

HSTR 437.01 (AW)
Research Seminar in U.S.-Latin American Relations
The University of Montana, Fall 2015
W, 11:10-2 pm; LA 250

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image: "Cuba's Freedom Is Not Far Off"
Thomas May, *Detroit Journal*, 1907

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a History Department capstone research and writing seminar, which counts as an Advanced Writing course (AW; formerly UDW) for the University of Montana General Education requirements. Focused on U.S.-Latin American relations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, this course is designed especially to allow History majors and minors to put into practice the skills and understandings of history acquired in their course of study. As a class, we read a short textbook on the history of US-Latin American relations and a research and writing guide. Individually, each student will choose a specific topic to research in greater depth. While mastering the secondary literature on your topic, you will also work at finding and evaluating diverse primary sources, which you will use to write a clear and persuasive thesis-driven essay of historical interpretation, using all the stylistic and content conventions of the discipline of History.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES & ASSESSMENT:

Prior knowledge of Latin American history is not required for this course, but students without sufficient background may need to do supplementary preparation. In addition to offering content about the history of U.S.-Latin American relations, this course is designed to enhance student skills in research, reading, critical thinking, and oral and written expression, according to the conventions of the historical profession.

Students who successfully complete this course should gain: (a) knowledge about select people, places, events, and dynamics in the history of U.S.-Latin American relations (b) information literacy and research skills particular to the historical profession, and (c) experience in critical reading, thinking, writing, and oral expression. Required writing is 25-35 pp; required reading averages 100 pp. per week.

HSTR 437 is a capstone course for History majors and minors. It fulfills the GenEd Advanced Writing course requirement and also counts toward the Latin American Studies minor. Enrollment is limited and History students needing this course to graduate will be given priority.

REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:

Attendance and Participation in Class Activities (discussions; reading quizzes; presentations; comments on peer work; etc.)	275 pts	27 %
Paper Research and Writing Assignments	275 pts	27 %
Final Paper	400 pts	40 %
Oral Paper Presentation	50 pts	5 %
TOTAL	1000 pts	100 %

GRADING SCALE: (converted from 1000 points possible)

		B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						F	59 & lower

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

This is an advanced seminar, which requires regular attendance and active participation. I keep track of both. You are expected to do all of the required reading for each class meeting. This does not mean passively or quickly perusing it, but rather, dedicating whatever time necessary to fully make sense of it. This may involve taking notes and/or consulting additional resources. If you are confused about concepts used in the reading or the historical context in which it is set, it is your responsibility to look these up and to then bring *specific questions* about what you still don't understand to class. I may periodically give quizzes to ensure that students are keeping up with the reading.

Each week you should also be prepared to discuss your research experiences and findings. You may be asked to give mini-presentations about your sources or other aspects of your work-in-progress.

You are also expected to participate actively in a writing group to which you will be assigned. This will entail carefully reading, thinking about, and commenting on various assignments and paper drafts submitted by a number of your peers (est. 1-3).

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Failure to submit any one of these assignments on time will result in a one grade drop in your final grade. Failure to turn in two of these assignments on time will mean failure in the course.** Exceptions only with prior approval or legitimate, documented circumstances.
- In order to be considered for a grade, all writing assignments must follow all grammatical and stylistic guidelines and conventions detailed in *The Chicago Manual of Style*. **No exceptions.**
- You may be asked to upload your written assignments onto Moodle and/or to bring in hard copies for the professor and the members of your writing group. Be prepared to submit as many copies as requested.
- The total grade points possible for your written assignments is 275. There are eleven required assignments, and each is worth up to 25 points.

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE
WA1: Description of Primary & Secondary Source Exploration	9/9
WA2: Preliminary Bibliography & Description of Exploration	9/16
WA3: Paper Topic Description	9/23
WA4: Annotated Bibliography	9/30
WA5: Secondary Literature Review	10/7
WA6: Paper Prospectus	10/14
WA7: Primary Source Critique	10/21
WA8: Paper Outline	10/28
WA9: Draft of First 5 Pages	11/4
WA10: Draft of First 10 Pages	11/18
WA 11: Draft of Full Paper	12/2
Final Paper	12/9

- **Final Paper:** The final paper should be approximately 18-20 double-spaced pages (15 is the minimum for credit; 25 is the maximum). It must include proper citations (Chicago Style) to diverse primary and secondary sources that provide a sufficient evidentiary base for the argument put forward in the paper. It must be written in strong, grammatically-correct English and be organized according to essay conventions in the historical profession. The final paper must include a complete bibliography, and may also include maps, illustrations, tables, or appendices that enhance the appeal and persuasiveness of the work. These do not count as part of the 15-25 page limits.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES:

- Thanks to librarian Julie Edwards, we have a research guide designed specifically for this course: [US-Latin American Relations Subject Guide, Mansfield Library](#). **Consult this early and often.**
- The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, please contact DSS in Lommasson Center 154 or 406.243.2243. I will work with you and DSS to provide appropriate accommodation.
- This course involves a considerable amount of formal writing. I will work with you as much as possible to improve your writing. You are also strongly encouraged to seek assistance at the University Writing Center. [[University of Montana Writing Center](#)]
- You are responsible for adhering to the Student Conduct Code [[University of Montana Student Conduct Code](#)]. Any form of plagiarism will result in a failing grade and could prompt further disciplinary action from the university. (Plagiarism: representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own.) If you have any questions or concerns about plagiarism, see me.

- No late assignments or make-up work will be accepted without prior approval from me or official documentation of exceptional circumstances.
- Please keep all of your graded written work until the end of the semester.
- It is your responsibility to keep track of your own performance in the course. I am always willing to meet with you during the semester to suggest ways for you to get the most out of this course and to improve your participation in it. The end of the semester is not the appropriate time to meet with me about your work or grade.

REQUIRED READING

BOOKS (for purchase)

Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 8th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015. [okay to use older editions]

Weeks, Gregory. *U.S. and Latin American Relations*. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2008.

CHAPTERS (on Moodle)

Johnson, John J. Selections from *Latin America in Caricature* (U of Texas P, 1993).

Kornbluh, Peter. "Introduction," Ch. 4, "Consolidating Dictatorship," Ch. 5, "American Casualties," 1st half (Charles Horman)," in *The Pinochet File: A Declassified Dossier on Atrocity and Accountability* (NY: New Press, 2003), pp. xi-xx., 201-65, 267-80.

RESEARCH AND WRITING GUIDES

The Chicago Manual of Style, 16th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010. ¹ (UMT, Level 3; Library Use Only)

The Chicago Manual of Style Online:

[Chicago Manual of Style homepage](#) (free 30 day trial or \$35 annual subscription)

[Chicago Manual of Style citation quick guide](#) (free citation quick guide)

Strunk, Jr., William and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*, fourth edition. Longman, 1999.

Trimble, John R. *Writing with Style: Conversations on the Art of Writing*. Prentice-Hall, 2000.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, Seventh Edition: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*. U of Chicago P, 2007. (UMT, Level 3; Library Use Only)

¹ *The Chicago Manual of Style* is considered the *de facto* guide for American English style, grammar, and punctuation, in many disciplines, including History. It has been published by the University of Chicago Press in at least sixteen editions since 1906.

SELECT RECOMMENDED READING

Grandin, Greg. *Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States, and the Rise of the New Imperialism*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2006.

------. *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City*. Metropolitan Books, 2009.

------. *Kissinger's Shadow: The Long Reach of Americas Most Controversial Statesman*. Metropolitan Books, 2015.

Holden, Robert H. and Eric Zolov. eds.. *Latin America and the United States: A Documentary History*. New York: Oxford UP, 2000.

LaRosa, Michael and Frank O. Mora, eds. *Neighborly Adversaries: Readings in U.S.-Latin American Relations*. 2nd ed: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007.

Loveman, Brian. *No Higher Law: American Foreign Policy and the Western Hemisphere since 1776*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina P, 2010. + documentary supplement [[Documentary Supplement to Loveman, No Higher Law](#)]

O'Brien, Thomas F. *Making the Americas: The United States and Latin America from the Age of Revolutions to the Era of Globalization*. Albuquerque: U of New Mexico P, 2007.

Schoultz, Lars. *Beneath the United States: A History of U.S. Policy toward Latin America*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1998.



**image: U.S. Vice-President Henry A. Wallace in Latin America
March 1943 (here, at a picnic in Panama)**

SCHEDULE

Reading should be done by the day it's listed; Written assignments are due at the beginning of class.

1) W, 9/2: Introduction to the Class and to Online Research

2) W, 9/9: Introduction to Government Documents

* Meet with gov docs librarian Susanne Caro from 11:10-12:30; meet in LA 250, 12:40-2.

RDG: Rampolla, Ch. 1, "Introduction: Why Study History"

Review all of Weeks, *U.S. and Latin American Relations*

DUE: Description of Primary and Secondary Source Exploration

3) W, 9/16: Introduction to the Archives

* Meet in LA250 from 11:10-12:20. Meet with library archivist Donna McCrea from 12:30-2.

RDG: Rampolla, Ch 5, "Writing a Research Paper" & Ch 7, "Quoting & Documenting Sources"

Weeks, Ch. 1, "Theoretical Context of US & Latin American Relations"

DUE: Preliminary Bibliography and Description of Exploration

4) W, 9/23: U.S.-Latin American Relations in the 19th C

RDG: Rampolla, Ch. 3, "Reading & Writing History: Some Typical Assignments"

Weeks, Ch. 2, "The Roots of US and Latin American Relations"

DUE: Paper Topic Description

5) W, 9/30: The Consolidation of U.S. Hegemony (early 20th C)

RDG: Rampolla, Ch. 2, "Working with Sources," & review 3b-2, "Annotated Biblios"

Portelli, "The Death of Luigi Trastulli"

Weeks, Ch. 3, "The Rise of U.S. Hegemony"

Johnson, select pages 1

DUE: Annotated Bibliography (secondary & primary sources)

6) W, 10/7: Dollar Diplomacy to the Good Neighbor Policy

RDG: Rampolla, Ch. 4, "Conventions of Writing in History" & review 3d-2, "Historiographic essays"

Weeks, Ch. 4, "The Era of Intervention & the Good Neighbor"

Johnson, select pages 2

DUE: Secondary Literature Review (aka Historiographic Essay)

**** M, 10/12: Presidential Lecture by GREG GRANDIN (up to 50 points of extra credit, for a 3-5 page written review of the lecture; due by M, 10/19).**

7) W, 10/14: The Early Cold War

RDG: Weeks, Ch. 5, "The Early Cold War Period"

DUE: Paper Prospectus (topic, argument, source base)

8) W, 10/21: The 1960s: The Cuban Revolution and Beyond

RDG: Rampolla, Ch. 6, "Plagiarism" [*This ends our reading of Rampolla, but keep it handy over the next weeks to consult when helpful.*]

Weeks, Ch. 6, "The Cuban Revolution"

[Kennedy, Alliance for Progress, video compilation \(on YouTube\)](#)

DUE: Primary Source Critique

9) W, 10/28: The 1970s: Chile and Beyond

RDG: Weeks, Ch. 7, pp. 141-50, "The Communist Threat & US Intervention" (Chile)

Kornbluh, "Introduction," pp. xi-xx.

-----, Ch. 4, "Consolidating Dictatorship," pp. 201-265.

-----, Ch. 5, "American Casualties," 1st half (Charles Horman), pp. 267-80.

DUE: Paper Outline

10) W, 11/4: The 1980s-90s: Central America and Beyond

RDG: Weeks, Ch. 7, pp. 150-66, "The Communist Threat & US Intervention" (Central America)

DUE: Draft of first 5 pages

Comments on peers' first 5 (send as soon after 11/4 as possible)

**** W, 11/11: Veterans Day; no class**

11) W, 11/18: Current Issues 1

RDG: Weeks, Ch. 8, "Free Trade & Neoliberal Reform" & Ch. 9, "Immigration & US Policy"

DUE: Draft of first 10 pages

Comments on peers' first 10 (send as soon after 11/18 as possible)

**** W, 11/25: Thanksgiving Break; no class**

12) W, 12/2: Current Issues 2

RDG: Weeks, Ch 10, "Human Rights & Democracy" & Ch 11, "Drug Trafficking & Terrorism"

DUE: Full Paper Draft (minimum 15 pages)

13) W, 12/9: Student Presentations

DUE: Final Paper (apprx. 18-20 pages)

14) Th, 12/17, 8-10 am [exam slot]: Student Presentations