

**CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAS  
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Course (MA/PhD)	: Ph.D.
Course No.	: AW606N
Course Title	: A Survey of Latin American History
Course Type (Core/Optional)	: Optional
Course Teacher	: Prof. Priti Singh
Credits	: 4 (Four)
Semester	: Monsoon Semester
Contact Hours	: 4 per week

**Course Objectives**

The objective is to trace the course of Latin American history and identify its key characteristics in order that the student may be able to relate and understand better the present economic and political problems and issues confronting the countries of the region. Latin American intellectual thought and ideas are discussed to help the student have better analysis and trace developments in the Latin American and Caribbean region. Particular countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Chile are discussed to illustrate more general features of South America and Caribbean countries are briefly discussed to highlight their unique history and issues.

**Learning Outcomes**

On completion of the course, students should understand the diversity and complexity of Latin American cultures and peoples in the backdrop of their history of colonial conquest and independence movements. They should be able to relate the Latin American political concepts such as machismo and populism with the developments in the twentieth century. Students should also be able to understand historical relations of Latin American countries with United States and with India.

**Evaluation Methods**

Class participation (10%); Sessional work (40%); and End-semester Examination (50%)

**Course Content:**

**1. Land and People**

- Geography
- The Indian, Iberian, and African Background
- Conceptualising Latin American ‘peoples’: Jose Vasconcelos; Jose Marti; Enrique Rodo

## 2. **Discovery and Conquest**

- Spanish colonization
- Portuguese colonization

## 3. **Resource Endowments and Its Impact**

- Debates on development
- Commodities consensus and resource extractivism

## 4. **Independence and Nationalism**

- Precursors of independence movements
- Wars of Independence
- Ideas in Latin American Independence

## 5. **South America since 1930s**

- **Argentina:** The Juan Manuel de Rosas Era; Peron and Peronism; Post-1950 Developments
- **Brazil:** Getulio Vargas Era; the Second Republic; Post 1960 developments
- **Chile:** Parliamentary Rule; Popular Unity

## 6. **Caribbean since 1960s**

- Trinidad and Tobago
- Guyana; and Suriname

## 7. **Latin America and the United States**

- The Monroe Doctrine; 'Good Neighbour' Policy
- Cold War era
- Post-Cold War period and recent Inter-American Relations

## 8. Latin America and India

- Historical relations
- Caribbean states and India

### **Readings**

#### **Theme 1: Geography and People**

1. Harold Blakemore and Clifford Thorpe Smith (1983), *Latin America: Geographical Perspectives*, New York: Methuen.
2. Thomas Skidmore and PH Smith (2005), *Modern Latin America*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

#### **Theme 2: Discovery and Conquest**

1. John Charles Chasteen and James A. Wood (2004), *Problems in Modern Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations*. Boulder: SR Books.
2. Leslie Bethell (1985), *The Cambridge History of Latin America* Vol. I (Colonial Latin America), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### **Theme 3: Latin American Resource Endowments and Its Impact**

1. Victor Bulmer-Thomas (2014), *The Economic History of Latin America since Independence*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Joseph Love (2012), "Economic Ideas and Ideologies in Latin America since 1930", in Leslie Bethell (eds.), *Ideas and Ideologies in Twentieth Century Latin America*, Cambridge University Press: 207-274.

#### **Theme 4: Independence and Nationalism: Ideas in Latin American History**

1. K.H. Silvert, "Nationalism in Latin America" (1961), *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 334: 1-9.
2. John Charles Chasteen and James A. Wood (2004), *Problems in Modern Latin American History: Sources and Interpretations*. SR Books.
3. Thomas Skidmore and PH Smith (2005), *Modern Latin America*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
3. Leslie Bethell (1985), *The Cambridge History of Latin America* Vol. III (From Independence to 1870), Cambridge University Press.

4. George Reid Andrews (1985), "Spanish American Independence: A Structural Analysis", *Latin American Perspectives*, 12: 128

### **Theme 5: South America since 1930s: Argentina, Brazil, Chile**

1. Leslie Bethell (eds.) (1993), *Chile since Independence*, Cambridge University Press.
2. John Child (1979), "Geo-political Thinking in Latin America", *Latin American Research Review*, 14(2): 89-111.
3. David Rock (ed.) (1975), *Argentina in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. London: Duckworth. (Exim Bank Library)
4. Thomas E. Skidmore (2009), *Brazil: Five Centuries of Change* second edition (Oxford University Press).

### **Theme 6: Caribbean since 1960s: Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago**

1. Eric Williams (1964), *History of the People of Trinidad and Tobago*, London: Andre Deutsch.
2. Dave Ramsaran and Linden Lewis (2018), *Caribbean Masala: Indian Identity in Guyana and Trinidad*, University Press of Mississippi.
3. Chaitram Singh (2008), "Re-democratization in Guyana and Suriname: Critical Comparisons", *European Review of Latin American and Caribbean Studies / Revista Europea de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe*, 84: 71-85.
4. Priti Singh and Raymond Izarali (2013), *The Contemporary Caribbean: Issues and Challenges*, New Delhi: Shipra.

### **Theme 7: Latin America and the United States**

1. Pope G. Atkins (1999), *Latin America and the Caribbean in the International System*. Boulder, Colo., Westview Press.
2. Lars Schoultz (1998), *Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy toward Latin America*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
3. Peter Hakim (2006), "Is Washington Losing Latin America? *Foreign Affairs*, January/February, 85(1): 39-53.
4. Nicolás Albertoni and Luis Schenoni (2019), "What to Expect From US-Latin America Relations in the Era of Bolsonaro?" *Latin America Policy Journal*, 8: 85-87.

### **Theme 8: Latin America and India**

1. Daulatsinhji P. Jadeja (ed.) (1988), *India and Latin America* (New Delhi: Trans Asia Publications).

2. Jorge Heine (2004), "Building Blocks of the New South: Latin American Integration and India", *India Quarterly*, January-June, LX(1&2): 1-19.
3. Recent writings