



## Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring, 2023	Professor Name:	Lisa Solomon
Course # and Title:	HIST 131 – Modern Latin America	Email:	lisa.solomon@imperial.edu
CRN #:	21034		
Classroom:	404	Office #:	409
Class Dates:	Feb. 14 – June 8, 2023	Student Hours:	MW 11:30am – 1:00pm TR 1:15pm - 2:15pm
Class Days:	TR	Office Phone #:	760-355-6453
Class Times:	11:20am – 12:45pm		
Units:	3	Class Format:	Face-to-face (on campus)

I am available beyond class and student hours. Please contact me before or after class, by email, or by phone to set up an appointment.

I acknowledge that the land I am occupying is located on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Paipai, Kumeyaay, and Cocopah people. I recognize the impact of historical trauma and dispossession and ongoing systemic inequities. I acknowledge the relationships of care that these Indigenous Nations continue to maintain with this land. Through this Acknowledgement, I celebrate their resilience and strength then and now, and express my ongoing commitment to dismantle silenced histories based on colonization in our sessions and in our communities.

### Welcome!

I am glad you are taking this class, and I promise to make it as engaging and relevant as possible. Over the coming weeks, we will exchange ideas and experiences, learn together (yes, I learn from you) and, ideally, see our communities and ourselves in new ways.

## Course Description

This course compares the nations and cultures of Latin America from the early National Period to the present by studying the economic, social, political, and cultural evolution of the different regions, including Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The region's changing interactions with, and place in, the international community and various other world factors are also explored. Emphasis is placed on the influence of various ethnic groups in the development of different cultures of the region.

This course does require a significant amount of reading and writing.

While this is current description in the Course Outline of Record, I hope to present more information throughout this class. What I cannot offer in class will be added to Canvas.



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon the successful completion of the course, students will be able to (1) identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film; (2) describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event; and (3) explain the significance of a historical text by the end of the course.

## Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will possess a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements and events of modern Latin American history, articulate the roles played by various political and social groups, as well as be able to describe some of the recurring themes during this time in Latin American history.

See my comments under "Course Description". The College requires this section, and these noted themes will be key factors in the tests and assignments.

## Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

**Required:** *Understanding Contemporary Modern Latin America*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition

ISBN for print: 978-1-62637-977-0      ISBN for e-book: 978-1-955055-64-2

This book is available for purchase at the IVC Bookstore. It can also be ordered as an e-book from the publisher ([https://www.riener.com/title/Understanding\\_Contemporary\\_Latin\\_America\\_5th\\_ed.](https://www.riener.com/title/Understanding_Contemporary_Latin_America_5th_ed.))

**Recommended:** Any college level dictionary.

Additional readings, articles or videos will be posted to Canvas, as deemed relevant.

## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Assignments and exams are prepared to help you share what you are learning as well as your views/opinions on the material. While I will seldom ask for exact dates, it will help to remember the timeline of events, as well as people and places. Ideally, this work will also help you look at the material with a critical eye.

Assignments will be based on a specific section of the text, on a part of a video, or a class lecture. The content is the important element. Students will be able to submit the assignments in a variety of formats.

Students will select a country in Latin America, and follow the development and changes in that country throughout the semester. Part of the Final exam will be a presentation of current problems and possible solutions. More information will be presented throughout the term.

The in-class essays are topic-specific, and may not happen on the dates noted later in this syllabus. These are opportunities for you to express ideas and opinions on the topic/time period.

Exams will pull questions from all sources of material presented to the class. That includes PowerPoints and material posted to the Canvas page. Because multiple-choice/true-false exams tend to work against the student, I do not use them. More detail on the exams will be presented in class.



Opportunities for submitting drafts and revisions, and exam re-dos (except for the Final) will be available

## Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

There will be no 0s in this class-no zeros! Radical!

Work that is not completed/submitted will simply show as a blank in the Canvas gradebook.

Comments, questions, and discussions are encouraged. Because not everyone is comfortable speaking in class, and because some students need more time to process information, there are NO discussion points. Points will be earned only on the assignments, exams, and in-class essays.

**Grading:** The course maximum is 700 points, based on the following:

Assignments (two @ 75 points each)	150 points
In-class writing (two @ 50 points each)	100 points
Midterm exam	150 points
Final exam	300 points

Grading will be based on total points, as follows:

A = 630-700	B = 558-629.5	C = 486-557.5
D = 412-485.5	F = 350-411.5	

Do NOT pay attention to the percentages shown in Canvas!

Starting with a minimum grade makes it easier for you, my students, to earn points and pass the class. That does not mean that passing is automatic; work still needs to be done. It does mean that, starting at 50%, the point spread between letter grades is equal.

Letter grades will not be included on tests and assignments. They will only be used for the final course grade.

## Course Policies

**Attendance:** A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class (without notifying me in advance) will be dropped by me as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status would be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class.

Attendance is strongly encouraged, especially since History courses usually take a chronological approach. Therefore, absences can leave gaps that cannot easily be filled.

**Academic Honesty:** I learned from experience that cheating or copying work can make it harder to pass the class. While pressures of life outside of school, and the desire to pass, may push a student to copy or cheat, you will do much better taking some extra time and doing the work yourself.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will be required to retake the exam or redo the assignment. A student who repeatedly cheats is violating campus policy and faces a meeting with the Campus Disciplinary Officer. That person may place related documentation in a file or proceed with a suspension.



More information on this can be found on Canvas.

**Food and drink:** Because of the distractions caused when students eat in class, please consume food before or after class. Beverages in secure containers are acceptable (I will have my coffee or water with me ☺). Please clean up any spills.

**Being adults:** During class meetings, please treat each other with respect and patience. Respect your classmates' opinions, even if they differ from yours. Comments that are aimed at another student and are deliberately meant to be demeaning (racist, sexist, religious bias, etc.) will not be accepted. Anyone who threatens another student or myself will be escorted from the class, and I will schedule a meeting with that student before they are allowed to return.

### IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

### Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Please try to do the reading before class.

NOTE: Some of the video content is graphic and may be difficult for any student dealing with anxiety or PTSD. Please let me know if this applies to you, and take the necessary steps to take care of yourself.

The topics noted are the main ones and not meant to exclude any group.

**\*\*\*Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\***

Date	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Reading
Feb. 14	Introduction, syllabus	
Feb. 16	Background	Chaps. 1-2, pp. 143-150 (to "Independent..."), 227-233 (to "Independence..."), 257-268 (to "Colonial Society..."), 304, 337-339 (to "The Second Wave..."), 367-369 (to "The Role..."), 391-399 (to "The Nineteenth...")
Feb. 21	Library <b>Selection of country</b>	
Feb. 23	Background (continued)	
Feb. 28- Mar. 02	Independence movements	Pp. 39-59, 339-344 (to "The Third Wave...")

Date	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Reading
Mar. 07	Post-independence of the mid 1800s	Pp. 60-66 (to "The Second Economic Stage"), pp. 150-151, 233-234 (to "Globalization..."), 268-273 (to first full paragraph), 297-300 (to "Production..."), 304-308 (to "second paragraph")
Mar. 09	Late 1800s <b>Assign. #1 on Canvas</b> (due March 12)	Pp. 66-77 (to "Revolutionary Nationalism"), 91-92 (to last full paragraph), 152-154 (first two lines), 196-198 (to first paragraph), 399-405
Mar. 14-16	1901-1920	Pp. 77-79 (to "The Economy of Latin America"), 92-93 (to "Authoritarian Rule"), pp. 154-155 (first five lines), 198-200 (to first paragraph), 273-276 (to "Late Twentieth..."), 369-371
Mar. 21	1920s	Pp. 79 (to "The Import..."), 406-407 (to "Magical...")
Mar. 23	1930s	Pp. 308-309 (to second full paragraph)
Mar. 28- Apr. 04	1940s	Pp. 155-56 (to "Import Substitution"), 200-201 (to "The Cold War Era"), 407-408 (to third paragraph)
Mar. 30	<b>Midterm questions on Canvas</b>	
Apr. 06	<b>Midterm</b> (done in class)	
Apr. 10-14	NO CLASS – Spring Break	
Apr. 18-20	Early Cold War (1946 through 1950s)	Pp. 82-83 (to "The Peruvian..."), 93-95 (to end of first full paragraph), 201-202 (to last paragraph), 300-304 (to first paragraph)
Apr. 25	Cold War (1960s through the 1980s)	Pp. 80-82 (to "Guatemala..."), 83-90, 95-98 (to "Transitions..."), pp. 156-172, 185-187 (through second paragraph), 202-209

Date	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Reading
		(to "The Post-Cold..."), 234-236 (to "Resource...") pg. 304 (to "Women..."), 309-318 (to first paragraph), 326-333 (to second paragraph), 344-347 (to "The Fourth..."), 372-375 (to second paragraph), 408-412 (to "From Macondo...")
Apr. 27	Library	
May 02-04	Cold War (continued)	
May 04	<b>Assign. #2 on Canvas</b> (due May 7)	
May 09-18	1990s	Pp. 98-102 (to "The Turn..."), 173-177 (to "Latin America..."), 209-211 (to first paragraph), 276-284 (to "The Twenty-First..."), 318-324 (to first paragraph), 347-354 (to "An Empowered..."), 375-377 (to "Pope Francis..."), 412-414 (to "Latinx Writers")
May 23 - 25	A new century	Pp. 102-120, chap. 5, pp. 177-184, 187-196, 211-226, 236-256, 284-296, 324-326 (to "Women..."), 333-336, 354-366, 377-390, 414-434 chap. 14
May 28	<b>Final exam questions on Canvas</b>	
May 30- June 01	Presentations of problems and solutions	
Jun. 06	Conclude presentations; Final exam review	
Jun. 08	<b>Final exam</b> (done in class)	

### **Countries of Latin America**

During the course of this class, you will be following a specific country of Latin America. This selection will be the basis of your assignments as well as the presentations that take place during the last classes before Finals (those presentations are a part of your Final exam).

Select a country that you have an interest in or wish to know more about. Your choices are listed below and you will make your selection known on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Argentina

Belize

Bolivia

Brazil

Chile

Columbia

Costa Rica

Cuba

Ecuador

El Salvador

Guatemala

Honduras

Mexico

Nicaragua

Panama

Paraguay

Peru

Uruguay

Venezuela