HIST 4007: THE COLD WAR IN LATIN AMERICA
Fall 2015: T & TH 10:10am-11:40am, NC room 225

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Course Description:

Traditional depictions of the twentieth century Cold War have focused on the tense power plays between two ideological poles: the bastions of capitalism (the USA) and communism (the Soviet Union), and the global political flashpoints between these two forces. This course will explore a more recent turn in the literature that expands the exploration of Cold War history by looking at the impact and influence on Latin America during the Cold War. This approach looks beyond the way superpower struggles bled through into Latin American realities, and instead examines how Latin American protagonists helped to shape Cold War politics themselves.

The course will be divided into four thematic units. The first unit will look at how traditional Cold War players interacted and projected onto Latin American crises. This includes not only the big poles of the US and USSR, but also other countries like Eastern Germany and China. The second unit will look at how Latin American countries influenced policies amongst each other during the Cold War, from both the ideological right and left wings. This includes not only Cuba’s policy of helping to foment and support revolution in other parts of Latin America, but also how more conservative military dictators adhering to ideas of national security doctrine coordinated between themselves. The third unit will look at Latin American projections of power in other parts of the world during the Cold War, particularly among other countries in what is now called the Global South (and was then called the Third World.) The fourth and final unit looks at cultural aspects of the Cold War in Latin America.

Students will be evaluated on a number of criteria for their final grade, described in more detail on the next page. As an upper level seminar, an important component of this class is active and engaged participation during class-time. This requires keeping up with the readings, and coming prepared to share your own thoughts on the debates and ideas discussed by the different authors. Students will also have two groups of graded written assignments. The first is a series of three critical reflections on assigned reading material for class. The second is a larger research paper broken into a number of steps throughout the semester. I recommend students begin research and rumination on the final paper as soon as possible. You will be required to do primary research for this project, which may involve time consuming inter-library loan requests, so the sooner students start, the better. You will also be expected to present your research findings during the final week of class.

Course Objectives:

- Introduce students to traditional interpretations of the Cold War in Latin America, and then show how new narratives de-center debates on this global conflict.
- Train students in different forms of analysis and the use of different types of sources, including primary documents.
- Hone writing abilities through revision and critique.
- Build presentation skills and collaborative dialogue.
Required Books:

Monographs & Anthology

- Celeste González de Bustamente “Muy Buenas Noches”: *Mexico, Television and the Cold War* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2013.)

Note: All books are available at the St. Lawrence University Bookstore. All other assigned readings can be found on the course’s Sakai webpage.

Assignments:

There are three principal activities that will form the base of evaluation for a student’s performance in the course:

1. **Weekly Participation in Seminar: 30%** - Students are responsible for reading and critically engaging with the assigned texts each week, and arriving prepared to discuss and exchange ideas with the rest of the class. This will be a small seminar style class, so everyone’s attendance and participation will count significantly. At least once every unit (for a total of four times), each student will be responsible for co-leading class with the professor. A sign up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of the course. General participation is worth 14% of your grade, while each co-leading experience is worth 4%.

2. **Reading Reaction Papers (2-3 pp.): 30%** - For three of the four units, students will write a two to three page reaction paper during one of the weeks they are NOT co-leading class. These papers should critically reflect upon all the readings for the week, and be turned in at the beginning of class that Thursday. The purpose of this exercise is to help you to practice engaging more deeply with the scholarship, which may help you brainstorm for the larger writing projects. It will also allow me to give feedback on writing style and analytical skills to help prepare you for the larger research project. Students may select which one of the four units they want to skip this exercise. You may want to skip in relation to major deadlines in your other courses, or other deadlines in this course, or in relation to personal and intellectual interest.

3. **Research Paper (12-15 pp.): 40%** - Students will write a research paper, which incorporates significant primary source material. This paper will combine these primary sources with other course materials and secondary literature to make an argument on some aspect of the Cold War in Latin America. The process for writing this longer paper will span the full course, and has been broken down into a number of steps with different deadlines. Step 1: the research topic and a clear research question are due by Tuesday,
September 22nd. You should turn these in during office hours, to allow for a short conversation with the Professor. Step 2: an outline and annotated bibliography of the paper is due on Thursday, October 29th. If you have changed your research question, you must also submit the revised question along with the outline/bibliography. Step 3: students will present on their research paper at the end of the course. Step 4: students will turn in the final paper on the first day of finals: Sunday, December 13th.

**Research Assistance:** If there is interest from students, I will work in a general information session with a history research librarian toward the beginning of the course. This may be very useful for the longer research paper.

**Email Policy:** I only check my email once a day, and the time of day varies widely depending on my schedule (and my internet connection). Therefore, you should expect to receive a response within 24-48 hours. If you have an intellectual question about the readings or assignments, please come see me during office hours instead of using email, since direct conversation is a more effective manner of talking through ideas. Plus I would like to get to know you all better as individuals, so please drop by whenever you have a question or just want to chat!

**Office Hours:** I will have open, walk-in office hours every Monday from 4-6pm and Thursdays 12:30-1:30pm. If you need to speak with me, and cannot attend regular office hours, I am also happy to arrange to meet at an alternate time.

**Disability Accommodations:** If you have a disability and need accommodations please be sure to contact the Disability and Accessibility Services Office (x5537) right away so they can help you get the accommodations you require. If you will need to use any accommodations in this class, please talk with me early so you can have the best possible experience this semester. For more specific information visit the DASO website http://www.stlawu.edu/disability-and-accessibility-services

**Course Schedule:**

**UNIT ONE: The Traditional View from the Poles**

**Week 1 (August 26-28):**

**Tuesday (8/27):** Introduction to course + Syllabus; Brief Overview of Historical Background on Latin America

**Week 2: (August 31-September 4):**


(HIST 4007: Cold War in Latin America Syllabus)

Week 3: (September 7-11)

Tuesday (9/8): 1) Readings: Cullather, Chapters 2, 3, 4: pp. 37-123.  


Week 4: (September 14-18):


UNIT TWO: INTER-AMERICAN COLD WAR PERSPECTIVES

Week 5 (September 21-25):


*(Tuesday September 22: Topic and Research Question Due for Research Paper on or before this Day during Normal Office Hours or Appointment)*

(HIST 4007: Cold War in Latin America Syllabus)

Week 6 (September 28 – October 2):


Week 7 (October 5-9): Readings


UNIT THREE: LATIN AMERICAN COLD WAR CONNECTIONS TO THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Week 8 (Oct 12-14):


Week 9 (October 19-23):


Week 10 (October 26-30):


*(Thursday October 29: Outline & Bibliography Due for Research Paper. In Class)*

Week 11 (November 2-6):


**UNIT FOUR: THE COLD WAR AND CULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA**

Week 12 (November 9-13):


Thursday (11/12): Readings: González, Chapters 3, 4, and 5: pp. 53-144.

Week 13 (November 16-20):


(HIST 4007: Cold War in Latin America Syllabus)
**Week 14** (November 30 – December 4):


**Week 15** (December 7-10):

**Tuesday (12/8):** Research Roundtable

**Thursday (12/10):** Roundtable (continued) OR Individual Research Consultations

(Research paper due December 13th)

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**Deadlines at a Glance:**

- Research Topic & Question: Tues., Sept. 22nd (on/before in office hrs.)
- Research Paper Outline/Bib.: Thursday, October 29th (due in class)
- RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE: Tuesday, December 8th (in class)
- FINAL RESEARCH PAPER: Sunday, December 13th (e-mail or hardcopy)

(NOTE: Deadlines for the three reaction papers will vary from student to student)
HISTORY DEPARTMENT COMMON STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Policies and sources on academic integrity
All scholarly endeavor builds on the work of others in the context of the community of learners of which both faculty and students are a part. The integrity of this community can be maintained only by the full, honest, and appropriate acknowledgement of the sources of our data and ideas. The History Department will not tolerate academic dishonesty, including plagiarism on papers, cheating on quizzes and exams, and turning in work you have already submitted in another class. The Department will uphold SLU’s policy on this.

From the Constitution of the Academic Honor Council (http://www.stlawu.edu/resource/student-handbook, 62-63):
“All students at St. Lawrence University are bound by honor to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. By virtue of membership in the St. Lawrence community, every student accepts the responsibility to know the rules of academic honesty, to abide by them at all times, and to encourage all others to do the same.”

“Plagiarism: Presenting as one’s own work the work of another person—words, ideas, data, evidence, thoughts, information, organizing principles, or style of presentation—without proper attribution. Plagiarism includes paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledgment by quotation marks, footnotes, endnotes, or other indices of reference.”

“Responsibility for avoiding behavior or situations from which academic dishonesty may be inferred rests entirely with the students. Claims of ignorance, unintentional error, and academic or personal pressure are not excuses for academic dishonesty. Students should be sure to learn from faculty what is expected as their own work and how the work of other people should be acknowledged. Instructors are expected to maintain conditions which promote academic honesty.”

Further sources of information
We expect all of our students to familiarize themselves with the following:
• Your course syllabus and your professor’s stated expectations on class assignments.
• The full SLU policy on “Academic Integrity Procedures” (the basis of the Academic Honor Card that you signed in FYP), described in the SLU Student Handbook (http://www.stlawu.edu/resource/student-handbook)

For more information on plagiarism, see Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 8th ed., chapter 6: “Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Avoid It.”

If, after reviewing these guidelines, you are still uncertain about anything or have questions, be sure to ask them before you turn in written assignments.

Policies on academic dishonesty
If your professor encounters a suspicious paper or exam, “s/he has the obligation to call the offending student(s) to account” (SLU Student Handbook, 63). Plagiarism cases brought before the Academic Honor Council have resulted in sanctions ranging from failure on the assignment, to failure of the course, to suspension from the University.

A final caveat: Do not underestimate your professors’ ability to detect plagiarism, or our willingness to have suspicious papers and exams investigated. If you can find it on the Web, so can we. Please don’t risk it.

(HIST 4007: Cold War in Latin America Syllabus)