An Introduction to Latin America
Myths, Icons and Heroes

SPRING 2013 TR 11:00am-12:15pm

Prof. Kathryn Sanchez
ksanchez2@wisc.edu
Office: 1010 Van Hise
Hours: Thursday 12:30-2:15pm
(and by appt.)

The course is organized around five chronological units or “modules” that explore key moments, issues, art forms and legacies from pre-conquest times to the present. By focusing on different myths and mythic figures during these phases of historical development and experience, the course will approach the study of Latin America from a multi-disciplinary and multi-faceted perspective.

Unit #1: The First Peoples of the Americas
Key words: Pre-colonial times; Pre-classic, Classic and Post-Classic periods; Pre-Hispanic Andean Civilization.

Unit #2: The Foundational Era
Key words: colonizers; Spanish and Portuguese colonies; conquest; conflict; economic exploitation.

Unit #3: Neo-Colonial Times
Key words: Early Republics; Independence; Race; Citizenship; Neo-Colonial societies; Progress; Nationhood; National Identities; Racial whitening; Caudillos.

Unit #4: The Rise of 20th-century Mass Politics
Key words: Heroic State / Pueblo; Populism; Reform; Revolution; Violence; Dictatorships; Social conflict; Social rights; War.

Unit #5: Post-Heroic Latin America
Key words: Neo-liberalism; Democracy; Grassroots activity; New social movements; Indigenous people; Women; New values; Human rights.

UNIT #1: THE FIRST PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS

Week 1 Introduction

T 1/22 Course overview and introduction.
R 1/24 Pre-Conquest America: People, Culture and Society

DISC. F 1/25
Map of Latin America
Quick Facts about Latin America

Week 2

T 1/29 Pre-Conquest America II

R 1/31 “Archaeological Research at Teotihuacan, Mexico”
Guest Lecture by Sarah Clayton, Department of Anthropology

DISC. F: 2/1
MAP QUIZ: Be able to identify all the Latin American countries and capitals on a map

Week 3

T 2/5 Pre-Hispanic Andean Civilization

R 2/7 The Conquest of the Americas: The Myth of the Cortes-Moctezuma Encounter

DISC. F 2/8

UNIT #2: FOUNDATIONS: THE MAKING OF A “NEW” WORLD
(ca. late 15th to 18th centuries)

Week 4

T 2/12 Colonial Rule

R 2/14 Hero Cults of Independence

DISC. F 2/15

Week 5

T 2/19 EXAM #1

UNIT #3: RACE, WAR AND CITIZENSHIP: PEOPLE AND NATION IN NEO-COLONIAL TIMES
(ca. 19th to early 20th centuries)
R 2/21  “Fair Trade & Organic Coffee”
Guest lecture by Prof. Brad Barham, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

DISC. F 2/22:
Women and the Church: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Sor Juana

Week 6
T 2/26  Caudillo Legends
R 2/28  The Whitening Syndrome and the Myth of Progress

DISC. F 3/1
Towards a Latin American Identity

Week 7
T 3/5  Colony into Neo-Colony: Building Aristocratic Republics of Progress?

UNIT #4: THE AGE OF MASS POLITICS: BUILDING A “HEROIC” STATE AND “HEROIC” PUEBLO
(ca. 1910s to 1970s)
R 3/7  From Revolution to Populism: 1910s to 1940s

DISC. F 3/8

Week 8
T 3/12  Mexico: The Multiple Strands of Revolution
R 3/14  *Diego Rivera and Revolutionary Art: Special photo presentation

DISC. F 3/15:
FILM REVIEW #1 due today

Week 9
T 3/19  Populist Myths and the Heroic State
R 3/21  EXAM #2

DISC. F 3/22:
Spring Break: 23-31 March

Week 10

T 4/2  Fidel Castro and the New Age of Revolution
R 4/4  Che Guevara

DISC. F 4/5: Group presentations on the topic of “Cuba Today”

Week 11

T 4/9  “Chile’s Heroes of Revolutionary Times: Allende, Pinochet and Beyond”
       Guest lecture by Prof. Steve Stern, Department of History.
R 4/11 Getúlio Vargas Estado Novo and Good Neighbors through the Lens of Disney and Hollywood

DISC. F 4/12: Film discussion on “Globalization and Natural Resources”:

UNIT #5: POST-HEROIC PREDICAMENTS: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GLOBALIZATION (ca. 1980s to present)

Week 12

T 4/16  “Dirty Wars” in the Southern Cone
R 4/18  “‘Uncontacted’ Tribes in the Amazon and the Recent History of Genocide”

DISC. F 4/19: Discussion on the rise of left-wing governments as a reaction against neoliberalism.

Week 13

T 4/23  Chasteen, Chapter 10, “Neoliberalism”
R 4/25  Guest lecture by Christopher Dunn, Tulane University “Tropicália and Brazilian Popular Music”
DISC. F 4/26
Please note: Reports of extra-curriculum activities are due today. Please bring a typed assessment of your experience to the discussion and be prepared to talk about your activity next week.

Week 14

T 4/30 “Remembering the Shining Path”
R 5/2 EXAM #3

DISC. F 5/3: Discussion of extra-curriculum activities
Please be prepared to talk about your activity today.

Week 15

T 5/7 Latin American Migration
R 5/9 Conclusions
Travel, Work and Study in Latin America today

F 5/10 Film discussion on “Current issues in modern Latin America”