HISTORY 131: LATIN AMERICA SINCE INDEPENDENCE
BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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This course will provide an overview of nineteenth and twentieth century Latin American history. The emphasis will be on analyzing the region through brief portraits of some of its larger or most influential countries, including Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Cuba, Peru and Colombia.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify major periods and figures in Latin America since 1821.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the narrative framework and factual basis of Latin American history since 1821.
3. Identify and analyze the important political, economic, social, intellectual and religious forces that shaped the above period.
4. Summarize and interpret the continuity and change that occurs in Latin America from 1821 until the present.
5. Demonstrate the ability to develop a thesis and support it with historical evidence both in writing and orally.
6. Demonstrate basic research skills by locating and using source materials.
7. Summarize, paraphrase and quote historical information in properly cited written analyses.
8. Demonstrate the ability to state and support an interpretation of historical issues concisely, coherently and logically.

Grades will be Based on the Following Rubric:

First essay: 33%
Second essay: 33%
Third essay: 34%

All essays will be assigned at least two weeks in advance. In addition, either of the first two essays may be rewritten for a higher grade. Last but not least, class participation is roundly encouraged. Those who participate on a regular basis and do so in a constructive manner will gain up to five points on their final mark.

As a matter of etiquette and basic respect, you will be asked to shut off your cell phone once class begins. Under no circumstances is texting permissible and those who do so may be asked to leave.

My office hours are 12:30-1:30pm on Mondays and 5-6 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in A-325C. If these are inconvenient, I am also available by appointment. Please keep in mind that office visits are an excellent way to resolve doubts about class, revise rough drafts or make headway in any stage of the writing process.

Academic Dishonesty:

In accordance with school policy, academic dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated. Students must submit their own work and properly credit all outside
sources. Essays bearing the marks of plagiarism will receive a grade of 0 and will greatly damage any chance for success in the class.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students who require accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) can request these services from the Office of Specialized Services. To learn more about how to apply for services, please visit them at: http://www.bergen.edu/oss.

**Reading List:**

*Biography of Power: A History of Modern Mexico, 1810-1996* by Enrique Krauze  
*Facundo or Civilization and Barbarism* by Domingo Sarmiento  
*Looking for History: Dispatches from Latin America* by Alma Guillermoprieto

Other assigned readings will be posted on-line throughout the semester.

**Please note that every book on the reading list is available on reserve at the Bergen Community College library.**

**Class Calendar:**

Part I: Early State Formation  
January 24: Insurgent Priests and Collapse of the Creoles  
January 31: The Indian Shepherd and the Austrian Archduke  
February 7: Nineteenth Century Brazil  
February 14: The Early Argentine Republic

Part II: United States Intervention, Revolution & Dictatorship  
February 21: Porfirio Díaz and the Mexican Revolution  
**First Essay Due**  
February 28: Lázaro Cárdenas: The Missionary General  
March 6: The Cuban Republic, 1902-1958  
March 13: The Cuban Revolution  
March 27: Juan and Evita Perón

Part III: Weak Central Governments, Drug Trafficking & Poverty Reduction  
April 3: Mexico’s Zapatistas and Peru’s Shining Path  
**Second Essay Due**  
April 10: Colombia’s Left Wing Guerrillas and Right Wing Paramilitaries  
April 17: The Medellín and Cali Cartels  
April 24: Brazil’s Favelas and the Drug Wars in Mexico’s Border Cities  
May 1: Conditional Cash Transfers, a Fix for Latin American Poverty and Income Inequality  
May 8: **Take Home Final Exam Due**