Comparative History of Argentina and Latin America

Universidad de Belgrano, 45 contact hours / 3 semester credits

This course is taught in English. No pre-requisites.

Dr. Claudio González Chiaramonte

Objectives

The course aims at studying the formation and evolution of the Argentinean and Latin American societies through a comparative approach since the Crisis of Independence up to the present; analyzing the confluence of the complex ethnic and cultural components of the regional societies; and comparing the different institutional evolution of the regional societies throughout the period. In addition, the course aims at studying some of the most influential personalities in the social and political thought of the continent; analyzing typical Latin American institutions, like caudillismo; comparing the development of democracy in the different countries throughout the second half of the twentieth-century; and locating the contents of the course within the frame of world history. The weekly classes will be complemented by occasional lectures by-and meetings with outstanding scholars and influential local leaders.

Evaluation

It is based on a written, mid-term exam and an analytic paper as well as in-class participation and attendance. Promotion of the course is based on a comprehensive oral examination at the end of the course.

Syllabus

Unit 1: The Crisis of Independence and the formation of the new republics (1800-1870) Crisis of the Spanish Colonial Empire within the period of the Great Revolutions. The Spanish heritage and other influences on the emerging systems. The emergence of new regional political units. The increasing British influence. The civil wars: regional differences, ethnic groups and the formation of a new society. The caudillos. The Monroe Doctrine. The United Provinces of Río de la Plata, the Brazilian Empire and the Paraguayan autonomous project.

Unit 2: The neocolonial order, 1870-1930 Integration to the international system, modernization and the formation of the the new elites. The oligarchic republics. Stability and unstability in the different regional societies. European immigration, new ideologies and a modern identity. Emerging social actors and political parties in the modern Latin American society. The process of democratization. The relationship with United States of America: Panamericanism,

Unit 3: Crisis and transformation, 1930-1960
The impact of the international cyclical crises. The process of imports substitution. Nationalism against foreign economic and political intervention. The emergence of Populism. The emergence of organized labor and the middle classes. Peronismo in Argentina, Varguismo in Brazil, Ibañismo in Chile and the dynamics of Revolutionary México. The short life of the Good Neighbor Policy. World War II and the Cold War.

Unit 4: Latin America during the Cold War, 1945-1989

Unit 5: Toward a new identity within globalization, 1989-2000

Bibliography

Thomas Skidmore and Peter Smith, A Contemporary History of Latin America

Additional Bibliography

Demetrio Boesner, Relaciones Internacionales de América Latina (Caracas: Nueva Sociedad, 1987)
Fernando Enrique Cardoso y Enzo Faletto, Dependency and Development in Latin America Berkely: University of California Press, 1979)
Tulio Halperin Donghi, Contemporary History of Latin America
Rubinstein, Juan C. (compilador), El Estado Periférico Latinoamericano (Buenos Aires: Eudeba, 1988)
Lester D. Langley, America and the Americas: The United States in the Western Hemisphere (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1989)
**Class Schedule**

**Week 1**  
Unit 1/ The Crisis of Independence, 1800-1825  
Argentina and the Brazilian Empire

**Week 2**  
Unit 2/ The Formation of the New Republics, 1825-1870  
Argentina and the Paraguayan autonomous project.

**Week 3**  
Unit 3/ The Neocolonial Order, 1870-1910  
Argentina and Porfirian México

**Week 4**  
Unit 3/ The Neocolonial Order, 1870-1910  
Cuban Independence and the Creation of Panamá

**Week 5**  
Unit 4/ Crisis and transformation in the period of the World Wars, 1910-1945  
Revolutionary México

**Week 6**  
Unit 4/ Crisis and transformation in the period of the World Wars, 1910-1945  
Argentina and Chile

**Week 7**  
Unit 4/ Crisis and transformation in the period of the World Wars, 1910-1945  
Guatemala and Bolivia

**Week 8**  
Unit 4/ Crisis and transformation in the period of the World Wars, 1910-1945  
Latin America and the Second World War  
Evaluation I: Bibliographical Report due

**Week 9**  
Unit 5/ Latin America during the Cold War, 1945-1989  
Argentina and Brazil

**Week 10**  
Unit 5/ Latin America during the Cold War, 1945-1989  
Cuba

**Week 11**  
Unit 5/ Latin America during the Cold War, 1945-1989  
Chile and Perú
**Week 12**
Unit 5/ Latin America during the Cold War, 1945-1989
Nicaragua, Guatemala and Colombia

**Week 13**
Unit 5/ Latin America during the Cold War, 1945-1989
Peace and war in Central America

**Week 14**
Unit 6/ Toward a new identity within globalization, 1989-2000
Processes of integration: MERCOSUR, Argentina and Brazil. NAFTA and México

**Week 15**
Unit 6/ Toward a new identity within globalization, 1989-2000
Processes of disintegration: Colombia
Evaluation II: Analytical Paper due.

**Week 16:**
Conclusions