

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

IR 410 Latin America Today: Lessons from Latin America

Spring 2015

Professor: Renata Keller

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-11am

Location: IRB 102

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4, Wednesday 10-12, and by appointment

Course Description:

We will spend the semester exploring the broad theme of “Lessons from Latin America” through a wide variety of methods and perspectives. Instead of viewing Latin America as an underdeveloped or “Third World” region in need of outside tutelage, we will analyze the many ways in which the nations and people of Latin America have pioneered innovative ideas, cultures, policies, and practices. There is much that we can learn from studying Latin America, not only for the sake of understanding that region better, but also as a means to improve the lives of people here in the United States and around the world.

The course will take the form of a seminar centered on research and discussion. Various other faculty members from BU’s Latin American Studies Program and the wider Boston community will join us throughout the semester to lead discussions on ways that their own research and specialties can provide “lessons from Latin America.” Each student will choose a specific subject to research and produce a final paper and presentation on their topic.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will apply the expertise that they have developed over the course of their studies at Boston University to explore a specific issue or topic in which Latin America has demonstrated leadership and/or innovation.
2. Students will develop reading, research, writing, and communication skills that will serve them in their college careers and beyond.

Grading

- 1) **Annotated Bibliography:** 15%
- 2) **Research Paper:** 40% (Rough drafts due April 14, Final drafts due April 30)
- 3) **Final Presentation:** 20%
- 4) **Attendance:** Based on your performance on reading quizzes (10%)
- 5) **Participation:** Based on participation in class discussions. You can also improve your participation grade by attending Latin American Studies Program events (15%)

The Plus/Minus system of grading applies in this course.

93-100	A	80-82	B-	67-69	D+
92-90	A-	77-79	C+	63-66	D
87-89	B+	73-76	C	62-60	D-
83-86	B	70-72	C-	59-0	F

Assignment Descriptions:

1. Annotated Bibliography: Write one page describing your idea for your research paper on a lesson from Latin America. What is the topic? What “how” or “why” question are you trying to answer? What argument do you expect to make in response to that question? I strongly suggest that you discuss your ideas with me well before beginning the bibliography so I can help you narrow in on a topic that interests you. Attach a preliminary bibliography, in which you identify and describe (1-2 sentences each) at least 10 scholarly sources (15 for graduate students) that you will use to answer your research question.
2. Research Paper: 15 pages for undergraduates, 25 pages for graduate students, not including bibliography.
3. Final Presentation: Give a 10-minute presentation to the rest of the class on your research.
4. Reading Quizzes: These will be at the beginning of most classes. They will be short (five minutes) and focus on the content of the readings. The final question on each quiz will be an opportunity for you to pose a question about the reading. I will choose a few of your questions each day to help direct our in-class discussions.

All assignments should be double-spaced in Times New Roman size 12 font with a one-inch margin on all sides. Number your pages. Use Chicago Style footnote citations (for guidelines on proper citation format, see guide on Blackboard under Content and http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). **Turn in your assignments on time—there will be a penalty of 10% for each day that an assignment is late.** You will only be allowed to turn in an assignment late without penalty if you have a documented emergency.

Expectations:

1. Participation. I expect you to do the readings, bring the readings to class, and participate in discussions.
2. Attention. I expect you to close your laptops and put them away during lectures and presentations. Take notes by hand.
3. Communication.
 - a. If you have a question, don't hesitate to raise your hand and ask or contact me privately. If you have a problem or an emergency arises, let me know and I will be very willing to work with you.
 - b. If you need an accommodation for any type of physical or learning disability, medical needs, or any other reason, you should meet with the student disability services office and then meet with me privately to discuss the modifications necessary to ensure your full participation in the course.
 - c. When emailing me, address your emails to “Professor Keller” or “Dr. Keller.”
4. Proper Academic Conduct. It is your responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the College of Arts and Science's Academic Conduct Code, available at: <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>. I will refer cases of suspected academic misconduct to the Dean's Office.

Required Reading

1. Felipe Arocena and Kirk Bowman, *Lessons from Latin America* (New York: University of Toronto Press, 2014). Listed as “Arocena and Bowman” in assigned readings. Available at the BU Bookstore, as an e-book through the BU Library website, and on reserve at Mugar Library.
2. News coverage of Latin American current events in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. **We will discuss current events at the beginning of class every Tuesday, unless there is a visitor that day.**
3. In addition, there are a number of articles and book chapters assigned for specific classes. These are listed in the schedule that follows and may be found on the class Blackboard web site under Content.

Classes, Topics, and Reading Assignments

- T, Jan 20 Introduction
- Course Overview
 - Discussion of Stereotypes of Latin America
- Th, Jan 22 Gender and Representation
- Arocena and Bowman, 21-34
- T, Jan 27 Peruvian Public Health Initiatives: *Visit from Prof. Kirk Dearden*
- Wellin E, “Water boiling in a Peruvian town” in Paul BD (ed.) *Health, Culture, and Community: Case Studies of Public Reactions to Health Programs* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1955), 71-106
- Th, Jan 29 How to End a Civil War: the Case of El Salvador (1980-1992): *Visit from Ambassador Francisco Altschul and Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Liduvina Magarin*
- Arocena and Bowman, 51-64
 - Additional reading TBA
- T, Feb 3 Counting the Votes and Aggregating Political Preferences
- Arocena and Bowman, 35-50
- Th, Feb 5 Beyond the Headlines @BUPardeeSchool Event: Secret Diplomacy and U.S.-Cuban Relations: *Visit from Profs. William LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh*
- **Meet at 121 Bay State Road**
 - William M. LeoGrande and Peter Kornbluh, *Back Channel to Cuba: The Hidden History of Negotiations Between Washington and Havana* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014), 1-5 and 402-417
 - Jon Lee Anderson, “Obama and Castro Seize History,” *The New Yorker*, December 18, 2014

- T, Feb 10 Brazil's Cinema Novo
Film, "Terra em Transe" (112 min)
- Th, Feb 12 Brazil's Cinema Novo: *Visit from Prof. Rodrigo Lopes de Barros*
 - Glauber Rocha, "The Aesthetics of Hunger"
- T, Feb 17 NO CLASS—MONDAY SCHEDULE**
- TH, Feb 19 Comparative Post-Conflict Resolution Experiences in Latin America: *Visit from Prof. Scott Palmer*
 - Palmer, Scott, "A Road Less Traveled By: Difficult Post-Conflict Reconciliation Processes in Peru" *REVISTA: Harvard Review of Latin America*, Fall 2014 (14:1), 89-91.
(<http://revista.drclas.harvard.edu/book/road-less-traveled>)
 - Additional reading TBA
- T, Feb 24 The Awakening of Indigenous Culture
 - Arocena and Bowman, 67-84
 - Visit from Librarian Susan Wishinsky
- Th, Feb 26 Agriculture and Rural Economic Development: *Visit from Prof. Rachael Garrett*
 - Garrett, R. D. & Rausch, L. "Green for gold: social and ecological tradeoffs influencing the sustainability of the Brazilian soy industry." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, In Press
- T, Mar 3 Liberation Theology: *Visit from Prof. John Hart*
 - Reading assignment TBA
- Th, Mar 5 Race Relations
 - Arocena and Bowman, 85-105
- T, Mar 10: Spring Break**
Th, Mar 12: Spring Break
- T, Mar 17 The Delayed Revolution and the Rise of the South
 - Arocena and Bowman, 123-138
 - **Annotated Bibliography Due**
- Th, Mar 19 Forensic Anthropology in Latin America: *Visit from Prof. Jonathan Bethard*
 - Ana María Gómez López and Andrés Patiño Umaña, "Who is Missing? Problems in the Application of Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology in Colombia's Conflict," in *Forensic Archaeology and Human Rights Violations*, edited by Roxana Ferllini (Springfield: Charles C. Thomas Publisher, 2007), 170-204

- T, Mar 24 Retirement with Dignity?
- Arocena and Bowman, 139-156
- Th, Mar 26 Mestizo International Law: *Visit from Prof. Arnulf Becker Lorca*
- Arnulf Becker Lorca, *Mestizo International Law: A Global Intellectual History, 1842-1933* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 1-11 and 305-355
- T, Mar 31 Global Lessons From the Beautiful Game
- Arocena and Bowman, 157-179
- Th, Apr 2 Archaeological Heritage and Patrimony in Latin America: *Visit from Prof. David Carballo*
- Christopher Heaney, “Stealing From the Incas,” *The New York Times*, October 7, 2007
 - David Barstow and Alejandra Xanic von Bertrab, “The Bribery Aisle: How Walmart Got Its Way in Mexico,” *The New York Times*, December 17, 2012
- T, Apr 7 Immigration’s Impact in the United States
- Arocena and Bowman, 106-120
- Th, Apr 9 Immigration’s Impact in Latin America: *Visit from Prof. Susan Eckstein*
- Susan Eckstein and Adil Najam, eds., *How Immigrants Impact Their Homelands* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013). Chapter 1.
 - Susan Eckstein, “Remittances and Their Unintended Consequences in Cuba,” *World Development* 38:7 (July 2010), 1047-1055
- T, Apr 14 Research Paper Workshop
- **Bring 2 copies of your research paper**
- Th, Apr 16 Latin American Debt Crises and Liberal Neo-Developmentalism: *Visit from Prof. Cornel Ban*
- Cornel Ban, “Brazil’s Liberal Neo-Developmentalism: New Paradigm or Edited Orthodoxy?” *Review of International Political Economy* (2012)
- T, Apr 21 Student Presentations
- Th, Apr 23 Pre-Texts Workshop
- Doris Sommer, *The Work of Art in the World: Civic Agency and Public Humanities* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014). **Read Prologue and Chapter 1 on the BU Library website (p1-48)**
- T, Apr 28 Student Presentations

Th, Apr 30

Student Presentations

- Arocena and Bowman, 180-187
- **Final Research Paper Due**