

HIS 216
“U.S.-Latin American Relations”

Satisfies: GLO, SBS

Thematic Categories: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections;"
"Law, Politics & Social Justice"

Online, Asynchronous

Instructor: José Manuel Baeza

The political commentator and *New York Times* columnist James Reston once wrote, "The U.S. will do anything for Latin America, except read about it." In this course we will work to prove him wrong. Using a wide array of sources, this course examines the historical relationship between the United States and Latin America since the early nineteenth century, taking into consideration the various and shifting strategic, diplomatic, economic, and cultural forces that account for that relationship. In particular, we will focus on the contested discourse of "Pan-Americanism." To do so, we will examine multiple perspectives incorporating a range of actors, institutions, and ideological forces both in Latin America and the United States. How, when, and why has U.S. strategy toward Latin America evolved over time? Which tactics have Latin American states employed to exert influence over one of the world's prime powers? When and why has the United States sided with progressive forces seeking change, or with reactionary ones looking to uphold the status quo? What was the significance of the Cold War on U.S.-Latin American relations? How local social actors have maneuvered between U.S. and Latin American interests in their own pursuits? While organized chronologically, this course will also develop an understanding of broader themes such as "hegemony," "dependency," "nationalism," and "cultural imperialism." The course is asynchronous, readings will be provided via Brightspace.

HIS/POL 214
Modern Latin America

Satisfies: GLO & SBS

Thematic Categories: "Arts, Ideas & Culture,"
"Empires, Violence & Global Connections," "Law, Politics & Social Justice"

Online Asynchronous

Instructor: José Miguel Munive-Vargas

This course explores the history of the part of the American continent known as “Latin America” and engages students in a discussion that deconstructs traditional historical narratives of the nation. Our study will move chronologically as well as thematically from the era of the Independence Revolutions through the last decade of the 20th century. While our emphasis is on social movements, politics, war, and revolutions, we will examine the cultural variables of such dynamics expressed in the notions of race, class, gender, and nation. These concepts will also illuminate how peoples of indigenous and African descent, as well as a wide range of grassroots movements crucially contributed to the construction of the modern Latin American nation-states. As we examine how the new independent countries struggled to find their way into modern nations, we will enrich our study through the analysis of literary texts and visual sources. Students are required to participate in discussion forums and create a multimedia infographic design based on one a selected topic of the syllabus. All articles, book chapters, and primary sources will be available through Brightspace. No textbook is required.

HIS 393
Soviet Russia

Summer Session-II

Satisfies: SBS+ [DEC: I]

Online Asynchronous

Instructor: Dafina Nedelcheva

In October of 1917 in the midst of World War I, a revolutionary Marxist party seized control of Russia and against all odds it maintained power through civil war, rapid industrialization, colossal loss of life to famine and terror, Nazi invasion and the Cold War, until its remarkably bloodless collapse in the late twentieth century. What made this power grip so robust? What was Communism and how did it triumph in Russia? Who was Lenin and how did people live under Stalin? How life changed during the political and social shifts under Khrushchev and Brezhnev? What led to the transformation under Gorbachev? Why did a regime that withstood a civil war, invasion and the Cold War so easily collapsed in 1991? How has the country continued to transform under Yeltsin and Putin? This course will provide students with the knowledge and tools to answer these questions, tracing the political, social and economic history of the Soviet Union from the disintegration of the Russian Empire through the revolutionary era of Lenin and Stalinism to the height of Soviet power after the Second World War until its dissolution in 1991. No prerequisites and no prior familiarity with Russian history or language is required. The course is held entirely online, delivered asynchronously.

Course requirements: weekly writing assignments and a final paper. Students will be analyzing primary and secondary sources, including academic articles and videos in weekly Blackboard discussions - 1-2 paragraphs answering questions on assigned readings and video material and commenting on classmates' entries. Final paper (6-8 pages in length) in response to an essay question on either one of the following: 1) Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, 2) Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*, or 3) the HBO Miniseries 'Chernobyl'.

Primary textbook: [Nicholas Riasanovsky and Mark Steinberg, *A History of Russia* \(8th edition\)](#)

HIS 221
Modern Africa

Satisfies: GLO, SBS

Thematic Categories: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections," "Health, Science & Environmental Change," "Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities"

Instructor: George Osei

Online, Asynchronous

This course surveys the modern history of Africa, roughly from the 1800s to the present. The continent has long been involved in global interactions that built the modern world, including but not limited to the trade in slaves across the Trans-Saharan networks, the Mediterranean, and the Indian Ocean and later the Atlantic. Topics to be covered include African political and economic transformations, African responses to European imperialism and African religious beliefs. The course will also examine African resistance and independence movements, the formation of independent nations, and postcolonial development in fields including education, art, science, and medicine. Course materials may include films, novels, and oral histories alongside written texts. Course requirements will include weekly discussion posts, map activity, and a final essay. All course materials will be posted on Brightspace. This is an excellent introduction for students interested in Africa and the Diaspora, global and international history, and the study of social movements.

HIS 302
Global Environmental History

Satisfies: STAS

Thematic Categories: "Empires, Violence & Global Connections,"
"Health, Science & Environmental Change"

Instructor: Donal Thomas

Online Asynchronous

Does the environment really matter across time and space, or do we romanticize the importance of the natural world in our past? This course explores the role of human and non-human forces that have shaped the natural environment in places as diverse as Alaska to Australia, the floodplains of the Nile to the rainforests of Amazon, the tundra of the Arctic to the peaks of the Himalayas from the late fourteenth century to the present. We will examine the impact of nature-human interactions across the globe and how the environment is connected or separated to various political, cultural, social events and movements, such as the Columbian encounter, modern Environmentalism, and many others. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, including academic articles, podcasts, videos, and lectures, as we seek to understand how the past has influenced the environment in which we live now. There will be a short response paper, discussion board engagement, and choice of a final paper or recorded podcast/video for the course. No required textbook; all the course materials will be uploaded on Brightspace.