Latin America Revolutions (HIST 391)

“In this part of the world the possibility is almost totally gone for there to be a peaceful transition to socialism.”
- Ernesto “Che” Guevara (1963)

Spring 2012, Truman State University
MC 208, TR 3:00-4:20
Office: KB 225A
Marc Becker
marc@truman.edu
Phone: x6036

Description
This course will present a critical comparative analysis of twentieth-century revolutionary movements in Latin America. We will examine these events through the lens of those who participated in these activities. What socio-political conditions led to a revolutionary situation? What were the differing responses to those conditions? What did these revolutions seek to accomplish? What were the outcomes of these revolutionary changes? In addressing these issues, we will emphasize the themes of nationalism, state formation, imperialism, agrarian reform, leadership strategies, and citizenship. The goal of this class is to acquire a more complex understanding of the nature of exploitation and oppression in Latin America and the continuing struggles for social justice.

This course meets the Intercultural Perspectives requirement of the Liberal Studies Program. As such, it will provide you with a greater knowledge and appreciation of cultural diversity through the study of encounters of Indigenous, European, and African worlds in the Latin America. Hopefully this course will make you more aware of how culture has been used for political and social ends, including confronting racial discrimination, economic exploitation, and social injustice.

Requirements
Our goal in this class is to challenge existing assumptions, engage alternative viewpoints, and encourage critical thinking. Through the study of history, we seek to empower ourselves to be better citizens, and to provide ourselves with the skills necessary to play a positive and educated role in society. We need to be active constituents rather than mere recipients of our education. To accomplish those tasks, we should strive to create an open and supportive learning environment. Regular attendance and active participation are also necessary. Please drop me a note if you are unable to attend, or if you have any concerns or suggestions for improving the class.

Readings
Reading for each week's topic will be posted to Blackboard. Read the assignments before class so that you are prepared to carry on an intelligent discussion of the material in class.

Assignments and grades
Course grades will be based on the following assignments. You can check your grade progress on the class Blackboard web page (there is a total of 1000 possible points in the class).
Assignments are due at the beginning of class, I do not accept “drop and run” papers. Grades on late assignments will be penalized 10 percent for each day that they are late. Successful completion of all assignments is required to receive credit for this class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response papers (14 x 20 pts ea)</td>
<td>280 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historiographic paper</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post presentation writing</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
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**Response papers**: Prepare a one-page written response to each week’s readings. Briefly state the authors’ main arguments and the evidence that they use. Examine the use of sources, methodology, and theory. Provide your own assessment or critique of the readings. The essays are due each Thursday for that week's readings, and must be typed, double spaced, and include citations.

**Presentation and historiographic paper**: Groups of two will present on one of each week's topics and write a ten-page historiographic paper on that topic. As part of the presentation, in consultation with me select a primary source document for the entire class to read. This primary source should be an artifact (a letter, document, poem, image, etc.) from the period under discussion, and typically will be one-page in length. Have me approve the source in time to post to Blackboard the week before we will discuss the topic. Primary source documents can be found in our microfilm collection; see http://library.truman.edu/microforms/subject_list.asp#Latin%20American%20History.

On the Thursday of each week, the small group will begin with a ten-minute presentation on the material to the class followed by a discussion of the readings. Prepare a list of discussion questions for the class to guide the discussion.

Also on Thursday, submit a ten-page historiographic paper drawing on four to six sources related to the topic for that week, comparing the approaches, use of sources, and arguments in each source. The essays must be typed, double spaced, and include citations and page numbers. The library has a guide for locating sources for this assignment at http://library.truman.edu/subsplus/subjects/display.php?subject=LatinAmericanStudies. Erin Blankers <emb8773@truman.edu> is taking this class for graduate credit, and as part of her coursework will help groups assemble bibliographies and select primary sources.

**Post presentation writing**: On the Tuesday after your presentation, submit a one-page evaluation/critique of your presentation, indicating what went well and what could have been improved.

**Participation**: The participation grade is not based on attendance (although this is expected and required), but on an active engagement with classroom discussions.


**Final exam**: The final exam is cumulative.

**Class Schedule**

Week 1 (Jan 10/12)  Intro  
**Tues, Jan 12**: Meet in Pickler 103

Week 2 (Jan 17/19)  Anarchism  

Week 3 (Jan 24/26)  Emiliano Zapata  

Week 4 (Jan 31/Feb 2)  José Carlos Mariátegui  

Week 5 (Feb 7/9)  Communist International  

Week 6 (Feb 14)  Guatemalan Spring  

Week 7 (Feb 21/23)  MNR  
Week 8 (Feb 28/March 1)  Cuban Revolution

Week 9 (March 13/15)  Che Guevara

Week 10 (March 20/22)  Guerrilla Wars

Week 11 (March 27/29)  Chilean Path to Socialism
  Read: Peter Winn, "Salvador Allende: His Political Life...and Afterlife," *Socialism and Democracy* 19, no. 3 (39) (November 2005): 129-60.

Week 12 (April 3/5)  Sandinistas

Week 13 (April 10/12)  Sendero

Week 14 (April 19)  Zapatistas

Week 15 (April 24/26)  Venezuela

Final exam: Thursday, May 3, 11:30-1:20