fall of Liberalism, 1850-1945

2/13, 2/15 – Liberalism and the Dream of Progress  
Reading: Chasteen, 149-179; Voices, 106-33

2/20, 2/22 – Export-led Growth  
Reading: Chasteen, 181-215; Voices, 134-161

**[2/22 – Quiz 2]**

2/27, 2/29 – The Brazilian Path: Monarchy and Slavery  
Reading: (Look back at Chasteen, 71-78, 101-103, 171-176); Voices, 61-69, 86-91

3/5 – The Rise of Nationalism  
Reading: Chasteen, 217-233; Voices, 162-187

3/7 – **MIDTERM EXAM**

[3/12, 3/14 – **Spring Break: No Class**]

3/19, 3/21 – Import Substitution Industrialization and Populism  
Reading: Chasteen, 233-251

**[3/21 – Quiz 3]**

Part III – The Cold War: Revolution and Dictatorship, 1945-1990

3/26 – The US in Latin America: From the Age of Empire to the Cold War  
Reading: Voices, 188-216

3/28, 4/2, 4/4, 4/9 – Cuba and the Age of Revolution

Reading: Chasteen, 253-283; Voices, 217-243

BEGIN READING Danner!!

Film: *Up to a Certain Point* (Gutiérrez Alea, 1983) [screened in class on 4/2 and 4/4]

**[4/9 – Quiz 4 (Danner NOT included)]**

4/11, 4/16 – State Terror and US Complicity

Reading: Danner, 3-161

BEGIN READING Bouvard!!

4/18, 4/23, 4/25 – Dictatorship and Resistance

Reading: Bouvard (all); Chasteen, 285-316

**[4/18 – Danner Essay due]**

Part IV – After the Cold War

4/30, 5/2 – The Rise and Fall of Neoliberalism

Reading: Chasteen, 319-340;

**[4/30 – Bouvard Essay due]**

**5/9 - FINAL EXAM (10:30-1:15)**

**Paper Assignment: The Massacre at El Mozote  
or Revolutionizing Motherhood**

Due dates: If you choose to answer question #1, your paper is due in class on **Wednesday, April 18**. If you choose question #2, your paper is due in class on **Monday, April 30**.

Late papers will be marked down one half-grade (from a B+ to a B, for example) for every day they are late.

Write a 4-6 page paper that answers **one** of the following questions. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, spell-checked, and proof-read. It should also be stapled and have page numbers. Remember to make a clear argument and use specific examples to support your claims. You will need to analyze excerpts from the book you choose to write on. Avoid extensive summaries or overlong quotations, and focus on developing an argument that answers the question.

1. What were the conflicting ideologies (or belief systems) that made possible both the massacre at El Mozote and its subsequent cover-up? Be sure to consider the beliefs of at least four of the following groups: the Salvadoran army, the guerrillas, the residents of El Mozote, the Reagan Administration, US diplomats and military advisers in El Salvador, and U.S. journalists.
2. In what ways have the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo challenged ideas that are dominant in Argentine society? You should consider both their challenge to gender norms and to contemporary feminism as well as their challenge to the dominant model for achieving reconciliation and democracy after a violent dictatorship. Do you think their activism has had positive or negative effects or both?

### IMPORTANT DATES

Last day to add a class: Jan 31

Last day to drop a class: Feb 24

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. For the purposes of this course, make sure that you understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. You may not present anyone else's words or ideas as if they were yours. If you do, I will immediately turn your case over to the honor committee.

### MASON EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Students must use their MasonLIVE email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

### OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

### WRITING CENTER

A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

### UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

"Ask a Librarian "

<http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

### COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)

(703) 993-2380;

<http://caps.gmu.edu>

### UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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