Latin America through Women’s Eyes

Neill 212, Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:20-2:50 pm, Fall 2018

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APSA Style Guide
LAWE Collaborative Timeline

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QUALITATIVE SYSTEM OF ASSESSMENT ← TIP: Wondering how an ungraded course works?
COURSE OVERVIEW

¡Bienvenid@s! Welcome to Latin America through Women’s Eyes! What do women do for revolutions? What do revolutions do for women? And what should we make of the electoral victories of women like presidents Violeta Chamorro (Nicaragua), Michelle Bachelet (Chile), Dilma Rousseff (Brazil), and Cristina Fernández de Kirchner (Argentina)? Latin American women have overcome patriarchal machismo to serve as elected leaders, guerrilla leaders, union organizers, artists, intellectuals, and human rights activists. Through a mix of theoretical, empirical, and testimonial work, we will explore such issues as the intersection of gender and democratization, feminist challenges to military rule, and organizing for women’s rights. Human rights emerges as a key theme, ranging from Chilean social movements for human rights to foreign policy battles over human rights in Colombia. As an introduction to Latin American Studies, this course is interdisciplinary and engages political science analysis, biographical writing, debate, simulations, poetry, art, music, film, public speaking, and student-designed and student-directed class sessions.

Skills. Our course provides opportunities to develop skills in writing (three major papers and several minor writing assignments), oral communication (lecturing, oral summaries of readings, speaking roles in simulations), facilitation (leading small group discussion, co-designing a simulation), and visual communication (timelines, charts, figures, tables, slides).

Portfolio. You will revise and assemble your best four pieces of writing into a final portfolio. Typically, this means your two Analytic Papers, your Biographical Essay, and the written component of your Classroom Leadership work (i.e., either the text of your class lecture or the written elements of a simulation you co-design). However, exceptional Single Point Papers are sometimes published in portfolios.

Our class asks a lot of you, but don’t be intimidated—high expectations don’t have to mean high pressure, because you will get a lot of support and flexibility from Paul and your peers. We’re excited for our class and delighted that you’re here.

Study Cycles
Our course is divided into several days of introductory material plus four Study Cycles. Each study cycle includes about five class days that explore a set of issues through a country case. Each cycle includes historical background, theoretic approaches to political change, and analysis of contemporary politics. A cycle typically begins with an opening lecture, continues with three days of core readings, and concludes with a simulation.

Opening Lecture
Each study cycle begins with a lecture, short film or film excerpt, and discussion.
Core Readings
Reading assignments typically include about three articles per day. Guidance is provided on which sections are most important. We will analyze, discuss, and present these readings in a variety of formats involving student leadership.

Simulations
The Cuba debate will be directed by Hallie; the Chile simulation will be directed by Paul and two students. The Nicaragua and Colombia simulations will each be created/directed by a team of three students. You will have a role to play in about three of the four simulations, but your level of responsibilities will vary from being a central character who does a lot of speaking to playing a peripheral role. Both the participants and the students that direct a simulation are evaluated.

Expectations
To get the most out of our diverse class, we will need to be respectful of the views others have to offer, and of the fact that each of us has something to teach the rest of the class. Everyone’s full engagement is needed.

I expect you to make this class a top priority. Especially these first couple weeks, I need you to leap into the readings with enthusiasm! When everyone does that, we will have set an excellent tone for the semester.

In addition to readings, every class period will require you to spend some non-reading time preparing for class. Create a habit of setting aside non-reading time to prepare your ideas.

You can expect me to be tirelessly enthusiastic and to work hard for you, both this semester and in future I will make time for you, and I will provide constructive and encouraging feedback.

I expect you to arrive on time and prepared to engage. You are entitled to a day or two where you are dead tired and need to be left alone--just let us know. But the norm is for you to arrive a few minutes early, ready to engage. If you can’t make it to class, let me know in advance.

We are going to work hard this semester and I hope that the energy and enthusiasm we each contribute will make this class one of the best you take at Macalester.

Readings
There are also three required texts at the bookstore and on reserve at the library:


Note: Also published in Spanish as Las Mujeres en Cuba: Haciendo Una Revolución Dentro de la Revolución. Both English and Spanish versions on reserve.


MAX Center
The Macalester Academic Excellence (MAX) Center, located in Kagin Commons, has peer tutors available for assisting students in all stages of their writing. Hours are 9 am–4:30 pm Mon-Fri and 7-10 pm Sun-Thur. Becky Graham and Jake Mohan also provide writing assistance to students during the daytime hours, Mon-Fri. You may drop in for help or call x6121 (day) or x6193 (evening) to schedule an appointment.

Students with Special Needs
I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Students seeking accommodations based on disabilities should meet with the Assistant Dean of Students. Students are encouraged to address any special needs or accommodations with me as soon as you become aware of your needs. More info here.

Students Experiencing Challenge or Crisis
Macalester College is fortunate to have a full complement of professionally trained staff to support students that are experiencing a challenge or crisis in their lives. When a personal challenge or crisis occurs, it often has an academic impact and may require flexibility around course responsibilities. In such situations, also talking to a trusted professor can be helpful. It can be difficult to approach a faculty member about personal issues, but if I can be of help, please don't hesitate to come and talk to me.

Please be aware that I am not a confidential resource. As a faculty member, I am a mandatory reporter of sexual violence—which means I am required to report any information you may share with me about an experience of sexual violence (whether it occurred on or off campus, or before or after you came to Macalester) with the Office of Title IX & Equity. This allows the Office of Title IX & Equity to follow up to offer resources and options for support. To find confidential resources on campus, visit macalester.edu/violenceprevention/support.
ASSIGNMENTS

Clearly identify your work: On each draft/paper, note name, date, assignment, and draft (e.g., “Analytic Paper #2, 2nd draft”).

Format and Required Citation Style: Submit work in hard copy and use the APSA style guide to format citations and bibliography.

Language options for written assignments: English or Spanish

Courses Resources Page: Access sample work here.

On-Time Work Policy: Setting and meeting deadlines is an important professional skill. The syllabus provides “default” deadlines for assignments. I expect you to either meet these deadlines or set alternate deadlines in advance. College is an important time to develop a reputation as someone who gets things done and gets things done on time. If you cannot meet a deadline, it is your responsibility to communicate about when you will complete your work.

Summary of Assignments
(click on links for assignment descriptions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ongoing</td>
<td>Class Engagement</td>
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<tr>
<td>no later than Sept 13</td>
<td>Single Point Paper #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 3 (Cuba) or Oct 24 (Chile)</td>
<td>Analytic Paper #1</td>
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<td>no later than Oct 9</td>
<td>Single Point Paper #2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 24 (Chile) or Nov 15 (Nicaragua)</td>
<td>Analytic Paper #2</td>
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<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Biographical Essay Topic</td>
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<td>no later than Nov 6</td>
<td>Single Point Paper #3</td>
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<td>Dec 3</td>
<td>Biographical Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>Presentation of Creative Work</td>
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<td>Dec 17 (10:00 am)</td>
<td>Final Portfolio</td>
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<td>varies</td>
<td>Classroom Leadership Roles ← TIP: See list of options</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-option #1: Partisan Narrative</td>
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<td>-option #2: 9:59 Lecture</td>
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<td>-option #3: Simulation Co-Director</td>
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SYLLABUS

—Tuesday, September 4—

Course Introduction: Where are the Women?
Assignment: Begin to read syllabus, including Assessment section.
• Fernandez Anderson, Cora. 2016. “Reproductive Inequalities.” NACLA Report on the Americas, Vol. 48, No. 1 (Spring): 15-17. ← TIP: This link downloads a PDF from Moodle; if you’re not yet enrolled in the course, the link won’t work for you.

Optional
• Mac Weekly. 2014. “Prof Talk // Paul Dosh.” Interview about ungraded courses (October 17).

—Thursday, September 6—

Gender Construction and Essentialism ← TIP: Click on class session titles to access class prep notes; it’s key you do this in advance of each class as there are often tasks assigned to individual students.

—Tuesday, September 11—

Overview of Latin American Political History
• Vanden & Prevost, “Democracy and Dictators” (Ch. 3). Skim pp. 43-55; read pp. 55-75; skim timeline on pp. 76-82 [5th ed: skim pp. 42-54; read pp. 54-73; skim timeline on pp. 74-80].
—Thursday, September 13—

Four Themes: Feminism, Autonomy, Coalition-Building, Maternalism

*REMEMINDER: Last opportunity to turn in Single Point Paper #1*

• González & Kampwirth, “Introduction” (pp. 1-7, 11-26).


STUDY CYCLE I

Understanding the Cuban Revolution: Is a Feminist Lens Needed?

The 1959 Cuban Revolution was a watershed event in Latin American political history. The dismantling of U.S.-backed dictator Batista’s regime transformed the island by expelling U.S. imperial forces. The rise of socialism and Cuba’s alliance with the Soviet Union against the backdrop of the Cold War defined life and politics on the island. Figures and tenets of the Revolution inspired generations of radical organizations, movements, and political parties around the world. Yet even a cursory examination of the thousands of books and articles written on the subject misleadingly suggests that this pivotal juncture was the work of men—men like Che Guevara, who remains a worldwide symbol of revolutionary liberation, men like Fidel and Raúl Castro.

Women played crucial roles both during the uprising against Batista and in revolutionary Cuba. Fidel himself credited many outstanding women for leading platoons and policy campaigns. Yet history continues to focus on the fierce ideologies of men. That women were systematically erased from this history is not unusual, but through careful study a provocative question emerges: is the role of women in the Cuban Revolution simply a factual omission that needs re-emphasizing, or does the introduction of women as principal leaders of the revolution force us to re-examine prevailing assumptions about what happened and why?

—Tuesday, September 18—

The Cuban Revolution: A Tale of Two Men?

In-class film excerpt: “Fidel: The Untold Story” (by Estela Bravo, 2001)


—Thursday, September 20—
The Revolution Question in Cuba
Skills Workshop: Argumentation

• Espín et al. (pp. 189-214).
• Castro, Fidel. 1966. “The New Role for Women in Cuban Society” and “The Revolution Within the Revolution”. (Skim through the first two short speeches by Fidel)

—Sunday, September 23, 5-7 pm, Carnegie 304—

Film Screening with Dinner

• “Retrato de Teresa” (directed by Pastor Vega, 1979) (95 minutes). If you cannot attend, the film will be on reserve.

—Tuesday, September 25—

Feminism in Cuba

9:59 Lecture: “Las Mariposas: Three Revolutionary Sisters and the Origins of their Legacy”

• Espín et al. (pp. 215-287, “With No Preconceived Structure or Agenda: Interview with Vilma Espín).

• Sanchez, Yoani. 2014. “Why I Won’t ‘Federate’ with the Cuban Women’s Federation.” Huffington Post (March 16).


—Thursday, September 27—

Women and Political Change under the Castros


Optional

— Tuesday, October 2, 1:20-2:50 pm, Hall of Fame room —

— Wednesday, October 3, 3:00 pm —
*DUE: Cuba Analytic Papers* (due in Paul’s Poli Sci mailbox, Carnegie 203)

STUDY CYCLE II
Women of Chile: From Poder Feminino to Mujeres Por la Vida

In 1973, a U.S.-backed military coup replaced Chile’s democratically elected socialist President Salvador Allende (1970-73) with the brutal dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet (1973-90). Many factors—domestic and international—contributed to both Allende’s overthrow and Chile’s eventual transition in 1990 from dictatorship to an elected government, but one crucial set of actors was women’s organizations. Both on the Right and Left end of the political spectrum, Chilean women that had abstained from politics for generations rose to play critical roles both in undermining Allende and easing Pinochet out of power. What can the case of Chile teach us about women’s movements, both Right and Left?

— Thursday, October 4 —
Opening Chile Lecture: From Oligarchy to Polarized Democracy
In-class film: “A Force More Powerful—Chile: Defeat of a Dictator” (25 minutes)
Partisan Narratives: Salvador Allende vs. Augusto Pinochet (by Paul)
• Goodman, Amy. 2016. "Make the Economy Scream’: Secret Documents Show Nixon,
Kissinger Role Backing 1973 Chile Coup.” Democracy Now (February 12). (final 7 min of hour-long video; this link starts video at the right place)

• Shayne, “Chile Timeline” (pp. 171-173).
• Friedman, Milton. Undated clip, speaking on Chile and Pinochet (3 minutes).

— Tuesday, October 9—

Right-Wing Women in Chile: The Struggle Against Allende
*REMINDER: Last opportunity to turn in Single Point Paper #2*

9:59 Lecture: “Stitching Resistance: Arpilleristas under the Pinochet Dictatorship”


— Thursday, October 11—

Left-Wing Women: Bringing Down Pinochet


• “Machuca” (directed by Andrés Wood, 2004) (121 minutes). Library has both streaming and DVD formats (DVD is on reserve). View film outside of class prior to Oct 11.

• Baldez (Chapters 6-8).

Optional


— Tuesday, October 16—

Michelle Bachelet and Feminist Policy Agendas in Chile

Joint Partisan Narratives: Sebastian Piñera and Michelle Bachelet

9:59 Lecture: “Hip Hop and Women in Contemporary Cuba”


Optional

— Thursday, October 18 —

Education Privatization and Student Protests in Chile
Partisan Narrative: Camila Vallejo

— Tuesday, October 23, 1:10-2:50 pm, Hall of Fame room —

Simulation #2: “Pacts and Plebiscites: A Simulation of the Chilean Transition”

— Wednesday, October 24, 3:00 pm —

* DUE: Chile Analytic Papers* (due in Paul’s Poli Sci mailbox, Carnegie 203)

FALL BREAK

STUDY CYCLE III
Women of Nicaragua: From Sandinista Red to Neoliberal Violet

In the 1960s, U.S. policy focused on stopping communism in Cuba, and in the 1970s the United States supported right-wing military regimes opposed to socialism in Chile and the Southern Cone. In the 1980s, it was Central America’s turn. The election of U.S. President Ronald Reagan heralded a new period of U.S. military involvement in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and especially Nicaragua. Throughout the 1980s, violence raged along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border as U.S.-backed right-wing “Contra” guerrillas fought the left-wing
Sandinistas, who had taken power in the 1979 Nicaraguan Revolution. Prior to their success in 1979, the Sandinista guerrillas were notable for their inclusion of women at even the higher levels of command, but did this inclusive spirit persist in the 1980s, once the Sandinistas took power?

—Tuesday, October 30—

1936-1979: Somocista Women and Resistance to the US-Backed Somoza Dictatorship
Skills Workshop: Public Speaking
• Prevost, Gary, and Harry Vanden, “Nicaragua,” in Vanden & Prevost (pp. 584-593, 610-611).

—Thursday, November 1—

1979-1990: The Sandinista Revolution and Liberation Theology
*DUE: Biographical Essay Topic*

9:59 Lecture: “From Guerrillas to Legislators: Equal Treatment for FSLN Women?”
• Vanden & Prevost, “FSLN in Power” and “Consolidating Political Institutions” (pp. 593-596), “Religion in Latin America: A New Political Role” (pp. 145-150).

Optional

—Saturday, November 3, 5:00-7:00 pm—

Class dinner at the home of Paul Dosh & Andrea Galdames

—Tuesday, November 6—

1990-2016: Anti-Feminism and Interethnic Alliances in Post-Revolutionary Nicaragua
*REMINDER: Last opportunity to turn in Single Point Paper #3*

Partisan Narrative: Dora María Téllez
• Figueroa Romero, Dolores, and Arelly Barbeyto. 2014. "Indigenous, Mestizo and


• Prevost, Gary, and Harry Vanden, “Nicaragua,” in Vanden & Prevost, “Women” (pp. 601-602), “Indigenous People (pp. 605-606), and “The 1990 Election and After” (pp. 596-598).

Optional


—Thursday, November 8—

**2016-2018: Daniel Ortega, Rosario Murillo, and Nicaragua’s Current Crisis**

**Joint Partisan Narratives:** Violeta Chamorro and Rosario Murillo


—Tuesday, November 13, 1:10-2:50 pm, Hall of Fame room——

**Simulation #3:** Nicaragua

**STUDY CYCLE IV**
Oil, Drugs, and Political Violence in Colombia

Often labeled a “War on Drugs,” the ongoing violence in Colombia is not only about the influential drug trade, but also about production and control of petroleum, political power in Colombia’s legislature and presidency, and Colombia’s economic model. Impoverished women find themselves attacked from all sides: by the U.S.-funded Colombian military, by right-wing paramilitaries, and by left-wing guerrillas. Women struggle on battlefields, in exploitative factories, and as “mules” in the drug trade, all while excluded from power. What lessons can be applied from our study of Cuba, Chile, and Nicaragua to understand the future possibilities for women in Colombia? Have the 2016 peace accords worked?

—Thursday, November 15—

Maria Full of Grace and the Commodification of the “Other” Woman
*DUE: Nicaragua Analytic Papers*

In-Class Film: “Maria Full of Grace” (directed by Joshua Marston, 2004) (97 min).


—Tuesday, November 20—

Opening Lecture: The Heart of the War in Colombia
Discuss Maria Full of Grace and Schultermandl (2011)

In-class film excerpt: “Plan Colombia: Cashing-In on the Drug War Failure—¿Guerra Anti-Drogas o Pro-Petróleo?” (by Gerard Ungerman and Audrey Brohy, 2003)


• Dugas, John, “Colombia,” in Vanden & Prevost (Ch. 16): map/intro (pp. 438-440) and Political History (pp. 445-458).

THANKSGIVING BREAK

—Tuesday, November 27—

U.S. Involvement in Colombia’s War: Training, Personnel, Military Aid
Partisan Narrative: Bastardilla

In-Class Film excerpt: “Somos Una América,” by SOA Watch (2011)
•SOA Watch. 2011. “Map of U.S. Intervention in Latin America.” Click here for PDFs of the map in Spanish or English.
•Stokes, Doug. 2005. America’s Other War: Terrorizing Colombia. London: Zed Books, pp. 84-114 (Ch. 5: “From Communism to the War on Terror”).

—Thursday, November 29—

Impacts of Violence on Women in Colombia


In-class film excerpt: “We Women Warriors: Tejiendo Sabiduría” [“Weaving Wisdom”]
(directed by Nicole Karsin, 2012).
•Matos, Manuel. 2016. “Revolutionary Mothering in Northern Cauca, Colombia.” Upside Down World (June 18).
•Center for Reproductive Rights. 2016. “10 Years of Legal Abortion in Colombia” (May 10)
[1-page].

Optional

—Monday, December 3, 3:00 pm—

*DUE: Biographical Essay*

—Tuesday, December 4—

La Ciudad de Mujeres and the 2016 Peace Process in Colombia

•Brodzinsky, Sibylla. 2016. "Colombia's City of Women: A Haven from Violence." The
Guardian, April 20, 2016.
• Al Jazeera News. 2016. “Colombia Reaches New Peace Deal with FARC Rebels” (November 12). Includes short news article, video newscast (2 minutes), and video interview with Ingrid Betancourt (8 minutes).

Optional

Optional article on new president Iván Duque
• Hylton, Forrest, and Aaron Tauss. 2018. "Change and Continuity in Colombian Politics." NACLA.org (June 29).

—Thursday, December 6, 1:10-2:50 pm, Hall of Fame room—
Simulation #4: Colombia

—Tuesday, December 11—
*DUE: Creative Writing/Art Assignment*
Student Presentations of Creative Work
Course Evaluations

—Monday, December 17, 10:00 am—
*DUE: Final Portfolio (hard copy in Paul’s Poli Sci mailbox)*