This course focuses on the study of some of the most important problems and debates about Latin American history, especially those concerning the region’s political and social development. Latin America is a complex region, full of contrasts. National histories and individual societies did not always follow parallel paths, although there are a group of problems and dilemmas that were experienced regionally. The course will examine three topics that are of particular importance for understanding the historical development of Latin America: populism and the rise of new form of citizenship; democracy and dictatorship; and revolutions and revolutionary ideas. In the analysis of each of these issues we will consider themes like the influence of the US; the role of women; and the impact of racial issues. For each topic, we will study particular cases; we will assess continuities and changes in time. Through these three topics the course aims to give the student a deep comprehension of the region and provide tools to recognize the interplay of internal and external forces. The course favors a multi-disciplinary approach, and therefore we will use a different array of materials including films, letters, photographs and contemporary essays.

Desired Outcomes

A critical understanding of the main debates and problems of Latin American History.

Familiarity with the way historians and social scientists think and work.

Familiarity with the vocabulary of the social sciences.

Be able to put Argentine history in the context of Latin American history.

Be able to produce an original and critical essay on one of the topics discussed in class.
Assessment Components

You are required to do the assigned reading in advance and come to class prepared to participate actively. Effective participation is only possible if you do the reading in advance. You will be evaluated for your participation (20% of your grade).

The required written work for the course consists of:

Homework
One reaction paper about the visit to historical sites. The reaction paper should be short (3 to 5 pages at maximum) but should include critical and personal opinions and should link the visit to class discussions and readings. You can also include photos of your visits. A final research paper of approximately 7 - 10 pages. This should incorporate more readings to those that are identified as mandatory in the syllabus.

A midterm.

The final grade will be determined based on the following distribution: class participation 20%; reaction paper and homework (30%); midterm (20%); final research essay (30%).

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

Grade B: The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

Grade C: Work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

Grade D: The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.
Grade conversion

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Exams and Submission of work

Final Exam dates cannot be changed under any circumstance.

Mid term exam dates will be scheduled with each professor and it must be before the break.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorization, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

Final essays must be submitted to the professor in print and electronic copy. If the student is not in Buenos Aires, he/she must send a printed copy via express postal mail (i.e. FedEx, DHL, UPS, etc) to the NYU Center in Buenos Aires - Anchorena 1314 - (C1425ELF) Argentina. This copy must arrive before or on the date of established deadline.

Attendance Policy

NYU Buenos Aires has a strict policy about course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted.

Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Absences due to illness must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs, Maria Pirovano Peña within one week of your return to class. A doctor note excusing your absence is mandatory. If students get sick on an exam day, they must let the Assistant Director for Academic Affairs know in advance about this, and they must see a doctor the same day in order to have their absence excused.

Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs, Maria Pirovano Peña prior to the date(s) in question.

The first unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 1.5% from the student’s final course mark. After that each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark.

Students who have perfect attendance (100%) during the semester and have fulfilled all course requirements, i.e. class participation, meeting all deadlines, etc. will get extra points equivalent to 2% of the final grade.
Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

NYU BA. also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. Three late arrivals or earlier departures (10 minutes after the starting time or before the ending time) will be considered one absence.

Each class has a duration of one hour and half or two hours. Missing one class represents one absence. For those courses that meet once a week (three hours block), missing one class represents two absences. Holidays’ make up classes are mandatory as regular scheduled classes.

Late work should be submitted in person to the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs during office hours (Mon - Fri, 9.30 am to 5 pm), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Please note end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor.

It is expected that the student follows the rules on academic honesty and intellectual integrity established by NYU University.

[Click here and enter guidelines on Internet Research, if appropriate]

Presentation of the course – Brief introduction to Latin America – Some Facts – Geography – Historical Introduction

The field of Latin American Studies

February

**Week 2** [22 – 27 February]

The concept of Populism/Old and New Perspectives / Useful concept?
Brazil: an introduction – Peculiarities of Brazilian society/ The case of Getulio Vargas


**Week 3**

MEXICO: an introduction – The peculiarities of the Mexican case
The case of Cardenas – Peronism in Argentina


Movie Projection
Short essay for next week about the movie – Details discussed in class.

**Week 4**

Peronism: a historical introduction– Women and Peronism /EVITA /

Visit to Museo Evita (MONDAY 12 March)
Deadline for the essay from last week.

**Week 5**

Revolution: a vocabulary and Idea – The origins of the left in Latin America
The sixties in Latin America


Students presentations * Articles distributed by teacher

**Week 6**

The Mexican Revolution – Historical Explanations
Women in the Mexican Revolution


**Week 7**

MID TERM

**Week 8**

The Cuban Revolution – The causes of the Revolution and the Cuban Realignment –
The impact in Latin America – US relations
Discussion: The revolution today. Human rights. What is left of socialism?


Students presentations

Week 9
16 April
The Radicalization of Latin America after the Cuban Revolution
The case of Montoneros
Tulchin, pp. 251-274.
Montoneros una historia, documentary by Andrés Di Tella.

18 April

Week 10
23 April
Dictatorships in the southern cone.
The Breakdown of democracy in Chile - Pinochet dictatorship/ State Terror
Movie Projection and Discussion- MACHUCA

25 April

Week 11
30 April
Dictatorships in the southern cone.
Argentine Unstable democracy? State Terror/ The Dirty War
VISIT TO HISTORICAL SITE

2 May

Week 12
7 May
Dictatorships in the southern cone.
Life during Strossner - Paraguay under Stroessner-
Causes and consequences of a long dictatorship
MOVIE PROJECTION – JARABE DE PALO

9 May

Week 13
14 May
REGIMES CHANGES: DEMOCRATIZATION AND DEMOCRATIC PERFORMANCE
The transitions: a comparative perspective. (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile)
The legacy of the dictatorships. The issue of Human Rights Violations and Memory-


Week 14

**POPULISM AND NEOLIBERAL REFORMS IN LATIN AMERICA**

The performance of democracy / Problems of today / Populism and Neoliberal Reforms

18 May

21 May


Week 15

**REVISION SESSION**

23 May

Classroom Etiquette

The use of Blackberrys, phones and IPods in class are forbidden

Required Co-curricular Activities

Visit to Museo Evita

Tour of special historical locations with teacher

Visit to the CGT with teacher

Movie projections and discussion in class

You have to participate in at least 3 of the following Center activities: Pueblos Originarios Malvinas, 30 aniversario de la guerra Relaciones entre EE.UU y Argentina and Global Justice. This is mandatory and the content will be included in class discussions.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

I recommend you to visit the Museo Histórico Nacional, the National Library, and the Plaza de Mayo.
Your Instructor

I have a PhD in History from the University of London. My area of specialization is Argentine intellectual and cultural history. I recently published a book on the relationship of intellectuals and Perón. It is upstairs in the library if you want to check it. If you are interested, but your Spanish is not good enough, you can read one article related to this work that I published in the Journal The Americas: Between Institutional Survival and Intellectual Commitment: The Case of the Argentine Society of Writers during Perón’s rule”, The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Inter-American Cultural History, Vol 62, N 4, Abril 2006.

Now I am working on the history of education of Argentina, specifically on the figure of the normal teacher.