

**History/S.S. 550**  
***Social Change in Modern Latin America***  
(CESD)

Dr. A. Oñate

Science 220

[onate@sfsu.edu](mailto:onate@sfsu.edu)

<http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~onate/>

Fall of 2006

Office hours: MW11-12am,

and M 3-4 pm

(415) 338-6177

**Course description**

This course focuses on the study of social change in Latin America since 1945, and examines different interpretations of the transitions from authoritarian regimes in the 1970s to liberal democracies by the year 2000 in selected countries. Students will explore the roots of the continuing cycles of economic crisis, poverty, and social unrest, and the prospects in the region for sustainable economic development in the global markets of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The readings include texts, articles, novels, official publications, and visual materials. The course is structured in a lecture-discussion format, and supported by your independent outside reading. My lectures will be organized according to the syllabus below.

This course meets General Education, Segment III requirements in the cluster "Latin America: Society and Culture."

**Grading**

The course requires a fair amount of reading, writing, and class participation. The writing component consists of a short position paper (2-3 pages) for discussion in class, and term paper (8-10 pages minimum) which will be evaluated for both composition and content. Students will be expected to sign up for a panel (three to four people), and to lead discussion sessions. Directions for the topics and the formation of teams will be given during the first two weeks of class.

If you are unable to complete the course requirements by the end of the semester, it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course.

The final grade will be based on the following:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| - A midterm exam on Oct. 27  | 20% |
| - Short discussion paper (2-3 pages)   | 15% |
| - A 10-page term paper on a topic<br>agreed upon with the instructor on Nov.27 | 40% |
| - A final exam on Dec. 22  | 25% |

**HISTORY 550**  
**S Y L L A B U S**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING_ASSIGNMENT</b>
Aug.30,	What do we mean by social	Skidmore, Prolog;
Sep.1	change? The historical perspective Latin America's socio-economic conditions today.	Black,10; ECLA
Sep. 4	Labor Day Observed. No class.	
Sep.6-13	The Political Economy of Development. The Neo-classical theory of international trade.	Harris; Balassa.
Sep.15-22	Marxist interpretations of social and economic change. Imperialism and Dependency Theory.	Evans Dos Santos.
Sep.25- Oct. 2	Latin America and the Worl Economy. The U.S. and social change In Latin America.	Skidmore, 11; Kirkpatrick.
Oct.4-13	The political outcomes. Case study: Brazil. The State and economic growth. The authoritarian model.	Skidmore, 5.
Oct.16-25	Reform and Revolution. Case study: Chile Pinochet's capitalist revolution.	Skidmore, 4; Allende.
<b>Oct. 27</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM.</b>	

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING ASSIGNMENT</b>
Oct.30-	Revolution and democracy.	Klein(a).
Nov. 8	Case study: Bolivia. Indigenous rights and national development.	
Nov.10	Veterans' Day Observed. No class.	
Nov. 13-17	Gender and development.  Democracy in the country, democracy in the home.	McGee.
Nov.20-24	Thanksgiving recess.	
Nov.27- Dec. 1	Religion and social change in Central America.	Gutiérrez; Argueta.
Dec.4-13	The direction of social change: El Salvador  Prospects for democracy.	Argueta; Skidmore, 10, Epilogue.
Dec.15	Whither Latin America?. Reassessment of main themes.	
<b>Dec.22</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM.</b>	

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allende, Isabel. The House of The Spirits, New York: Bantam Books, 1988.
- Argueta, Manlio. One Day of Life, New York: Vintage Books, 1999.
- \*Balassa, Bela, et al. Toward Renewed Economic Growth in Latin America, Washington D.C.: Institute for International Economics, 1986. (e-reserve)
- \*Dos Santos, Theotonio. "The Structure of Dependence," The American Economic Review, 60 (May of 1970). (e-reserve)
- ECLA, Economic Commission for Latin America, United Nations, Annual Reports, Washington, D.C.
- \*Evans, Peter. Dependent Development, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979. (e-reserve)
- \*Gutiérrez, Gustavo. A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, & Salvation, Orbis Books, 1990. (e-reserve)
- \*Harris, Nigel. The End of the Third World, Penguin Books, 1986. (e-reserve)
- \*Kirkpatrick, Jeane, "Dictatorships and Double Standards", Commentary, Nov. 1979. (e-reserve)
- Klein, Herbert S., A Concise History of Bolivia. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.
- \*McGee, Sandra. Gender and Sociopolitical Change in Twentieth-Century Latin America, Hispanic American Historical Review, 71:2, 1991. (e-reserve)
- \*Merkx, Gilbert W. "Social Structure and Social Change in Twentieth-Century Latin America", in Black, Jan K. Latin America. Its Problems and Its Promise,

Boulder, Col.: Westview Press, 1991. (e-reserve)

Skidmore, Thomas and Peter H. Smith. Modern Latin America,  
New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Vargas Llosa, Mario. The Real life of Alejandro Mayta. New  
York: Verso, 1984.

**\*Electronic reserves:** [www.eres.sfsu.edu](http://www.eres.sfsu.edu)

**Password:** santiago