**History, Politics and Culture in Latin America**  
*An Introduction*  
*Spring 2013*

**Class code**  
SPAN-UA 9762-001  
SPAN-UA 9760-001

**Instructor Details**  
Flavia Fiorucci  
ffiorucc@yahoo.com  
15 40238642 (call me if it is an emergency- I prefer to receive a text)

**Class Details**  
Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:45 pm to 3:15 pm  
Room Ocampo (NYU CENTER).

**Class Description**  
This course is designed to introduce students to some of the most important problems and debates about Latin American history, society and culture. Latin America is a complex region full of contrasts. Its population is both racially and culturally heterogeneous. Its many countries share some common cultural roots and political origins, but also have distinct histories. National histories and individual societies did not always follow parallel paths. We will consider the general as well as the specific paths, and study the successes, failures, contrasts and future challenges facing the region. The structure of this course is primarily chronological but also thematic. We will start with the Conquest and its legacies and we will end with the problems that we experience today in big cities in Latin America. We will pay particular attention to the enduring legacies and challenges of some specific historical issues, such as slavery and the particular entrance of Latin America into global capitalism. The course favors a multi-disciplinary approach, and therefore we will use a different array of materials including films, letters, photographs and essays. We will emphasize first hand accounts of the topics we discuss.
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 Argentina (the place you are living right now) 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:

Specific homework
One reaction paper about the visit to historical sites. The reaction paper should be short (3 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 Midterm
A final research paper of approximately 7 - 10 pages (date to be confirmed). This should incorporate more readings to those that are identified as mandatory in the syllabus.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade conversion</th>
<th>100-93</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>76-73</th>
<th>C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>66-60</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>59-0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exams and Submission of work**

Final Exam dates cannot be changed under any circumstance.

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.
- 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, María Pirovano Peña within one week of your return to class.
- A doctor note excusing your absence is mandatory.
- **The date on the doctor’s note must be the date of the missed class or exam**
- Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs, María Pirovano Peña prior to the date(s) in question.
- If students have more than two unexcused absences they will be penalized by deducting 50% of the class participation grade. Please be aware that in most of the courses the class participation grade is 20% of the final grade. So the 50% of the class participation grade would mean 10% of the final grade.
- If students have more than four unexcused absences they will fail the course.
- Intensive Languages Courses: students who have more than three unexcused absences will be penalized by deducting 50% of the class participation grade. Please be aware that in most of the courses the class participation grade is 20% of the final grade. So the 50% of the class participation grade would mean 10% of the final grade. Those students who have more than five unexcused absences will fail the course.
- 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.**
- 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.
- Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.
- Holidays’ make up classes are mandatory as regular scheduled classes.

Late Submission of Work

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

**Plagiarism Policy**

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.

**Internet Research Guidelines**

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

**Week 1**

15 February

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

The field of Latin American Studies


**Week 2**

February 18

The Encounter: Images of the Encounter, Impact of Conquest in Indian Society Cultural Symbiosis? The Colonial System


**Week 3**

February 25

The Breakdown Of The Colonial Order: The Independence Movement

State Formation In Latin America, Problems In Nation Building, Colonial Legacies Patterns For Power, The Era Of The Caudillos.


*Reading in Spanish for Majors in Spanish and Latin American Literature and Culture*: Halperín Donghi, *Historia Contemporánea de América Latina*, pp. 80—157. You also have to read Burns pp.63-68!

### Week 4

**March 4**

**March 6**

**Questions of Identity: Modernity, Race and Ethnicity in Latin America**

- Argentina – The extermination of the Indians. Positivism - Social Modernization and Reformism, Civilization and Barbarism. The cases of Brazil and Cuba - The contradictions of progress: the institution of slavery. Racial Ideas - Immigration


### Week 5

**March 11**

**March 13**

**Questions of Identity: Modernity, Race and Ethnicity in Latin America: Contemporary Debates**

- Weismantel, Mary (ed) 1998. *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 17.2 Special Issue on Race and Ethnicity in the Andes. INTRODUCTION.
- Projection of film *Bolivia* by Israel Adrián Caetano.

### Week 6

**March 18**

**March 20**


- The US in LA today – some observations


### Week 7

**FIELD TRIP**
Week 8

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


Week 9

Peronism: a historical introduction- Women and Peronism /EVITA / Social reforms

*Visit To Museo Evita.

Week 10

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 11

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.

APRIL 26 MIDTERM

Week 12

Dictatorships in the southern cone.
The Breakdown of democracy in Chile –
April 29

Pinochet dictatorship/State Terror


**Week 13**

**Dictatorships in the southern cone.**

Continuation of discussion on Chile

*Argentina: unstable democracy? State Terror / The Dirty War*

Projection and Discussion *Nostalgia de la luz* by Patricio Guzmán


**Week 14**

**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-


* Visit to historical Site

*Reading in Spanish:* Emilio Crenzel, *La Historia Política del Nunca Más. La memoria de las desapariciones en la Argentina*, (Buenos Aires: Siglo Veintiuno, 2008), pp.17-52. You also have to read Garretón.

**Week 15**

**The Social effects of Neoliberal Reforms: violence, poverty and politics**

May 20


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 discussions in class
You have to participate in at least 2 of the Center activities. We will talk about this in class. 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.

Language Policy:
Students who want to major in Spanish and Latin American Literature and Culture have to do their course work in Spanish and as well part of the reading for the week in Spanish. I indicated in the bibliography the alternative reading material in Spanish. Normally this alternative reading replaces only one of the two texts you have to read for each week. The rest of the students are also welcome to handle their written works in Spanish. Spanish Tutoring Sessions are mandatory for all students who get a B- or below in any written or oral work.

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.