History 272
Latin America in the Modern Era

MW, 10:30-11:45AM                         Professor: Matt Karush
Music/Theater Building 1007              Office: Robinson B 339
Spring 2019                               Office Hours: W, 1:00-3:00
                                               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, and Cuba, the class will cover such topics as: national identity, dependent development, political instability, populism and military dictatorship, revolution, ethnicity, race and religion, and the influence of the United States in both the political and cultural spheres.

Requirements for this class include five multiple-choice reading quizzes, a midterm, a final exam, and a paper of 4-6 pages. 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 assignment 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 a choice of writing on Ferrer’s Insurgent Cuba or Sattamini’s A Mother’s Cry. The specific paper assignments are included in this syllabus (page 5, below).

Grades will be determined as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Books required for purchase
John Charles Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire (Fourth Edition) [referred to below as “Chasteen”]
Ada Ferrer, Insurgent Cuba: Race, Nation, and Revolution, 1868-1898
Lina Sattamini, A Mother’s Cry: A Memoir of Politics, Prison, and Torture under the Brazilian Military Dictatorship

All books are available at the University Bookstore (and elsewhere!)
Class Schedule

1/23 - Introduction: Inequality, Authoritarianism and Resistance

1/28 – Colonial Legacies
Reading: Chasteen, 17-93

Part I - The Challenge of Independence

1/30, 2/4 – Spanish American Independence
Reading: Chasteen, 95-120; Wood, 1-20

[2/4 – Quiz 1]

2/6, 2/11 – Society, Economics and Politics in the New Republics
Reading: Chasteen, 127-159; Wood, 43-63

2/13 – The Brazilian Path: Monarchy and Slavery
Reading: (Look back at Chasteen, 58-61, 78-82, 109-112); Wood, 21-42

[2/13 – Quiz 2]

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

2/18 – Liberalism and the Dream of Progress
Reading: Chasteen, 161-191; Wood, 65-109, 131-139

2/20 – Cuba: “An Army Unique in the History of the Atlantic World”
Reading: Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, 1-89

[2/20 – Quiz 3]

2/25 – Cuba: Racism and Racelessness
Reading: Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, 93-138

2/27 – Cuba: The Birth of a Neocolonial Nation
Reading: Ferrer, *Insurgent Cuba*, 141-202

3/4 – Midterm Review; Ferrer Papers due at the start of class

3/6 – MIDTERM EXAM

[3/11, 3/13 – Spring Break: No Class]

3/18 – Export-led Growth, 1870-1930
Reading: Chasteen, 193-231; Wood, 221-224
3/20 – Import Substitution Industrialization, 1930s-1950s  
**Reading:** Chasteen, 233-261; Wood, 111-127

**Reading:** Chasteen, 263-275; Wood, 139-147, 153-174


Part III – The Cold War: Revolution and Dictatorship, 1945-1990  
4/1 – Guatemala, 1954 and the Onset of the Cold War  
**Reading:** Chasteen, 275-282; Wood, 199-218

4/3 – The Origins and Triumph of the Cuban Revolution  
**Reading:** Chasteen, 282-285; Wood, 175-182

4/8 – Cuba: The Revolution in Power  
**Reading:** Chasteen, 285-291; Wood, 182-185

4/10– After Cuba: Violence and Military Dictatorship  
**Reading:** Chasteen, 297-314; Wood, 186-197, 241-252

[4/10 – Quiz 5]

4/15, 4/17– The Brazilian Case  
**Reading:** Sattamini, *A Mother’s Cry*, all

4/22 – Guerrilla Struggle in Central America  
**Reading:** Chasteen, 293-295, 314-32; Wood, 253-263

[Sattamini Paper due at start of class, 4/22]

Part IV – After the Cold War  
4/24, 4/29 – Neoliberalism in Dictatorship and Democracy  
**Reading:** Wood, 224-231

5/1 – After Neoliberalism?  
**Reading:** Chasteen, 329-355; Wood, 231-239

5/6 – Final Exam Review

5/8 - **FINAL EXAM** (10:30-1:15)
A Note on Classroom Decorum
It is entirely up to you whether you attend this class. With the exception of the final exam, there is no direct penalty for non-attendance. Of course, you will learn much more and earn a better grade for the course if you choose to attend regularly, but attendance is a choice. Therefore, if you have more pressing matters to deal with – texting, social media, online shopping, web surfing, sleeping, etc – there is no reason for you to be in class. The material we cover in class is complex; it demands your full attention. Moreover, your decision to send a text or check Instagram will not just affect you; it will distract your neighbors, and it will diminish the quality of classroom discussions. DO NOT TEXT in class. If you bring your laptop to take notes, please do not open your email program or web browser (except to google some question that is directly relevant to class discussion).
Paper Assignments
Students must write ONE of the following essays. If you choose to write two, I will count the one for which you received a higher grade.

Papers are to be submitted via email to mkarush@gmu.edu. They must be Word docs attached directly to your email message. 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 paper of 4-6 pages that answers the question. Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, spell-checked, proof-read, and page-numbered. There should be no extra spaces between paragraphs. Remember to make a clear argument and use specific examples to support your claims. You will need to analyze excerpts from the book. Avoid extensive summaries or overlong quotations, and focus on developing an argument that answers the question. Be sure to cite page numbers; parenthetical citations are fine. No outside reading is required, but if you do cite additional sources, be sure to include a Works Cited page.

**Essay Assignment 1:**
*Ada Ferrer, Insurgent Cuba*
Due Monday, March 4 (before the start of class)

According to Ada Ferrer, the Cuban independence movement challenge accepted ideas about race and modern nationhood. Why did it not result in a racially egalitarian nation? (You must discuss at least two factors.)

**Essay Assignment 2:**
*Lina Sattamini, A Mother’s Cry*
Due Monday, April 22 (before the start of class)

At several points in Lina Sattamini’s memoir, she struggles to understand who is making the decisions regarding her son’s imprisonment. What were the most important forces shaping Marcos Arruda’s experience in 1970-71? (You must discuss at least three.)
IMPORTANT DATES
Last day to add a class: Jan 29
Last day to drop a class: Feb 12

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

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