

Spring 2023  
Office Hours (SBS N331): Mondays (1-2pm), Wed (3-4pm); please  
schedule an appt in advance.

**Field Seminar: Modern Latin America**  
(HIS 542/CEG 517)

Professor Eric Zolov  
Wednesdays, 6pm-9pm  
SBS 318

**Description:** This Field Seminar introduces students to some of the central debates within the field of Latin American history since independence. It is designed to accommodate the divergent goals and diverse background knowledge of MA, MAT, and PhD students in the graduate program in History. Although not inclusive of all historical approaches, the course aims to introduce students to many of the most relevant historiographical discussions across as broad a temporal and geographic range as possible, with a particular focus on the 19th & 20th century. Each thematic unit is divided into two sessions, with the first week oriented towards understanding historiographical context and the second week focusing on a specific, recently published monograph. MAT students will have a distinct set of requirements (and in certain instances, of reading assignments) aimed at preparing them with a more generalized understanding of the region.

**REQUIREMENTS (MAT STUDENTS)**

**Participation/Attendance (20%):** Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classroom discussions. This means having read the assigned materials for that session and coming to class with questions relevant to the readings. Excused absences will require a 3-page make-up essay that addresses a central theme of that week's reading assignment.

**Classroom Presentation (20%):** Lecture presentation on historical context for one of the selected week's topics. Lectures should be designed for an advanced high-school audience and strictly limited to 15 minutes followed by 10-15 minutes of Q&A. Sign-up sheet required.

**Primary Source Discussion (20%):** Primary source document-led discussion corresponding to one of the selected week's topics (must be different from "Classroom Presentation"). You are expected to organize the class to engage in active "student-centered learning" using the primary source document and your knowledge of the topic. This involves coming up with analytical questions that will stimulate discussion at all levels of learning. Examples of relevant primary sources include editorial cartoons, music/song, photographs, political posters, and advertisements. You must provide the original citation for your primary source and design the appropriate means for disseminating to the classroom for discussion. Length of discussion will be strictly limited to 30 minutes. Sign-up sheet required.

**Final Essay (40%):** Choose any one topic that you gained new insights about this semester with respect to Latin American history and write an 8-10 page essay that unpacks three "teachable" themes related to that topic. Possible topics include: Populism, Cold War, Cuban Revolution, U.S. Interventionism, Economic Development, etc. You must include references to texts used during the semester but may also bring in external texts as relevant.

### REQUIREMENTS (MA & PHD STUDENTS)

**Participation/Attendance (20%):** Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classroom discussions. This means having read the assigned materials for that session and coming to class with questions relevant to the readings. Excused absences will require a 3-page make-up essay that addresses either the epistemology, methodology, or historiographic aspect of that week's reading assignment (may not be combined with "Reading Reflection" below).

**Reading Reflections (30%):** Each student is required three 3-page reflections examining the question of epistemology, methodology, or historiography related to a monograph of their choice (one reflection per monograph, for a total of three distinct reflections over the course of the semester). Due the day of class for that reading. No sign-up required.

**Thesis Map (10%):** Each student will be responsible for creating and presenting to the class a "Thesis Map" on one of the major texts (mode of presentation is up to the student). Presentations should be limited to 15 minutes followed by discussion. Sign-up required.

**Final Essay (40%):** **PhD students** will submit an historiographical essay (12-15 pages) that explores in greater depth a body of texts on/related to Latin America, either thematically or by country. The essay should incorporate both course readings and other texts directly relevant to your chosen topic. It should explore shared and divergent aspects that link a body of texts into a historiographical discussion, one that establishes both the "state of the field" as well as the "future direction" in which you regard (or wish to see) the field to be headed. **MA students** will write a critical review of

### STATEMENT ON SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

I expect a high degree of professionalism for all written work. All work must be typed in 12 pt. font (Times/Times New Roman), 1 1/2 spacing, with 1-inch margins. All work must include your name, an original title (not simply, "Essay One"), and page numbers. All direct quotations and references to other authors' ideas require a footnote (placed at the bottom of the page) using Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) formatting. For those unfamiliar with CMS formatting and/or need a refresher, visit the [Writing Resources](#) page at the [History Department](#) website. There, you will find a description of CMS and a template for footnoting different types of source citations, as well as other tips/resources for developing strength in writing.

**Required Texts** (We will read these in the order listed; where possible, these have been placed on 2-hr reserve in Melville Library):

Peter Guardino, *The Dead March: A History of the Mexican-American War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2020).

Michel Gobat, *Empire by Invitation: William Walker and Manifest Destiny in Central America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2018)

Eduardo Elena, *Dignifying Argentina: Peronism, Citizenship, and Mass Consumption* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011).

Elizabeth Schwall, *Dancing with the Revolution: Power, Politics, and Privilege in Cuba* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021)

Mary Kay Vaughan, *Portrait of a Young Painter: Pepe Zuñiga and Mexico City's Rebel Generation* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014)

Benjamin A. Cowan, *Securing Sex: Morality and Repression in the Making of Cold War Brazil* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2016)

**Additional Required Texts** (MAT and MA students):

Ada Ferrer, *Cuba: An American History* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2021)

John Chasteen, *Born in Blood & Fire: A Concise History of Latin America* (New York: WW Norton, 2016; fourth edition)

**Additional Recommended Text** (MAT and MA students):

Eduardo Galeano, *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1973; 1997)

**NOTE:** An additional, required readings packet containing the chapters & articles listed below is available at the FedEx office (basement of library) for purchase. You must bring a hard copy of readings to class.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

### **Week 1 (Jan. 25): Introduction**

Required (All)

David Frum, "[The New History Wars](#)," *The Atlantic Magazine*, 30 October 2022 (online).

James Sweet, "[Is History History?: Identity Politics and Teleologies of the Present](#)," 17 August 2022, *Perspectives on History* (AHA) and Sweet's apology, "Author's Note," 19 August 2022.

Barbara Weinstein, "Buddy, Can You Spare a Paradigm?: Reflections on Generational Shifts and Latin American History," *The Americas* 57:4 (April 2001): 453-466.

## **Week 2 (Feb. 1): Peasant Politics and Nation-Building-I**

### MATs & MAs

Chasteen, *Born in Fire and Blood: A Concise History of Latin America*, Chaps 4 ("Independence") and 5 ("Postcolonial Blues")

"Introduction: Popular Culture and State Formation in Revolutionary Mexico" in Gilbert Joseph and Daniel Nugent, eds., *Everyday Forms of State Formation: Revolution and Negotiation of Rule in Modern Mexico* (Duke University Press, 1994), pp. 3-23.

### PhDs & MAs

Gilbert Joseph and Daniel Nugent, eds., *Everyday Forms of State Formation: Revolution and Negotiation of Rule in Modern Mexico* (Duke University Press, 1994)

"Introduction: Popular Culture and State Formation in Revolutionary Mexico" (3-23)

Florencia Mallon, "Reflection on the Ruins: Everyday Forms of State Formation in Nineteenth-Century Mexico" (69-106)

Susan Deans-Smith & Gilbert Joseph, eds., *Mexico's New Cultural History: ¿Una Lucha Libre?* (Special Issue), *Hispanic American Historical Review* 79:2 (May 1999)

"Introduction: Arena of Dispute" (203-208)

Stephen Haber, "Anything Goes: Mexico's 'New' Cultural History" (309-330)

Erick Langer, "Bringing the Economic Back In: Andean Indians and the Construction of the Nation-State in Nineteenth-Century Bolivia," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 41:3 (August 2009): 527-551.

## **Week 3 (Feb. 8): Peasant Politics & Nation Building-II**

Peter Guardino, *The Dead March: A History of the Mexican-American War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2020).

## **Week 4 (Feb. 15): Pan-Americanisms-I**

### Required (All)

Friedrich Katz, "Pancho Villa and the Attack on Columbus, New Mexico," *American Historical Review* 83:1 (1978): 101-30.

Louis Pérez, Jr., "Incurring a Debt of Gratitude: 1898 and the Moral Sources of United States Hegemony in Cuba," *The American Historical Review* 104:2 (April 1999): 356-398.

MATs & MAs

Chasteen, *Born in Fire and Blood*, Chaps. 6 ("Progress") and 7 ("Neocolonialism")

"Foreword" in Gilbert Joseph, et. al., *Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations* (ix-xii).

PhDs & MAs

Gilbert Joseph, et. al., *Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations* (Duke University Press, 1998)

"Foreword" (ix-xii), "Introduction" (3-46), "Enterprise of Knowledge" (69-104), & "Social Fields & Social Encounters" 515-24)

**Week 5 (Feb. 22): Pan-Americanisms-II**

Michel Gobat, *Empire by Invitation: William Walker and Manifest Destiny in Central America* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2018)

**Week 6 (March 1): Populism, Middle Classes & Consumer Practices-I**Required (All)

Matthew Karush, "Populism, Melodrama, and the Market: The Mass Cultural Origins of Peronism" in Matthew Karush and Oscar Chamosa, eds., *The New Cultural History of Peronism: Power and Identity in Mid-Twentieth-Century Argentina* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010), pp. 21-52.

Julio Moreno, *Yankee Don't Go Home!: Mexican Nationalism, American Business Culture, and the Shaping of Modern Mexico, 1920-1950* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), Chap. 6 ("In Search of Markets"), pp. 172-206.

James Woodard, *Brazil's Revolution in Commerce: Creating Consumer Capitalism in the American Century* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2020), Chap. 4 ("A True Revolution in Consumption & Commerce").

MATs & MAs

Chasteen, *Born in Blood & Fire*, Chap. 8 ("Nationalism")

PhDs & MAs

A. Ricardo López and Barbara Weinstein, eds., *The Making of the Middle Class: Towards a Transnational History* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2012)

"Introduction: Toward a Transnational History of the Middle Class" (1-25)

"A Middle-Class Revolution: The APRA Party and Middle-Class Identity in Peru, 1931-1956" (235-52)

### **Week 7 (March 8): Populism, Middle Classes & Consumer Practices-II**

Eduardo Elena, *Dignifying Argentina: Peronism, Citizenship, and Mass Consumption* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011)

### **Week 8 (March 15): Spring Break**

### **Week 9 (March 22): Cuban Revolutionary Stories**

#### MATs (Optional for MAs or below)

Ada Ferrer, *Cuba: An American Story* (NY: Scribner, 2022)

Elizabeth Schwall, "Between *Espíritu* and *Conciencia*: Cabaret and Ballet Developments in 1960s Cuba" in Michael Bustamante and Jennifer Lambe, eds., *The Revolution from Within: Cuba, 1959-1980* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2019), 146-69.

#### PhDs (Optional for MAs or above)

Elizabeth Schwall, *Dancing with the Revolution: Power, Politics, and Privilege in Cuba* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021)

### **Week 10 (March 29): Popular Culture & Political Subjectivities-I**

#### Required (All)

Anne Rubenstein, "Bodies, Cities, Cinema: Pedro Infante's Death as Political Spectacle" in Gilbert Joseph, et. al., *Fragments of a Golden Age: The Politics of Culture in Mexico Since 1940* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2001), pp. 199-233.

Alfonso Salgado, "Making Friends and Making Out: The Social and Romantic Lives of Young Communists in Chile (1958-1973), *The Americas* 76:2 (April 2019): 299-326.

Eric Zolov, "Expanding our Conceptual Horizons: The Shift from an Old to a New Left in Latin America," *A Contracorriente* 5:2 (Winter 2008): 47-73.

Vania Markarian, "To the Beat of 'The Walrus': Uruguayan Communists and Youth Culture in the Global Sixties," *The Americas* 70:3 (January 2014): 363-92.

#### MATs

Chasteen, *Born in Blood & Fire*, Chap. 9 ("Revolution")

#### PhDs & MAs

Michele Hilmes, "Postscript: Sound Representation" in Alejandra Bronfman and Andrew Grant Wood, eds., *Media, Sound, & Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2012), pp. 122-26.

### **Week 11 (April 5): NO CLASS (Passover)**

## **Week 12 (April 12): Popular Culture & Political Subjectivities-II**

Mary Kay Vaughan, *Portrait of a Young Painter: Pepe Zuñiga and Mexico City's Rebel Generation* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014)

## **Week 13 (April 19): Global Cold War-I**

### Required (All)

Gilbert Joseph, "What We Now Know and Should Know: Bringing Latin America More Meaningfully into Cold War Studies" in Gilbert Joseph and Daniela Spenser, eds., *In From the Cold: Latin America's New Encounter with the Cold War* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2008), pp. 3-46.

Tanya Harmer, *Allende's Chile & the Inter-American Cold War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2011), Introduction, Chap. 1 & "A Note on Sources"

Thomas Field, et. al, eds., *Latin America in the Global Cold War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2020), "Introduction: Between Nationalism and Internationalism"

Hal Brands, *Latin America's Cold War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010), Introduction & Chap. 1.

Jonathan Brown, *Cuba's Revolutionary World* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2017), Introduction.

### MATs

Chasteen, *Born in Blood & Fire*, Chap. 10 ("Reaction")

### PhDs & MAs

Vanni Pettina, *A Compact History of Latin America's Cold War*, trans. by Quentin Pope (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022), Chap. 1.

Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America in the Cold War*, "Introduction" and "Conclusion"

## **Week 14 (April 26): Global Cold War-II**

Benjamin A. Cowan, *Securing Sex: Morality and Repression in the Making of Cold War Brazil* (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2016)

## **Week 15: (May 3): Last Class**