This is a new class, a merger of sorts of HILA 101 and HILA 102, with a fresh perspective on environmental changes over the past couple of centuries in Latin America. How do we perceive changes and continuities in the history of a region? Through which lenses? How can environmental history add new dimensions to our understandings of Latin American history throughout the past centuries?

Old and new research and readings will lead us through our discussions:


Julie Sloan Denslow, "The Tropical Rain-Forest Setting." In People of the Tropical Rain Forest (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press), 1988


Andrew Revkin: The Burning Season: The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazon Rain Forest (New York: Plume), 1990.

CLASSES:

Wk 1 Pre-Columbian Landscapes

Chasteen, Chapter 1

Optional: Eduardo Galeano, The Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent; Google “Epilogue”, a discussion on Galeano’s work in a conversation with Oxford historian Alan Knight and Peruvian journalist Javier Farje

Wk 2 Conquest and The Columbian Exchange

Chasteen, Chapter 2


Wk 3: Labor and the World Economy


Chasteen, Chapters 3, 4, and 5


Wk 4: Other Commodities


Wk 5: Paths to Modernity I


Chasteen, Chapter 6


Wk 6: Paths to Modernity II


Chasteen, Chapter 7.

Wk 7: Twentieth Century Transformations

Robert W. Wilcox. "'The Law of the Least Effort': Cattle Ranching and the Environment in the Savana of Mato Grosso, Brazil, 1900-1980." *Environmental History* 4, no. 3 (July, 1999), 338-368


Chasteen, Chapter 8.


Wk 8: Pobrecitos Gente, Plantas, Animales …Sistemas

Andrew C. Revkin, *The Burning Season: The Murder of Chico Mendes and the Fight for the Amazonian Rainforest*

Also: check out “Chico Mendes”

Rodrigues, Gomercindo & Rabben, Linda, *Walking the forest with Chico Mendes: struggle for justice in the Amazon* (University of Texas Press), 2007

Chasteen, Chapters 9 and 10

**Optional 1:** Darryl Cole-Christensen, *A Place in the Rain Forest. Settling the Costa Rican Frontier* (University of Texas Press), 1997


Wk 9: Urban causes of environmental harm


Chasteen, Chapter 11.

Wk 10: Summary Discussion

David Barton Bray, Marcelo Carreón, Leticia Merino, and Victoria Santos, "On the Road to Sustainable Forestry." Cultural Survival Quarterly 17, no. 1 (Spring, 1993). 38-41.


Evaluation:

- in class participation
- no mid-term, but a one-page of ‘specialization’ readings/historiography
- final essay-exam, on Tu 03/18/2014

During office hours we will discuss individual interests and concentrations for the final essay-exam.