

HIST 115: Introduction to Latin American History

Department of History, Ohio Wesleyan University
Fall Semester 2016 TR 10-11:50AM
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To set up a meeting with me go to: <https://baskes.youcanbook.me/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a general survey of the history of Latin America from pre-Hispanic to modern times. While the majority of the course concentrates on the region's twentieth century, an understanding of Latin America's early history is crucial. Thus, the first third of the course is dedicated to the pre-conquest and colonial periods.

BOOKS REQUIRED FOR THIS COURSE: The student is required to obtain and read the following books.

- R. Buffington and L. Caimari, *Keen's Latin American Civilization*, 2 volumes. Boulder: Westview, 2016.
- Matthew Restall, *Invading Guatemala: Spanish, Nahua and Maya Accounts of the Conquest Wars*, University Park: Penn State, 2007.
- Jorge Amado, *The Violent Land*. Penguin Classics, 2013.
- Aviva Chomsky, *A History of the Cuban Revolution*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- Eric Stenner Carlson, *I Remember Julia: Voices of the Disappeared*, Temple Univ. Press, 1996.
- Mark Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*. NY: Vintage Books, 1994.

COURSE ESSENTIALS:

- **2 Examinations:** There will be two exams---a midterm and a final. Dates are indicated below.
- **2 Quizzes:** There will be two quizzes. Dates are indicated below.
- **2 Book Essays:** Over the course of the semester, you must write two essays, one taken from each of the lists below: Each essay is to be 1500-words (5-pages)

LIST ONE (CHOOSE 1)

- 1) *Invading Guatemala*
- 2) *The Violent Land*

LIST TWO (CHOOSE 1)

- A) *A History of the Cuban Revolution*
- B) *I Remember Julia*
- C) *Massacre at El Mozote*

- Consult the attached guidelines for further details. Papers are to be uploaded to [CANVAS](#), (see below), 30 minutes before the start of class on the date indicated in the syllabus. Papers submitted late will be marked down. Papers will be evaluated on the quality of both the content & the writing.

• **Class Participation:** Attendance is mandatory, and class participation is expected of all students. The grades of students with excessive absences will be lowered. Grades of those who regularly participate in class discussion will be rewarded.

• **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism and cheating are taken seriously. Students caught will be failed for the course and reported to the Dean of Students.

GRADES: Final grades will be determined as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| • Book discussions (3% each) | 15% |
| • Weekly class discussions | 10% |
| • Midterm examination | 15% |
| • Quizzes (7.5% each) | 15% |
| • Book essay (15% each) | 30% |
| • Final examination | 15% |

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS:

WEEK 1: (Tuesday, Aug. 23) THE FIRST AMERICANS

Keen's Latin American Civilization, - Discuss on Thursday

WEEK 2: (Tuesday, Aug. 30) EUROPEAN EXPANSION AND THE CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS

Restall, *Invading Guatemala*, ch. 1-3.

Keen's Latin American Civilization, (Ch. 1: #3, 4, 11); (Ch. 3: 11) - Discuss on TUESDAY

WEEK 3: (Tuesday, Sept 6) CONQUEST SOCIETY TO 1650

Restall, *Invading Guatemala*, ch. 4-5.

Keen's Latin American Civilization, (Ch. 4: #3, 8); (Ch. 5: #3, 6); (Ch. 6: #1, 2) - Discuss on Thursday

WEEK 4: (Tuesday, Sept 13) MATURE COLONIAL SPANISH AMERICA

Keen's Latin American Civilization (Ch. 6: #4); (Ch. 7: #4, 5) - Discuss on Thursday

WEEK 5: (Tuesday, Sept 20) LATE COLONIAL ERA AND INDEPENDENCE

Tuesday: Essay on *Invading Guatemala*, (See attached guidelines) DUE ON [CANVAS](#) BY 9:30AM.

Keen's Latin American Civilization, (ch. 9 #3); (Ch. 10 #2, 4) - Discuss on Thursday

Amado, *The Violent Land*, 1-128.

WEEK 6: (Tuesday, Sept 27) SEARCH FOR ORDER IN EARLY INDEPENDENT LATIN AMERICA

- **QUIZ #1: IN CLASS TUESDAY**

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 2: #1, 2, 4, 6) - Discuss on Thursday

Amado, *The Violent Land*, 129-240

WEEK 7: (Tuesday, Oct. 4) ORDER & PROGRESS IN LATIN AMERICA

Amado, *The Violent Land*, 240-334.

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 3: #1, 8) (Ch. 4: #1, 2) - Discuss on Thursday

WEEK 8: (Tuesday, Oct 11) MEXICO'S REVOLUTION & ITS LEGACY

Tuesday - Essay on *The Violent Land*, (See guidelines) DUE ON [CANVAS](#) BY 9:30AM. (Required if you did not do the essay on *Invading Guatemala*).

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 4: #5); (Ch. 5: #1, 2, 3) - Discuss on TUESDAY.

- **Mid-semester break: No class on Thursday**

WEEK 9: (Tuesday, Oct 18) POPULISM & INDUSTRIALIZATION IN ARGENTINA

- **Tuesday: Midterm examination.**

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 5: #7, 9, 10, 11) - Discuss on Thursday

WEEK 10: (Tuesday, Oct 25) GUATEMALA & THE COLD WAR: 1944-54 & THE AFTERMATH

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 9: #1, 4, 5, 8, 9) - Discuss on Thursday

Chomsky, *A History of the Cuban Revolution*, 1-105.

WEEK 11: (Tuesday, Nov 1) THE CUBAN REVOLUTION

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 4: #9); (Ch. 6: #3, 5) - Discuss on Thursday

Chomsky, *A History of the Cuban Revolution*, 106-95.

WEEK 12: (Tuesday, Nov 8) THE MILITARY IN POWER

Tuesday- Book Essay on *Cuban Revolution*, DUE ON [CANVAS](#) BY 9:30AM. (See attached guidelines)

Eric Stener Carlson. *I Remember Julia*, Intro-ch. 7.

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 6: #8, 9) - Discuss on Thursday

- **QUIZ #2: IN CLASS THURSDAY**

WEEK 13: (Tuesday, Nov 15) THE DIRTY WARS

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 6: #7, 10) - Discuss on Thursday

Eric Stener Carlson. *I Remember Julia*, ch. 8-12.

Thursday- Essay on *I Remember Julia*, (see attached guidelines) DUE ON CANVAS BY 9:30AM.

- **Thanksgiving Break Week**

WEEK 14: (Tuesday, Nov 29) CENTRAL AMERICA IN THE 1980s & 1990s

Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*, ch. 1-5.

Keen's Latin American Civilization, Vol. 2 (Ch. 6: #11); (Ch. 9: #11, 13) - Discuss on Thursday

WEEK 15: (Tuesday, Dec 6) CONCLUSION

Danner, *The Massacre at El Mozote*, ch. 6-9

Thursday – Book essay on *Massacre at El Mozote*, (See attached guidelines) DUE ON [CANVAS](#) BY 9:30AM.

Final Examination Wednesday, Dec 14 at 1:30PM

Guidelines for Book Essays (Due on [Canvas](#) by 9:30AM of Date Due)

During the semester, you will write 1500 word (**5 pages**) essays discussing two of the required books:

To help guide you, I have provided questions for you to address. All essays should directly address the question below and be written clearly and cohesively. State your “thesis” (what you consider to be the answer to the question) in the opening paragraph. The rest of the paper should develop your thesis providing direct evidence from the book. Be sure to **cite** the location of your evidence, whether direct **quotations** or merely factual references. Please use parenthetical citations, e.g. (Restall, 127). Direct quotations should be used to support your arguments, but they should be kept brief, a sentence at the longest. Your concluding paragraph should reiterate your thesis and make a general statement about the book’s treatment of the issue.

Write an essay on ONE of the following: (consult syllabus for due dates)

Essay on Restall, *Invading Guatemala* (read intro paragraph before writing essay)

How and why do the motivations of the various authors differ? Provide specific examples from a number of different sources.

Essay on Amado, *The Violent Land* (read intro paragraph before writing essay)

How did the *coloneles* establish and maintain their power and authority?

Write an essay on ONE of the following: (consult syllabus for due dates)

Essay on Chomsky, *A History of the Cuban Revolution* (read intro paragraph before writing essay)

Providing evidence from the book, in what ways did the Cuban Revolution change Cuba? (e.g. society, economy, politics, international relations, etc.)

Essay on Carlson, *I Remember Julia*, (read intro paragraph before writing essay)

How did Argentines interpret and respond to the violence that enveloped their society?

Essay on Mark Danner, *Massacre at El Mozote* (read intro paragraph before writing essay)

Why did the Reagan administration respond as it did to the events at El Mozote? Be certain to base your assertions on specific material evidence provided from the book.

CANVAS GUIDELINES (<https://CANVAS.instructure.com/>)

Professor Jeremy Baskes

Ohio Wesleyan University

In this course, students will submit all essays electronically through [CANVAS](#), an on-line course management system. Papers will be graded and returned via CANVAS as well. Instructions for uploading and downloading papers follows below.

Assignments

All assignments are described in the syllabus. Complete your assignment in a word document and then upload the file to CANVAS. Please do NOT convert them to PDF.

How to Submit an Assignment on CANVAS. (Be sure that you upload the correct and final draft.)

1. Register for an account at CANVAS if you have not yet already done so. You should have received an invitation from me to join.
2. Sign into CANVAS at <https://CANVAS.instructure.com/>
3. Select the correct class.
4. In Course Navigation on left, click the **Assignments** link.
5. Click the assignment that you are submitting.
6. Click the **Submit Assignment** link to open the submission window.
7. Click the **Choose File** button to select a file to upload from your computer. A pop-up window will appear.
8. Click the file that you want to upload and select the **Choose** (or **Open**) button to upload the file.
9. Click the **Submit Assignment** button to submit your assignment.
10. After you have submitted your assignment, you should be able to view a confirmation.

How to View the Graded Essay (You will find your graded document on the right hand column of the CANVAS page under the heading: "Assignment Comments.")

I will return papers through [CANVAS](#) as well. When I have finished grading the essays, I will notify you and you will be able to download the graded file to read my comments and see your grade. I do not use the grade book feature in CANVAS.

I use MS Word's "Track Changes" option to comment and make corrections on your essay. You will only be able to see these comments on a computer. Tablets and phones do not show "track change" comments.

If you do not see my comments in the right column of the paper, then you must turn "Track Changes" on.

- In Word 2007 through Word 2013, select the **Review** tab and then select **All Markup** under **Tracking**.
- In Word 2002 and 2003, select **Review** and choose **Final with Markup** or **Original with Markup** under **Tracking**.

In Word 2000 and earlier, **Tools > Track Changes > Highlight Changes**. Tick **Highlight Changes on Screen**.

Learn the Map of Latin America. It will appear on tests.

