DICTATORSHIPS
IN LATIN AMERICA

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HIST 580: Section 1: Dictatorships in Latin America meets on Professional Studies and Fine Arts, Classroom 318 every Thursday 4:00pm-6:40pm.
Dictatorships in Latin America existed since the 19th century, but the aim of this course is to understand the dictatorships happening in the region in the 1960 to 1990 period. The course will focus on a comparison of Brazil, Argentina and Chile through a transnational understanding of the Cold War era. Within this transnational perspective the bibliography and lectures will consider how the Soviet Union influenced the region and pay especial attention to the role of the United States.

In relation to what happened in Latin America during this period, Nobel Price writer Gabriel García Márquez spoke like this in his famous 1982 acceptance speech:

“...We have not had a moment's rest. A promethean president, entrenched in his burning palace, died fighting an entire army, alone; and two suspicious airplane accidents, yet to be explained, cut short the life of another great-hearted president and that of a democratic soldier who had revived the dignity of his people. There have been five wars and seventeen military coups; there emerged a diabolic dictator who is carrying out, in God's name, the first Latin American ethnocide of our time. In the meantime, twenty million Latin American children died before the age of one -- more than have been born in Europe since 1970. Those missing because of repression number nearly one hundred and twenty thousand, which is as if no one could account for all the inhabitants of Uppsala. Numerous women arrested while pregnant have given birth in Argentine prisons, yet nobody knows the whereabouts and identity of their children who were furtively adopted or sent to an orphanage by order of the military authorities. Because they tried to change this state of things, nearly two hundred thousand men and women have died throughout the continent, and over one hundred thousand have lost their lives in three small and ill-fated countries of Central America: Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. If this had happened in the United States, the corresponding figure would be that of one million six hundred thousand violent deaths in four years.

One million people have fled Chile, a country with a tradition of hospitality -- that is, ten per cent of its population. Uruguay, a tiny nation of two and a half million inhabitants which considered itself the continent's most civilized country, has lost to exile one out of every five citizens. Since 1979, the civil war in El Salvador has produced almost one refugee every twenty minutes. The country that could be formed of all the exiles and forced emigrants of Latin America would have a population larger than that of Norway.”

After 1990 most of Latin America transitioned to democracy again and the perpetrators of state terrorism during the previous era in some cases were forced to face the bar of justice. Discussions about what happened during the last dictatorships in Latin America are to this day one of the most issues for public opinion in many countries. This is why this course will not only deal with the events between 1960 and 1990 but also with the way they have been remembered between 1990 and today.

This course will present a variety of ways to approach the topic at hand. Students will read original documents, such as articles from the New York Times and other newspapers, translated accounts of the victims of state terrorism, and declassified historical documents.
secretly issued at the time by the CIA and the US Department of State. Understanding these primary sources requires reading of the work of historians, political scientists, anthropologists, literary critics and journalists. In order to explore the memory of dictatorships a number of movies produced from 1985 to the present will be shown throughout the semester.

**Grading**

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<th>Due Date</th>
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<td>- First Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Oct, 25th</td>
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<td>- Brief Exams</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Sept, 13th / Oct, 11th / Nov, 15th</td>
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<td>- Presentations</td>
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<td>- Final Essay</td>
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**Assignments and Due Dates**

Students will still be expected to complete assignments on time. If you have any problems doing so, please contact me to explain your situation at least two days before the due date; otherwise, late assignments will lower your grade. Make-up assignments will only be granted if a serious emergency occurs and there will be no extra-grade opportunities.

**Class Attendance**

Your presence is a fundamental component in the process of learning and it is mandatory. More than two absences will significantly affect your grade and you will fail the course if you are absent more than three times. Students are also expected to be on time and should not leave class early without prior notification.
Students will read the bibliography and be prepared to discuss it by the dates listed in the schedule. The reading materials may be challenging, but you will find that with patience and practice, you can keep up and fully participate in the course. Not doing the reading – or allowing yourself to fall far behind – will leave you unable to understand lectures and participate in discussions. This could seriously affect your grade.

In addition to knowing the reading materials, students will also take lecture and class notes. In addition to the bibliography, the professor will provide handouts of primary sources and other documents and guidelines. Students will also study those materials for the assignments.

Any information provided by the professor in class is considered part of the content of this course and students should always keep track of it.

Students cannot cellphones for the duration of the class. Laptops, E-books and I-Pads can ONLY be used in class if students are reading bibliography and documents related to the course.

PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is expected of every student. Students must not plagiarize the work of others. This means that if you quote directly from any author’s work (including texts on Internet sites), you must put quotation marks around that material, and you must cite it in a footnote or endnote. Plagiarism also includes using someone else’s phrases, strings of words, special terms, or ideas and interpretations without citing your source, even if you have not quoted directly from that source.

In short, you must give credit where it is due. If you have doubts, feel free to come and ask me, or check the SDSU General Catalogue for more information. Cheating on any exam or plagiarizing on papers will result in a failing grade for the course.

Bibliography

Mandatory:

Class Reader


Optional:


Class Schedule

August 30th

*First Week*

**Economic Decline, Political Radicalization and Military Dictatorships in Latin America**
Movie: Night of the Pencils / La Noche de los Lápices, by Hector Olivera, 1986

September 6th  Second Week

The Origins of the Cold War and the 1954 Guatemalan Coup

Rabe, Introduction and p. 1-58

On Blackboard:

Monroe Doctrine
Roosevelt Corollary
Platt Amendment
“The Sweet Smell of Success” CIA declassified document.

September 13th  Third Week

BRIEF EXAM

Latin America, the United States and the Cold War

Reader:

Hobsbawm, p. 225-56.

On Blackboard:

The Good Neighbor Policy
The Rio Treaty
The Menace of Communism
A Realist Views Latin America, Kennan

September 20th  Fourth Week

The Cuban Revolution from 1959 to 1971
Reader:

Pérez-Stable, p. 58-102.
The United States Rules Cuba, 1952-1958
How the Poor Got More
The Literacy Campaign
The “Rehabilitation” of Prostitutes
The Family Code

September 27th

| Cuba, the United States and Latin America |

Rabe, p. 59-113

Reader:

Lessons of the Bay of Pigs, Kennedy
The Alliance for Progress
Rostow, pp. 4–16
Two, Three, Many Vietnams, “Che” Guevara

October 4th

| State Terrorism throughout the Americas |

Rabe, 114–143

Reader:

When States Kill, p. 3–27.
Some People Die of Fear, p. 13–25

October 11th

| BRIEF EXAM |

| Dictatorship in Brazil |
from 1964 to 1985

Reader:

Skidmore, 153-179.
James Green, p. 177-223, 233-254.

*Movie:* The year my parents went on vacation, Cao Hamburger, 2006

October 18th

**Eighth Week**

The Chilean Coup

1973

Burbach, p. 1-73.

Reader:

Selection from Chile: the Other September 11

*Movie:* Machuca

October 25th

**Ninth Week**

First Essay Due

State Terrorism and Dictatorship in Argentina

from 1976 to 1983

Reader:

Feitlowitz, p. 3-88.


November 8th

**Tenth Week**

State Terrorism in South and Central America, 1970s-1980s

Rabe, 144-195
Reader:

When States Kill, 28-56

November 15th       Eleventh Week

BRIEF EXAM

The Legacy of the Dictatorship in
Argentina and Brazil

Auyero, p. 29-79
Caldeira, p. 19-53

THANKSGIVING DAY
(November 22nd)

November 29th       Thirteenth Week

Chilean and Global Resistance
against Dictatorships

Burbach, 77-160

December 6th       Fourteenth Week

Review and Discussion of
Primary Documents

FINALS WEEK
(From December 8th to 15th)

FINAL ESSAY DUE ON DECEMBER 13th