



HISTORY 277-501: LATIN AMERICA 1800 TO PRESENT
Professor Christin Cleaton-Ruiz
Summer Session II

Have you heard the names Che Guevara, Fidel Castro, and Hugo Chávez and wondered who they are and why they're so controversial? Have you seen images of poverty and underdevelopment in Latin America and wanted to know why they exist in a region so rich in natural resources? Have you heard on the news or in classes about Latin American revolutions, governments being overthrown or coups d'état? Do you want to understand why the U.S. war on drugs is failing or why there is so much violence in Mexico today?

This class will deal with these topics and many more. We will examine a wide variety of countries such as Mexico, Cuba, El Salvador, Argentina, Colombia, and others. These case studies will allow us to understand the political and economic conditions common throughout Latin America and also how issues such as economic underdevelopment, debt crisis, tensions between dictatorship and democracy, the role of the United States, and social revolution.

Assignments will include both textbook chapters and primary source documents, written responses to the assigned readings, class discussions online, films with written responses and a final essay.

