

PALAS 340
History of Latin America
Lisandro Kahan, M.Phil.
Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies
Universidad de Belgrano
Autumn 2024

Course Information

Mon-Wed 4:00-5:30 PM

Instruction in English

Contact Information

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Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive overview of Latin American history, spanning from the pre-colonial period to contemporary times. It emphasizes the socioeconomic, cultural, and political structures and processes that have shaped and continue to influence life in Latin America. Critical examination will be given to broad comparative themes in Latin American history, such as colonialism, nationalism, struggles for economic development, within the frame of both authoritarian and democratic political experiences.

We will delve into the European conquest of the Americas and its profound impact on native populations, with a special focus in indigenous forced labor and the subsequent imposition of African slavery during the colonial era. The processes of independence and nation-building will be examined, followed by the impact of neocolonialism and the rise of nationalism. The course will also explore revolutionary attempts to transform society, the era of military dictatorships within the context of the Cold War, and the subsequent process of transition to democracy in the region. Contemporary issues such as the persistency of violence and inequality, as well as political and economic instability in recent history will also be addressed.

Adopting an interdisciplinary approach, the course incorporates materials from various disciplines, including primary sources, literature, and films, to offer a nuanced understanding of the region's complex and diverse history.

By the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:

- Outline the fundamental aspects of Latin American history, culture, and society.
 - Apply key historical concepts such as colonialism, imperialism, democracy, economic development and inequality for a comparative understanding of Latin American history.
 - Engage with different genres and forms of historic representation and archives.
- Apply techniques different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences to interpret historic sources.
 - Communicate efficiently through discussions, presentations and written assignments.

Course Requirements

Attendance: A 75% attendance to classes is mandatory to keep the regular student status. An electronic system keeps track of attendance. Students must slide an electronic card every class to comply with attendance policy.

Methodology & Participation: Classes will be structured as a seminar, beginning with a brief introduction of each class's topic by the Professor, followed by a collective discussion of each class's assigned materials. All students are expected to do close readings and actively participate in each class, making significant contribution to the classroom conversation. Individual students can also be assigned specific responsibilities for the following classes, such as preparing a brief oral presentation of a historic document source.

Presentation: During the 15th week of the course students will make an oral group presentation on a topic in Latin America History regarding a specific country or region. Topic assignments and presentation guidelines will be provided two weeks in advance.

Papers: Students will elaborate 2 (two) brief essays (1,000 words), each one analyzing a film from the class filmography, corresponding to a specific topic or period, as they relate with class discussions and readings (including historic document sources). More detailed guidelines for these assignments will be provided two weeks in advance of their due-date.

The Mid-Term Exam will be held **in class** during the 9th week.

The Final Exam: The final exam will be held **in class** during the last week.

Important note about oral presentations and response papers: it is strongly recommended that students read additional bibliography from legitimate academic sources. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source for research. Any student caught plagiarizing from undeclared sources will immediately be given a "no credit" for all courses taken in the semester.

Grading Policy

Class Participation	10%
Response Paper	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Group Presentation	20%
Final Exam	20%

Required Textbook

- Chasteen, John Charles. *Born in Blood and Fire. A Concise History of Latin America* (4th Edition). W.W. Norton & Company Inc. New York, London: 2016.

Additional Bibliography

- Grandin, Greg. "How Latin America Saved The United States from Itself"; "The Third Conquest of Latin America: The Economics of the New Imperialism"; and "Globalization Showpiece: The Failure of New Imperialism". In: *Empire's Workshop. Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*. Metropolitan Books Henry Holt and Company. New York: 2006.
- Reid, Michael. "From the Washington Consensus to the Commodity Boom - and Bust"; "The Defective State" & "The Loneliness of Latin America". In: *Forgotten Continent. A History of the New Latin America*. Yale University Press. New Haven and London: 2017.

Compiled Historic Sources from:

- Argentine National Commission on the Disappeared. *Nunca Más. With and Introduction by Ronald Dworkin*. Farrar Strauss Giroux & Index on Censorship. New York & London:1986.
- Borges, Jorge Luis. *Selected Non-Fictions*. Viking [Penguin Group]. New York: 1999.
- Chomsky, Aviva; Carr, Barry & Smorkaloff, Pamela María. *The Cuba Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2003.
- Dawson, Alexander. *Latin America Since Independence. A History with Primary Sources*. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. New York & London:

2011.

- De Gregori, Carlos Iván; Kirk, Robin & Starn, Orin. *The Peru Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2005.
- de la Torre, Carlos & Striffler, Steve. *The Ecuador Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2008.
- Farnsworth-Alvear, Ann; Palacios, Marco & Gómez López, Ana María. *The Colombia Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2017.
- Green, James M.; Langland, Victoria & Moritz Schwarcz, Lilia. *The Brazil Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2019.
- Joseph, Gilbert M. & Henderson, Timothy J. *The Mexico Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2022.
- Lambert Peter & Nickson, Andrew. *The Paraguay Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2013.
- Nouzeilles, Gabriela & Montaldo, Graciela. *The Argentina Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2002.
- Quay Hutchison, Elizabeth; Miller Kublok, Thomas; Milanich, Nara B. & Winn, Peter. *The Chile Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2014.
- Roorda, Eric Paul; Derby, Lauren & González, Raymundo . *The Dominican Republic Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2018.
- Skidmore, Thomas E.; Smith, Peter H.; Green, James N. *Modern Latin America* (8th edition). Oxford University Press. New York: 2014.
- Thomson, Sinclair; Barrgán, Rossana; Alvó, Xavier; Qayum, Semeen & Goodale, Mark. *The Bolivia Reader. History, Culture, Politics*. Duke University Press. Durham and London: 2018.

Filmography

- *Aguirre, the Wrath of God* (Werner Herzog, 1972)
- *The Mission* (Roland Joffé, 1986)
- *Yo, la peor de todas* (María Luisa Bemberg, 1990)
- *Zama* (Lucrecia Martel, 2017)
- *Cabeza de tigre* (Claudio Etcheberry, 2001)

- *Artigas, la redota* (Cesar Charlone, 2011)
- *Facundo, la sombra del tigre* (Nicolás Sarquís, 1995)
- *Camila* (María Luisa Bemberg, 1984)
- *Los colonos* (Felipe Gálvez, 2023)
- *La Patagonia rebelde* (Héctor Olivera, 1974)
- *El abrazo de la serpiente* (Ciro Guerra, 2015)
- *Asesinato en el Senado de la nación* (Juan José Jusid, 1985)
- *¡Qué viva México!* (Sergéi Eisenstein, 1930)
- *Diarios de motocicleta* (Walter Salles, 2005)
- *It's All True: Based on an Unfinished Film by Orson Welles* (Richard Wilson, Bill Krohn and Myron Meisel, 1993)
- *Gatica, el mono* (Leonadro Favio, 1993)
- *Eva Perón: la verdadera historia* (Juan Carlos Desanzo, 1993)
- *Memorias del subdesarrollo* (Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, 1968)
- *Soy Cuba* (Mijail Kalátsov, 1964)
- *Machuca* (Andrés Wood, 2004)
- *La historia oficial* (Luis Puenzo, 1985)
- *Salvador* (Oliver Stone, 1986)
- *Sumas y restas* (Víctor Gaviria, 2005)
- *No* (Pablo Larraín, 2012)
- *Argentina, 1985* (Santiago Mitre, 2022)
- *También la lluvia* (Icíar Bollaín, 2011)

Academic Calendar

DATE	TOPIC
<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">07/21/24</p>	<p>Week 1: Introduction to the course</p> <p>Course Presentation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">07/31/24</p>	<p>Week 1: Introduction to the course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Latin America (JCC: 1-16)
<p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">08/08/16</p>	<p>Week 2: Encounters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterns of Indigenous Life; origins of a Crusading Mentality; The Brazilian Counterexample; Africa and the Slave Trade (JCC: 17-37) • Christopher Columbus: First Descriptions of the Land, First Violence against Its People (1492) [TDRR] • Pedro Vaz Caminha: Letter to King Manuel I of Portugal (1500) [TBRR] • Francisco Soares: Letter from a Portuguese Trader (1596) [TBRR] • António Vieira: Excerpts from the Sermon on the Rosary (1633) [TBRR] • Film: <i>Aguirre, the Wrath of God</i> (Werner Herzog, 1972)
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">08/10/16</p>	<p>Week 2: Encounters (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encounters; The Fall of the Aztec and Inca Empires; The Birth of Spanish America; Countercurrents: Fray Bartolomé de las Casas (JCC: 38-54) • Bartolomé de las Casas: A Voice in the Wilderness: Brother Antonio Montesino (1511) [TDRR] & The Devastation of the Indies (1542/52) [TCUR] • Bernal Díaz del Castillo and Hernán Cortés: The Spaniards' Entry into Tenochtitlan (1519) [TMR] • Anonymous: The Battles of Tenochtitlan and Tlatelolco (1528) [TMR] • Film: <i>The Mission</i> (Roland Joffé, 1986)
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">08/05/24</p>	<p>Week 3: Colonial Crucible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonial Crucible; Colonial Economics; A Power Called Hegemony; A Process Called Transculturation (JCC: 55-74)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: On Men's Hypocrisy [TMR] • Garcilaso de la Vega: The Origins of the Incas (1609) [TPR] • Guamán Poma de Ayala: Officials and Messengers (1615) [TPR] • Film: <i>Yo, la peor de todas</i> (María Luisa Bemberg, 1990)
<p>6 08/07/24</p>	<p>Week 3: Colonial Crucible (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fringes of Colonization; Late Colonial Transformations; Countercurrents: Colonial Rebellions (JCC: 75-94) • Pedro de Valdivia: A Conqueror Pleads his Case to the King (1545) [TCHR] • Ruy Díaz de Guzmán: Women Captives (1612) [TAR] • Various authors: Two Documents in the War Against Palmares (1678/1693) [TBRR] • José Manuel Peramás: The Republic of Plato and the Guaraní (1793) [TPAR] • Film: <i>Zama</i> (Lucrecia Martel, 2017)
<p>7 08/12/24</p>	<p>Week 4: Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independence; Revolution and War in Europe; The Spanish American Rebellions Begin; The Patriots Winning Strategy: Nativism (JCC: 95-111) • Luiz Gonzaga das Virgens Veiga: The Taylors' Revolt (1798) [TBRR] • Mariano Moreno: The Landowners' Petition (1809) [TAR] • José María Morelos: Sentiments of the Nation, or points Outlined by Morelos for the Constitution (1813) [TMR] • Film: <i>Cabeza de tigre</i> (Caludio Etcheberry, 2001)
<p>8 08/14/24</p>	<p>Week 4: Independence (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patriot Victories in Spanish America; Unfinished Revolutions; Countercurrents: The Gaze of Outsiders (JCC: 112-126) • Simón Bolívar: War to Death (1813) [TCOR] & Letter from Jamaica (1815) [LASIaHwPS] • Film: <i>Artigas, la redota</i> (Cesar Charlone, 2011)

<p style="text-align: center;">9 08/19/24</p>	<p>Week 5: Postcolonial Blues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postcolonial Blues; Liberal Disappointment; Patronage Politics and Caudillo Leadership (JCC: 127-138) • Domingo Faustino Sarmiento: <i>Facundo</i> (1845) [TAR] • Euclides da Cunha: Excerpt from <i>Rebellion in the Backlands</i> (1902) [TBRR] • Film: <i>Facundo, la sombra del tigre</i> (Nicolás Sarquís, 1995)
<p style="text-align: center;">10 08/21/24</p>	<p>Week 5: Postolonial Blues (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazil's Different Path; Continuities in Daily Life; Countercurrents: The Power of Outsiders (JCC: 139-160) • Paulo José Vianna: The Influence of the Haitian Revolution in Brazil (1815) [TBRR] • Joaquim Nabuco: Selection from <i>Abolitionism</i> (1883) [TBRR] • Film: <i>Camila</i> (María Luisa Bemberg, 1984)
<p style="text-align: center;">11 08/26/24</p>	<p>Week 6: Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress; México's Liberal Reform; Other Countries Join the Liberal Trend; (JCC: 161-173) • Juan Bautista Alberdi: <i>Immigration as a Means of Progress</i> (1852) [TAR] • Benito Juárez: <i>The Triumph of the Republic</i> (1867) [TMR] • Friedrich Hassaurek: <i>Four Years Among the Ecuadorians</i> (1868) [TER]
<p style="text-align: center;">12 09/28/24</p>	<p>Week 6: Progress (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Limits of Progress for Women; Models of Progress; Countercurrents: International Wars (JCC: 174-191) • Captain Francisco Seeber: <i>The Triple Alliance</i> (1866) [TAR] • Members of the Republican Party: <i>The Republican Manifesto</i> (1870) [TBRR] • Francisca Senhorinha da Motta Diniz: <i>Early Brazilian Feminism</i> (1873) [TBBR]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Film: <i>Los colonos</i> (Felipe Gálvez, 2023) <p style="text-align: center;">FIRST PAPER DUE</p>
<p>13</p> <p>09/02/24</p>	<p>Week 7: Neocolonialism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neocolonialism; The Great Export Boom; Authoritarian Rule: Oligarchies and Dictatorships (JCC: 193-212) James Creelman: President Díaz, Hero of the Americas (1908) [TMR] Rafael Barret: What It is Like to Work in the Yerba Plantations (1911) [TPAR] José Eustasio Rivera: A Gaping Mouth Swallowing Men (1924) [TCOR] Augusto Céspedes: The Tin Baron (1946) [TBOR] Film: <i>La Patagonia rebelde</i> (Héctor Olivera, 1974); or <i>El abrazo de la serpiente</i> (Ciro Guerra, 2015)
<p>14</p> <p>09/04/24</p>	<p>Week 7: Neocolonialism (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Links with the Outside World; Countercurrents: New Immigration in Latin América (JCC: 213-323) José María Ramos Mejía: The Modern Crowd (1899) [TAR] Oreste Sola: Making It in America (1901) [TAR] Alberto Gerchunoff: The Jewish Gauchos (1910) [TAR] Film: <i>Asesinato en el Senado de la nación</i> (Juan José Jusid, 1985)
<p>15</p> <p>09/09/24</p>	<p>Week 8: Nationalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationalism; Nationalists take power (JCC: 233-248) Leopoldo Lugones: National Identity in a Cosmopolitan Society (1913) [TAR] José Martí: Our America (1891) [TCUR] Emiliano Zapata: Plan of Ayala (1911) [TMR] Juan Carlos Mariátegui: Reflections (1925-1929) [TPER] María Cano: It's a Norm among Us to Believe that a Woman Cannot Act on Her Own Criteria (1930) [TCOR] Film: <i>¡Qué viva México!</i> (Sergéi Eisenstein, 1930)

<p style="text-align: center;">16 09/11/24</p>	<p>Week 8: Nationalism (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISI and Activist Governments of the 1930s; Countercurrents: Populist Leaders of the 20th Century (JCC: 249-266) • Víctor Raúl Haya de la Torre: The APRA (TPER) • Getulio Vargas: Vargas and the Estado Novo (1938) [TBRR] • Josephus Daniels: The Oil Expropriation (1938) [TMR] • José María Velasco Ibarra: Heroic Pueblo of Guayaquil (1944) [TER] • Jorge Élicer Gaitán: The “Silent Demonstration” of February 7, 1948 (1948) [TCOR] • Fernando Benítez: The Agrarian Reform in La Laguna (1977) [TMR] • Film: Diarios de motocicleta (Walter Salles, 2005)
<p style="text-align: center;">17 09/16/24</p>	<p>Week 9:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MID-TERM EXAM</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">18 09/18/24</p>	<p>Week 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandin, Greg (2006) “How Latin America Saved the United States from Itself”. In: Latin America, The United States and the Rise of the New Imperialism. Metropolitan Books: New York. • Film: <i>It's All True: Based on an Unfinished Film by Orson Welles</i> (Richard Wilson, Bill Krohn and Myron Meisel, 1993)
<p style="text-align: center;">19 09/23/24</p>	<p>Week 10: Revolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolution; Post World II Populism (JCC: 267-274) • Juan Domingo Perón: What is Peronism? (1948) & The Twenty Truths of the Peronist Justicialism (1950) [MLA] • Eva Perón: Speech to the Descamisados on October 17, 1951 (1951) [marxism.org] • Julio Cortazar: House Taken Over (1942) [TAR] • Jorge Luis Borges: L'Illusion Comique (1955) [SNF] & The Mountebank (1960) [bibliklept.org] • Leopoldo Marechal & Raúl Sclabrini Ortiz: On October 17, 1945 (1968/1973) • Film: Gatica, el mono (Leonadro Favio, 1993) or Eva Perón: la verdadera historia (Juan Carlos Desanzo, 1993)

<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p style="text-align: center;">09/25/24</p>	<p>Week 10: Revolution (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onset of the Cold War; The Cuban Revolution; Countercurrents: Theology of Liberation (JCC: 275-296) • Fidel Castro: History Will Absolve Me (1953) [TCUR] • Ernesto "Che" Guevara: Reminiscences of the Cuban Revolutionary War (1959/61) & Man and Socialism (1965) [TCUR] • Elena Poniatowska: The Student's Movement (1971) [TMR] • Salvador Allende Gossens: The Chilean Revolution One Year In (1971) [TCHR] • Film: Memorias del subdesarrollo (Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, 1968), or Soy Cuba (Mijail Kalátozov, 1964)
<p style="text-align: center;">21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">09/30/24</p>	<p>Week 11: Reaction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaction; National Security Doctrine; Dictatorships Almost Everywhere (JCC: 297-313) • Declassified U.S. Government Documents: The Election of Salvador Allende (1973) [TCHR] • Rodolfo Walsh: Open Letter to the Military Junta (1976) • Hebe de Bonafini & Matilde Sánchez: The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo (1985) [TAR] • Film: La historia oficial (Luis Puenzo, 1985) or Machuca (Andrés Wood, 2004)
<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10/02/24</p>	<p>Week 11: Reaction (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Last Cold War Battles: Central America; Countercurrents: La violencia, Pablo Escobar and Colombia's Long Torment • Gustavo Álvarez Gardeazábal: Dead Bodies Appear in the Streets (1962) [TCOR] • Los extraditables: We Prefer a Grave in Colombia to a Cell in the United States (1979) [TCOR] • El Espectador, J. Fabry, J. Mollison, R. Romero Ospina, D. Jiménez, and R. Mazalán: Turning points in the Colombian Conflict 1960s-1990s [TCOR, Photographs] • Film: Salvador (Oliver Stone, 1986); or Sumas y restas (Víctor

	Gaviria, 2005)
23 10/07/24	<p>Week 12: Neoliberalism and Beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neoliberalism and Beyond (JCC: 329-355) • Ernesto Sábato: Prologue to the Report by the National Commission on the Disappeared (1984) [NM] • Patricio Aylwin Azóca: Justice "To the Degree Possible": The retting Report (1991) [TCHR] • Tomás Moulián: The Credit-Card Citizen (1997) [TCHR] • Javier Auyero: We Are All Cursed (2002) [TAR] <p>Film: No (Pablo Larraín, 2012); or Argentina, 1985 (Santiago Mitre, 2022)</p>
24 10/09/24	<p>Week 12: Neoliberalism and Beyond + Perspectives on Recent History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandin, Greg (2006) "The Third Conquest of Latin America: The Economics of the New Imperialism" • Oscar Olivera: Even the Rain (2000) [TBOR] • Neighborhood Council of Villa Santiago II, El Alto: The Gas War (2003) [TBOR] • Bolivian Constitution of 2009: A New Social Contract (2009) [TBOR] • Mark Weisbrot & Vicente Fox: Assessing NAFTA Before and After (2007/2014) [TMR] • David Bacon: The Maquiladora Workers of Juarez Find their Voice (2015) [TMR] • Film: También la lluvia (Icíaí Bollaín, 2011)
25 10/14/24	<p>Week 13: Perspectives on Recent History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandin, Greg (2006): "Globalization's Showpiece: The Failure of New Imperialism" <p style="text-align: center;">SECOND PAPER DUE</p>
26 10/16/24	<p>Week 13: Perspectives on Recent History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reid, Michael (2019): "From the Washington Consensus to the Commodity Boom - and Bust"

<p style="text-align: center;">27 10/21/24</p>	<p>Week 14: Perspectives on Recent History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reid, Michael (2019) "The Defective State"
<p style="text-align: center;">28 11/23/24</p>	<p>Week 14: Perspectives on Recent History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reid, Michael (2019) "The Loneliness of Latin America"
<p style="text-align: center;">29 10/28/24</p>	<p>Week 15:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GROUP PRESENTATIONS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">30 10/30/24</p>	<p>Week 15:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GROUP PRESENTATIONS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">31 11/04/24</p>	<p>Week 16:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINAL EXAM</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">32 11/06/24</p>	<p>Week 16:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Final Remarks Final Grade and signature of "Hoja de situación" (Attendance is mandatory)</p>