

History 471/671
Political Science 407N
Prof. Tom Wright
Fall 2008

REVOLUTION AND REACTION IN CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICA

Course overview

This course is designed to acquaint students with Latin American history during the turbulent period in which the Cuban Revolution was the driving force in the region's politics. First, Fidel Castro's revolution launched a wave of revolutionary activity that affected all of Latin America, some countries more than others. Then, in reaction to the spread of revolutionary movements, counterrevolutionary regimes, most of them military, came to power in many countries. Some of these regimes ruled by state terrorism. Covering the Cuban Revolution, revolutionary movements throughout Latin America, state terrorism, human rights, and the U.S. role in Latin America, the course focuses on the period from 1952 to 1990 and offers an overview of more recent developments.

Required books*

Daniel Castro, ed., *Revolution and Revolutionaries: Guerrilla Movements in Latin America*
Marguerite Feitlowitz, *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture*
Thomas C. Wright, *Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution*

* other assignments are on electronic reserve

Course outline and reading assignments (readings should be completed prior to the dates indicated below)

PART I: REVOLUTION

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|--------------|---|
| August 26 | Introduction; background to the Cuban Revolution
Wright, introduction, ch. 1 |
| September 2 | The Cuban Revolution
Wright, ch. 2 |
| September 9 | The rise of fidelismo and U.S. responses
Wright, chs. 3 & 4; Castro, chs. 7, 8 |
| September 16 | Rural guerrilla warfare
Wright, ch. 5; Castro, introduction, chs. 5, 6, 10, 11; Che Guevara, <i>Bolivian Diaries</i> , pp. 190-223 (e-reserve) |
| September 23 | Urban guerrilla warfare
Wright, ch. 6; Castro, chs. 12, 13, 14 |

- September 30 The Peruvian military revolution
Wright, ch. 7
- October 7 Chile under Allende
Wright, ch. 8
- October 14 The Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua
Wright, ch. 10; Castro, ch. 4; Omar Cabezas, *Fire from the Mountain*,
pp. 63-102, 207-221 (e-reserve)
- October 21 The Sendero Luminoso in Peru
Wright, pp. 89-90; Castro, chs. 15, 16, 17
- PART II: REACTION
- October 28 Military regimes and state terrorism
Wright, pp. 149-156
- November 4 Pinochet's Chile
Wright, 156-160; Pamela Constable & Arturo Valenzuela,
A Nation of Enemies: Chile under Pinochet, chs. 3 & 4 (e-reserve)
- November 11 The dirty war in Argentina
Wright, pp. 160-164; Feitlowitz, ix-192
- November 18 The aftermath of state terrorism
Feitlowitz, 193-255
- PART III: LATIN AMERICA SINCE 1990
- November 25 The Pinochet effect and the erosion of impunity
Thomas C. Wright, *State Terrorism in Latin America: Chile, Argentina,
and International Human Rights*, pp. 200-215 (e-reserve)
- December 2 Overview, 1990-2008
Wright, ch. 11; Castro, chs. 18; Jon Lee Anderson, "Fidel's Heir" (e-reserve)

Writing assignments

You will be asked to write one four-page (1,000-word) book review and two three-page (750-word) film reviews. The book must deal with the theme of the class and must be approved by the instructor. Some bibliography is found at the end of the text. Please review two films from the list distributed in class. All are available at Lied Library's media department.

The basis of your grade*

Mid-term exam (approx. Oct. 16)	20%
Book review (Nov. 20)	15%
Film reviews (Oct. 30, Dec. 4)	20%
Final exam (Dec. 9, 3:10 pm)	30%
Participation**	15%

*You must have a cumulative passing grade on the exams in order to pass the class.

**Participation includes attendance and contributions to classroom discussions. Our grade will suffer if you have more than three unexcused absences.

How to contact Prof. Wright

Office	Wright Hall B308
Office hours	Tues. and Thurs. 1-2:15 and by appointment
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Other

Study questions and guidelines for reviews will be distributed in class.

Cheating on exams or plagiarism on papers will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

If you have a documented disability and may require assistance, you should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex, room 137. The phone is 895-0866 or TTY 895-0652.