

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2015-2016 LA ST 210 B2: Introduction to Latin American Studies: South America
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Russell Cobb Time: 10:00-10:50 MWF
Office: 409 C, Old Arts Bldg. Place: HC L-2
Telephone: 780-938-3183 Fax: 780-492-9106 Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00-4:00
E-mail: rcobb@ualberta.ca or by appointment
Personal Website: <http://www.mlcs.ualberta.ca/People/Faculty/CobbRussell.aspx>

Course Prerequisite: None

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services_and_businesses/services/infolink/exams
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This introductory course will provide students with a panoramic view of South America using an interdisciplinary method. The course will rely mainly on a historical approach as a means to understanding the issues that have shaped South American identities, but it will also explore other means of cultural expression to better convey the rich diversity that makes up the South American continent. Class time will be devoted to the discussion of texts—movies, art, music, etc.—in relation to their historical, political, and social contexts. The active participation of students in debates and discussions is fundamental.

Class presentations, readings, and discussions will be conducted in English.

Objectives:

- Gain a basic understanding of Latin American culture, history, and geography.
 - Engage with some of the key terms and concepts in Latin American studies.
 - Think and write critically about Latin America's relationship to the rest of the world, especially Europe and North America.
 - Produce a work of depth—either through the CSL component or through a traditional research paper that showcases your expertise in one aspect of Latin American life
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Texts (all required):

John Charles Chasteen. *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*. W.W. Norton: New York, 2011. Third Edition.
ISBN 0-393-92769-5 (at U of A Bookstore).

John Charles Chasteen. *Born in Blood and Fire: Latin American Voices*. W.W. Norton: New York, 2011. Third Edition.
NOTE: This is the companion reader and is required.

Various supplementary readings on eClass. It is highly advised (although not required) that you print out the readings from eClass unless you are used to reading in-depth on the computer.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Term work: 100%

Exam 1: 22.5% Feb. 12

Research Prospectus 5% March 23

Final project: 20% April 11

Oral class participation: 10% (evaluated on group discussion days and in-class questions)

Written class interaction: 10% (evaluated by eClass forum participation) Various dates

Exam 2: 22.5% April 1

Benchmark quizzes: 10% (Very short quizzes to gauge students' progress. One every two weeks)

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Recommended; please consult the following site:

[http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5.6\(3\)](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5.6(3))

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Exams: There will be two exams, each worth 22.5% of the final grade. They are a straightforward test of your knowledge of course material—lecture, readings, and some class discussion. There will be one essay. There is NO final exam in this course.

Dates: Feb. 12 and April 1, 2016

Final project (20%): Students will have to research and write a final research paper (5 pages minimum, double spaced, MLA or Chicago Style format) on one ongoing question in Latin American Studies (topics to be discussed in class)

*CSL students will write a “Reflective Paper” (also 5 pages minimum, double-spaced) on their work with their community partner. See guidelines on eClass for details.

Deadline for final project: April 11 @ 5:00 pm. Email a Word attachment or share via Google Docs

Research Prospectus or CSL presentation (5%): Will include annotated bibliography of at least five sources (3-4 sentences per source), a brief statement (one paragraph) on the question to be explored, why you chose the topic, and your "plan of attack" (methodology and research plan).

CSL students will present their work in radio or television for approximately five minutes a piece. The presentation should be rather informal—telling the class about your organization and final project.

Deadline for prospectus:

March 23

Date for CSL presentations:

April 1

Class participation (10%): Students should make the effort to attend class prepared, i.e. having done the readings (thoughtfully) and also be ready to engage in active participation in class discussions and in individual and group activities. Simply showing up to class does not constitute “active” participation. Facebooking or texting during class will lower your participation grade. Approximately every fourth class will be devoted to discussion and group work—i.e., no lecture. It is during these classes that I will assess your participation.

Written class interaction (10%): Forums will be posted approximately four times during the term to evaluate your intellectual engagement with a polemical topic. You will have one week to write them and there should be no more than one page, double-spaced. The writing is informal and you have the option of either offering your own opinion or

responding to someone else's opinion. You must post original thoughts twice, and response to others' thoughts twice as well.

Benchmark quizzes: 10% Very short true/false quizzes to gauge students' progress. One every two weeks

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern;
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in

general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students in languages courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that more than two unexcused absences will result in a 10% reduction of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component of the course for each day missed. Late assignments will also be reduced by 10% for each working day they are late.

In this course, attendance is evaluated by your presence in the classroom, your active participation in classroom discussions, and presence in online forums. Sleeping, texting, facebooking, and eating in class will reduce your participation grade. See above for exact policies. Participation will also be assessed by preparation for discussion. Students should note, in writing, at least five words, phrases, proper nouns, or dates to discuss in class.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason. Assignments handed in late will be deducted 10% per each working day they are handed in late.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Excellent: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Poor: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Failure: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements