HILA 101: Themes in Latin American History
Winter 2010
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OHs: W 3-5pm or by appointment
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We will trace key themes in nineteenth-century Latin American history, with an eye on past and present issues, from a historical actors’ perspective, namely, what people who lived in Latin America thought about their contemporary scenarios and what they made out of it. Our main focus will be the Amazon Basin that includes the national histories of nine Latin American countries.

Latin America’s nineteenth century history is, essentially, the process of nation-state building amidst struggles for political independence from Spain and Portugal and amidst the build-up of interests on the side of Great Britain and the United States of America. The resulting national divides were a result of how colonial domains were organized, defined and struggled over, no matter what nature and peoples in Amazonia were doing, thought, or felt. Thus, the re-reading of nineteenth century Latin American history from an Amazonian perspective is, at the same time, a re-reading of how power relations are politically, socially, culturally and economically construed, often, in detriment of what would/could/should have been the ‘common public good’.

To achieve the stated purpose of this class, I invite you to share some readings with your minds firmly committed to understand what happened in the nineteenth century that explains present-day outcomes, namely, deforestation, global warming, cultural losses, poverty, destruction of biodiversity. Most readings are from a new collection of authors and life stories by Oxford University Press.

Required Readings:


**Where to Get The Readings:**
- **Required:** Available for purchase at Groundwork’s, on reserve at Geisel, or electronically (via Roger) where noted.
- **Optional:** On reserve at Geisel, or electronically (via Roger) where noted.
- **Suggested:** On reserve at Geisel.
- **Reader (Required):** A.S. Soft Reserves

**Course Outline:**

1. **Independence and the Political Mindset**
   - **Required:** Aguirre and Bolivar.
   - **Optional:** Readings from and on Francisco de Miranda, to contrast Bolivar.

2. **Caudillos and Caudillismos**
   - **Required:** Sarmiento and Assis.
   - **Optional:** Readings on Clientelism.

3. **Black Slaves and Free Blacks**
   - **Required:** Hunefeldt, Chapter 1.

4. **Women’s Lives**
   - **Required:** Gana.
   - **Optional:** Readings on and from women writers.
   - **Suggested:** Corvalán, Graciela N. V. *Latin American Women Writers in English Translation: A Bibliography*. Los Angeles: Latin American Studies Center, California State University, 1980.

5. **Exports and enclaves**
   - **Required:** Hirschman (Reader #1).
   - **Optional:** Readings on an export-oriented economy (coffee in Colombia, guano in Peru, hides and beef in Argentina, sugar in Brazil, etc. to ‘test’ the developmental scheme proposed by Hirschman.)
6. Rural Landscapes
   Required: Hunt (Reader #2), and Van Young (Reader #3).

7. Internal Markets: Organizing Exchange
   Required: Roth (Reader #4) and Oberem (Reader #5).
   Optional: Readings on indigenous participation in markets.

8. Lands Without History
   Required: Cunha and Varese (Reader #6)
   Optional: Watch a movie(s) on extractive activities in Amazonia (oil in Ecuador, rubber in Peru and Colombia, iron in Rondonia).

9. Migration, Colonization, Globalization
   Required: Roosevelt (Reader #7)
   Optional: Have a look at monographs describing colonization projects, for example, Germans in Rio Grande do Sul, Pozuzo, Paraguay; or, scientific expeditions to the Amazon (Humboldt, Haenke).

10. Europe and the United States in Latin America; Latin America in Europe and the United States
    Optional: