

Prof. Friedrich E. Schuler

Cramer Hall 441N

Hist 368

CRN 41550

Asynchronous on line

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## Brazil and Mexico in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

(1900-2019)

This course examines and compares the history of Brazil and Mexico the most important nations north and south of the Panama Canal during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Particular emphasis will be given to how their citizens fought over the nation building process that, by 2012, had brought Brazil to the edge of becoming a world power. Emphasis will be paid to how the countries relate to the United States and China.

The course will close by looking at U.S. relations with Brazil and Mexico from the Obama presidency on until today. Then a marked watershed emerged that marked the end of the era and processes lasting from 1900 to 2000. Much that was achieved previously was put into question. The following pandemic only accelerated this process. Does it mean we are moving back to 1900 a time of deep social upheaval and tendency toward revolution? At the very least we are moving back to realities we knew from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Key *Content* Learning Goals and Themes

questions to be explored are:

what obstacles had to be overcome on this path?

is there a price to be paid for this rise?

what social groups paid it and how?

how was Brazilian and Mexican national identity shaped in this process?

were there limits to this process due to the international political world environment?

how was art and literature used in this process?

how does economic development play a role in this process?

what key cultural experiences and events took place that will shape U.S. interactions with Brazil and Mexico also in the future?

## Key *Conceptual* Course Objectives

Use the assigned materials to identify historical themes and transformations. Among them learn to discuss

-the role of regional versus national revolutions

-the politics of culture and ethnicity

- what it means when a country is dominated by a military institution
- what it means when a country is dominated by one political authoritarian party
- how party and military dictatorship make impossible life giving experiences in everyday life
- recentering foreign relations between the U.S., Africa, Asia and Europe
- during the global cold war how the history of one continent figured in the history of another
- the environmental and people cost of the “strategy of development”
- how the yearning and demand for stimulants in U.S. society impacts economic development in Brazil and Mexico in the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- how technology and NAFTA reshaped international relations after 1980.

## Your Grade is based on

8 personal reflection papers 300 words each discussing weekly readings or lectures, due Monday the following week at noon (10%). 6 have to be handed in to receive any passing grade.

One take home mid-term answering four questions. 12-15 pages long, spacing 1,5, font 14. Due February 11 posted as email attachment on line to my email schulerf@pdx.edu.

One take home final answering three questions 10-12 pages long, spacing 1,5, font 14. Due March 10 at noon on line as email attachment on line to my email schulerf@pdx.edu.

## Required Readings

Books required for reading are available at the PSU bookstore. I don't mind if you buy them on Amazon as a used copy and save tons of money.

Lilia M. Schwarz, Heloisa M. Starling, *Brazil, A Biography*, (Farrar Strauss, 2018).

Samuel Brunk, *Emiliano Zapata*, (U of New Mexico Press, any edition will do)

Schuler, Friedrich, (*Mexico Between Hitler and Roosevelt U of New Mexico Press, any edition will do*).

Jonathan Schlefer, *Palace Politics: How the Ruling Party Brought Down Mexico*, 2008.

## Some Pointers - Just in Case

We cooperate in this class based on the student and professor code of conduct.

Zero tolerance for anti-semitism, anti-islam, anti-Christianity, anti-atheism.

Complete understanding for mental health challenges and you have to register with the DRC.

We discuss everything based on science. (only!) That means you have to find out what science says about it.

Students on the left and right, religious and atheist have to feel comfortable in the class. You are not there to fight their opinion. They also cannot fight your opinion. You can't fight me. I will not fight your opinion. We listen to each other's position and the evidence that backs up people's assertions. Then you draw your own conclusion.

No hostility toward any personal opinion acted out in class, on line social media etc.

Whatever you are gay, queer, trans or straight is great. Be it. Let me know how to address you correctly. Let others be what they are. You can be true to your beliefs. You don't have to think what I think or write.

Latin America is not at all like the U.S., being Latino/Latina/Latinx is different again from being a person from Latin America. This class is about Latin Americans.

I don't have easy solutions, nor is this necessarily a happy history to tell. But it is one of world cultures, as beautiful as that of Europe, Asia or the U.S.

Your continued participation in this class assumes you are willing to function in this context.

January

Week 1: A. Establishing the Historical Context

Chronological Overviews

Tuesday 1/5 Introduction

Chronological Overview History of Mexico 1900-2010 (posted Thursday)

Chronological Overview History of Brazil 1900-2010 (posted Thursday)

Please buy the books

Readings: Lilia M. Schwarz, Heloisa M. Starling, *Brazil, A Biography*, (Farrar Strauss, 2018), p. 1-128.

No Reflection Due next Monday

### **A. The Analog Era**

**Class Focus until Week 8: 1900 to 1970**

**An epoch when many things were analog and 3 dimensional and could not be moved and civilians had no computer. That matters tremendously.**

Week 2 : Common People: Legacies of Brazilian Slavery and Mexican Debt Peonage

Monday 1/13 Mexico: debt peonage, the Mexican Revolution and land distribution after 1920.

Wednesday 1/15 Brazil: After the collapse of slavery; European and Asian immigration and a risk adverse elite of European planters.

Lilia M. Schwarz, Heloisa M. Starling, *Brazil, A Biography*, (Farrar Strauss, 2018).p. 129-243.

Samuel Brunk, *Zapata*, Chapter 1 to 3 (The making of a rebel, the hacendado's revolution, the birth of Zapatismo)

Slavery and Debt Peonage destroy a person's soul. So does political violence by the political left and the political right. There is no need to say that for 10 weeks. Often professors retraumatize students that way. If you are interested in this topic the best book on how violence impacts the person.

Bessel van der Kolk: *The body keeps the score: Brain, Mind and Body in the healing of Trauma*, Penguin Books 2015. A detailed exploration of that effect that can be transferred to today's forms of oppression.

### Week 3: Revolutions

Tuesday 1/21 Mexico: The Mexican Revolution: in reality many revolutions; and Brazil: the 1928 Revolution of Colonels, the aborted communist revolution in 1936 and the fascist

integralist revolution in 1937 and the return to democracy after 1970.

Reading Samuel Brunk, *Emiliano Zapata*, chapters 4 to 7 (Victory in part, the national challenge, A political whirlwind, decline and betrayal).

Schwarcz, *Brazil*, pages 355 to 468.

Week 4: What a Corporate State is. The examples of the 1930s

Tuesday 1/28 Mexico under Lazaro Cardenas 1934-1940  
Brazil under Getulio Vargas 1937 - 1945

Schwarz, *Brazil*, pages 468 to 537.

Week 5 New Cultural Visions

Tuesday 2/4 *Mexico: Muralism and Indiginismo*; and Brazil: a greater inclusion of Brazil's African reality

The Art of Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Maria Izquierdo and Oaxacan Painter Rufino Tamayo (find it on-line under images)

DVD: Henry Louis Gates: The African Tradition in Brazil, The African Tradition in Mexico

Mid term questions posted on D2L

### Week 6 World War I and II

Tuesday 2/11 Mexico, Europe and the U.S.: World War I and the Zimmerman Telegram: a dangerous path between imperial Germany and the U.S. ; World War II: moving to the Allied powers just in time. Contradictory experiences: military cooperation, labor exploitation, espionage cooperation, beginning of tourism;

and Brazil, Europe and the U.S.: World War I saves Brazil from bankruptcy, the only Latin American country at world war, Brazil's dangerous path between Nazi Germany and the U.S., moving to the Allied side just in time and sending land troops, preparing for Nazi invasion, cooperation with U.S. armed forces.

Schwarcz, *Brazil*, finish the book please

### Week 7 The answer to revolution and war: import substitution and national economic development

Out of fear about revolution: "Development"; turning peasants into consumers," place bound import substitution, absence of environmental responsibility.

Reading Schuler, Friedrich, (*Mexico Between Hitler and Roosevelt*, U of New Mexico Press, in its entirety.

Tuesday 2/18      Mexico: import substitution, the 1960s Mexican Miracle, 1980 technocracy and NAFTA, the emergence of the computer creates the crisis of the developmental model, tolerating an economy of stimulants; and

Brazil: state led development, the military as developer, cooperation with U.S. companies, the crisis of the developmental model.

Jonathan Schlefer, *Palace Politics*, pages 1 – 76.

### **B. The Era of Digital Begins**

**(most leaders missed this and therefore invested in the wrong policies therefore destroying what had been achieved before)**

#### Week 8 State Repression versus Popular Liberation

Tuesday    2/25      Mexico: the PRI, massacre at Tlatelolco (1968), environmental movements and Mexico's 2<sup>nd</sup> Democracy 1990; and Brazil: military repression before 1945, the national security state, liberation theology.

Reading Schlefer, J, *Palace Politics*, 76-129.

## Week 9 Inside a Non Western World

Tuesday 3/3 Mexico: Outlook beyond 2010: becoming a failing state, partial military re-occupation by Mexican forces, repressing Central Americans; and Brazil: out of the U.S. orbit, relations with China, Africa and Near East, rising lower middle class fears

Schlefer, J., *Palace Politics*, page 129 to the end of the book.

Final exam questions posted on D2L today at noon.

## Week 10 Back to a World of Nations?

Tuesday 3/10 In the world that President Trump ushers in President AMLO gives in: a horrible insult and onslaught of ignorance and racism; and In the world that President Trump ushers in: From Lula to President Bolsonaro, a parliamentary coup, environmental disaster, flirting with neo-dictatorship.

Hand in final exam paper.

