

## IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

**HIST/LAS 131:** Modern Latin America  
(CRN 20051/20061)

**Room:** 404

**Office:** Room 807

**Email:** [lisa.solomon@imperial.edu](mailto:lisa.solomon@imperial.edu)

**Blackboard:** <https://imperial.blackboard.com>

**Office Hours (subject to change):** MW 7:45am – 8:15am  
MW 12:00noon – 1:00pm  
TR 10:15am -- 11:45am

**Term:** Spring, 2013

**Time:** TR 1:30-2:55pm

**Assoc. Prof. Lisa Solomon**

**Phone:** 760-355-6453

**Appointments:** I am available for meetings beyond the office hours. However, because of other obligations, students should contact me to set up an appointment. Contact can be made before or after class, by email, or by voice mail.

**Course Description:** This course compares the nations and cultures of Latin America from the early National Period to the present by studying the economic, social, political, and cultural evolution of the different regions, including Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The region's changing interactions with and place in the international community and various other world factors are also explored. Emphasis is placed on the influence of various ethnic groups in the development of different cultures of the region.

**Course and Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon the successful completion of the course, students will possess a broad understanding of the most important ideas, personalities, movements and events of modern Latin American history, articulate the roles played by various political and social groups, as well as be able to describe some of the recurring themes during this time in Latin American history. Students will be able to (1) identify and recall key information from a historical text and/or a documentary film; (2) describe the causes and/or impact of a historical event; and (3) explain the significance of a historical text by the end of the course.

**Text:** *Latin America and its People*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (ISBN-10 is 0-205-05470-6 and ISBN-13 is 978-0-205-05470-1), is available at the IVC Bookstore. There is also a reference copy available in the library.

Additional readings/articles may be presented or assigned as deemed relevant.

**Exams:** There will be three tests, a midterm exam, and the final exam. All tests will be based on the text, any additional readings, lectures (which includes Power Point presentations), and videos. ***Any student caught cheating (which includes plagiarism) on a test will receive a 0 for that entire exam, and no make-up test will be allowed. Depending on the severity of the offense, I reserve the right to reduce the student's course grade by the equivalent of one letter grade (for example: a "B" becomes a "C"). If a student is caught cheating a second time, I will file a complaint with the Dean of Student Development for a formal investigation and potential removal from the class.***

Only one make-up exam will be given to a student during the semester, and must be scheduled with me. Make-up exams may be used only if the original exam was not taken at the scheduled time due to illness or verified family emergency, and I am notified before the test. Any make-up exams scheduled for more than a week after the original test date face a point reduction of 25%. I will not approve any make-up test scheduled later than two weeks after the original test date.

**Writing Requirement: Writing Requirement:** Students will be required to complete four written assignments. Information on these assignments will be presented by the Instructor. ***Plagiarism is the act of taking someone, anyone, else's work and passing it off as your own. Any paper found to contain plagiarized material will be returned with a 0 and no substitute or rewritten paper will be accepted. Depending on the severity of the offense, I reserve the right to reduce the student's course grade by the equivalent of a letter grade (for example: a "B" becomes a "C"). If the student is caught using plagiarized material a second time, I will file a complaint with the Dean of Student Development for a formal investigation and potential removal from the class.***

**Grading:** The course maximum is 1000 points, based on the following:

Discussion/participation	125 points
Exams (three @ 50 points each)	150 points
Midterm exam	175 points
Assignments (four @ 50 points each)	200 points
Final exam	350 points

Discussion points will be deducted when a student is late (1 point each time), and/or when a student disrupts the class by talking during the lecture or videos, plays games or text messages on a cell phone, has a cell phone ring during class, etc. (1/2 point each time). Points can only be earned by a student who asks questions and/or participates in classroom discussions. *Points are not earned simply for attendance.*

I reserve the right to have students complete additional work in class. Any such work will have points added to what is shown above. I do NOT offer extra credit.

Grading will be based on total points, as follows:

A = 851 – 1000

C = 701 – 775

F = 0 – 400

B = 776 -- 850

D = 401 – 700

Letter grades will not be included on tests and assignments. They will only be used for the final course grade.

**Attendance:** Attendance is strongly encouraged, especially since History courses usually take a chronological approach. Therefore, absences can leave gaps that cannot easily be filled. While participation in classroom discussions is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged and can affect your final grade. *At all times, your questions are encouraged and welcomed.*

*Do not assume that I will drop you from the class because of poor attendance and/or poor test scores.* If you decide to drop the course, take the responsibility of notifying Admissions and Records.

Students who practice inappropriate behavior will likely be asked to leave the classroom. That includes talking during videos and/or lectures. Such disruptive behavior can also result in points being deducted from those available for Discussion/participation. Continued practice of inappropriate behavior will result in a complaint filed with the Dean of Student Development's Office and removal from the class.

**Important Dates:** This information is also available in the Spring, 2013 Schedule of Classes (available on the IVC website).

Jan. 26 Last day to register for full-time classes; last day to drop without owing fees and/or be eligible for a refund

Jan. 27 Last day to drop without a "W" or course showing on your transcript – no refunds available after this date

Apr. 13 Last day to drop full-term classes

AFTER THIS DATE, A LETTER GRADE WILL BE GIVEN AND ENTERED ON YOUR TRANSCRIPTS.

**Miscellaneous:** Please make every effort to be in the room and ready at the starting time. Being late may be beyond a student's control; if you are late, please attempt to enter the room as quietly as possible to avoid disrupting the class.

If you know that you are going to have to miss a class or leave a class early for an appointment, the appropriate thing to do is notify me in advance and, if leaving early, sit by the door so that your departure will cause as little disruption as possible.

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT PAGERS AND/OR CELL PHONES ARE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS. Any student whose cell phone and/or pager disrupts the class will be asked to leave the room for that interrupted session. **Any device that**

**interrupts an exam will be confiscated and held until the end of class (not when the student completes the exam).**

Students who engage in disruptive behavior, or leave the room while class is in session, will have points deducted from the total possible for Discussion/participation (see previous page). Make sure you handle all personal needs (restrooms, food, phone calls, etc.) *before class begins*. If the Instructor determines that there is no attempt to correct the disruptive behavior, the student may be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the day and to meet with me and/or the Dean of Student Development before returning to the classroom.

As per campus policy, food is NOT allowed in the classroom. Beverages will be allowed only if they are in secure containers.

Students with disabilities at IVC are eligible for accommodations related to their disability. If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact me or a counselor at DSPS as soon as possible.

*The required readings should be done before the class.*

**The schedule (subject to change):**

Jan. 15	<i>Preview; introduction</i>
Jan. 17	<i>Identities</i>
	<b>Selection of country</b>
Jan. 22	<i>Independence movements (pp. 216-234)</i>
Jan. 24	<i>Post-independence (pp. 234-241)</i>
	<b>Assignment #1 handed out and on Blackboard</b>
Jan. 29	<i>Conflicts and divisions (pp. 242-251)</i>
Jan. 31	<b>Test #1</b>
Feb. 05	<i>Wars (pp. 251-259)</i>
Feb. 07	<i>Participation and economics (pp. 259-270)</i>
	<b>Assignment #2 on Blackboard</b>
Feb. 12	<i>Living (chap. 10)</i>
	<b>Assignment #2 due</b>
Feb. 14	<i>Modernization (chap. 11)</i>
Feb. 19	<i>1920s (pp. 327-330, 334-342, 352-360, 366-368)</i>
Feb. 21	<b>Test #2</b>
Feb. 26	<i>Depression (pp. 330-333, 342-344, 368-374)</i>
Feb. 28	<i>World War II (pp. 333, 344-345)</i>
	<b>Midterm exam guide handed out and on Blackboard</b>
Mar. 05	<i>Post-war 1940s (pp. 333-334, 345-351, 360-366)</i>
Mar. 07	<b>Midterm exam</b>
Mar. 12 & Mar. 14	<i>The Cold War 1950s (pages on Cuba)</i>
Mar. 14	<b>Assignment #3 on Blackboard</b>

Mar. 19 &	<i>Cold War 1960s</i> (pages on Guatemala, Columbia, Brazil)
Mar. 21	
Mar. 19	<b>Assignment #3 due</b>
Mar. 26	1970s (pages on Peru)
Mar. 28	<b>Test #3</b>
Apr. 02& 04	NO CLASS – Spring Break
Apr. 09	1970s and early 1980s (pages on Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile, 383--384)
Apr. 11	1980s (pages on El Salvador, 388-391)
	<b>Assignment #4 on Blackboard</b>
Apr. 16	1990s (pp. 391-400)
	<b>Assignment #4 due</b>
Apr. 18	<i>New century</i> (chap. 15)
Apr. 23 &	In-class presentations
Apr. 25	
Apr. 30 &	In-class presentations
May 02	
Apr. 30	<b>Final exam guide handed out and on Blackboard</b>
May 07	<b>Final exam</b>
& 09	

***Proceed to the next page!***

## COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA

During the course of this class, you will be following a specific country. This selection will be the basis of your assignments as well as the in-class presentations that take place during the last classes before Finals.

Select a country that you have an interest in/wish to know more about. Your choices are listed below, and you will make your selection known on January 17.

Argentina

Bolivia

Brazil

Chile

Columbia

Costa Rica

Cuba

Ecuador

El Salvador

Guatemala

Honduras

Mexico

Nicaragua

Panama

Paraguay

Peru

Uruguay

Venezuela

**TO BE COMPLETED BY EVERY STUDENT ENROLLED IN THIS CLASS**

**Must be returned by the end of class on February 16, 2011**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand the syllabus for this class. I will follow its contents during this course.

Email address

If you do not have email, provide a telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

When did you first enroll at IVC? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are you taking this class? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is one thing you hope to learn from this class? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What makes you a good student? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What makes school hard for you? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are your educational goals? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are your career goals? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_