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During the Cold War, Latin America was seen as an important site of both ideological and military conflict. As a result, the region was profoundly shaped by the struggle between the United States and the Soviet Union. This course will examine some of the political, social, and cultural effects of the Cold War on Latin America by studying various important episodes including the Cuban Revolution, Anti-communist dictatorships, and US interventions.

The course will be taught remotely, primarily through discussion on the Webex platform. As a student in the course, you are responsible for doing the reading ahead of class and preparing responses to the discussion questions. Since the enrollment for the class will be limited, you should expect to contribute in every class session.

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I n s t r u c t o r : Mr. J. Pablo Silva (he/him/his)

Office Hours : Mondays and Thursdays 4:20-5:50

and by appointment

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Learning Objectives. By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

Explain the basic periodization of Latin America's Cold War History

Explain the importance of the Guatemalan Revolution, the Cuban Revolution, Guerrilla Movements, and Reactionary Dictatorships

Identify some of the important trends in Latin American thought during the Cold War period

Skills. By the end of the semester, you should have refined your ability to:

Examine primary sources critically and in context in order to use them to provide evidence for arguments

Identify how historical arguments are framed within an existing historiography

Analyze and comment on how historical arguments make use of evidence and make their case

Writing. By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

Create an argument in response to an historical debate

Structure an introduction for a longer paper

Assemble a longer paper out of shorter segments

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Required Books

Secret History: The CIA's Classified Account of Its Operations in Guatemala
The Killing Zone,
Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution,

Recommended Books

The Craft of Research
Style

Cold War Latin America: Assignments

Midterm (23 February), Final (25 May), a Research Paper, and possibly some other short assignments/quizzes. Several of these assignments represent different stages of the paper. But over the course of the term, the most important assignment is to read the assigned text ahead of each class meeting and prepare responses to the discussion questions.

When it comes to the paper, turn in assignments late at your own risk. If assignments are handed in late, they probably won't get reviewed in time to help you and that will make it that much harder to finish the next assignment. You know the due dates and assignments well ahead of time. Plan accordingly.

Grinnell College's Academic Honesty policy is located in the online Student Handbook. It is the College's assumption that students be aware of and meet the expectations expressed in this policy. If you have questions about how a particular assignment relates to the College's policy, I will gladly consult with you in advance of the assignment's due date.

Cold War Latin America: Grading

I will determine grades on the basis of the paper, the midterm, the Pnal, class participation, and any supplemental quizzes or assignments. The approximate breakdown is as follows: paper (27%), the midterm (15%), the Pnal(28%), class participation (30%).

These components will each receive a letter grade (on a 4-point scale) and then a weighted average of the grades will determine the Pnal grade.

Note: I really do grade on class participation. After every class, I will try to complete a checklist indicating who made a substantive contribution, who did not, and who was absent. Bonus points are sometimes awarded for particularly incisive, evidence-based commentary, but you will not be rewarded simply for talking frequently and at length. Make sure everyone has a chance to contribute. On the other hand, if you do not participate regularly, you will get a lower grade. If you are absent frequently, you will get a lower grade.

Cold War Latin America: Course Policies and Resources

Class Sessions

The course will be taught remotely, primarily through discussion on the Webex platform. As a student in the course, you will be responsible for doing the reading ahead of class and preparing responses to the discussion questions. Since the discussion group should be small enough to allow extensive participation, you should expect to contribute in every class session.

Many of our discussions will touch on issues of race, class, and power differentials. These subject matters can inspire strong reactions and it is always possible that one of us may say, or seem to say, something that may be offensive. We should all try to remember that this is a learning environment and should approach each other with generosity. For the same reason, it is important for us all to refrain from the use of language that is intended to demean or offend. Our shared goal is to advance our knowledge of Latin American history.

For that reason, I ask that you confine all recordings of class discussion to your personal academic use. To facilitate honest discussion, it is important that you and your classmates know that what is said in class is not going to be distributed for non-academic purposes.

Although it is highly recommended that you participate in each assigned session, it is understood that you may occasionally miss class. Two or three absences over the course of 35 sessions should not affect your grade. But if you know ahead of time that you will likely miss more than that, you may want to consult with me. Note that Grinnell College offers alternative options to complete academic work for students who observe religious holy days. Please contact me within the first three weeks of the semester if you would like to discuss a specific instance that applies to you.

Academic Resources

Grinnell's Writing, Reading, and Speaking Center supports students working on papers, projects, presentations, and applications. Schedule a session with one of the Center's professional instructors and get feedback as you interpret readings, talk through your ideas, analyze evidence, develop and organize arguments, craft introductions and conclusions, rewrite sentences and paragraphs, or plan presentations. Center instructors do not proofread papers, but they can show you how to edit your own work effectively. Make an appointment online: <http://mywco.com/grinnell>

Grinnell College makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students need to provide documentation to the Coordinator for Disability Resources, John Hirschman, who can be reached at 641-269-3089, and discuss your needs. Students should then notify me within the first few days of class so that we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course and coordinate your accommodations. You can find more information [here](#).

For your research paper, it may be a good idea to schedule a one-on-one library lab appointment early. That is done by filling out [this form](#).

If you are experiencing tech issues, please let me know as soon as possible so that we might figure out how to resolve them or find a work-around.

Academic Conventions to be Observed

Follow University of Chicago (17th Edition) style citations in footnotes or endnotes for all assignments in this course, unless the assignment directs you explicitly to do something else. You may consult the Chicago Manual of Style online through the Grinnell College Library catalog [here](https://www-chicagomanualofstyle-org.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/book/ed17/frontmatter/toc.html) (you will need to log into the Library through its proxy server): <https://www-chicagomanualofstyle-org.grinnell.idm.oclc.org/book/ed17/frontmatter/toc.html>. I will also post a short style guide on Blackboard for quick reference.

Grinnell College's Academic Honesty policy is located in the online Student Handbook. It is the College's expectation that students be

aware of and meet the expectations expressed in this policy. For the purposes of this class, it is fine to help each other out of class by reading each others research paper assignments. In addition, in this course, it is my expectation that students may collaborate on basic preparation for class sessions and preparation for quizzes and exams, but not on the actual quizzes and exams. If you have questions about how a particular assignment relates to the College's policy, I will gladly consult with you in advance of the assignment's due date.

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