

University of California at Berkeley

Human Rights in Latin America

Fall 1998 - PACS 127b/LAS 130
MWF 12-1pm 122 Wheeler

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Overview

This course assumes prior coursework in human rights and a general interest in Latin America. In the first half of the course we will explore important themes and issues within the Latin American context, addressing the following questions: what is the nature of human rights abuses in Latin America? Who are the actors involved in human rights discussions, debates and problems? What is the role of local human rights groups in exposing abuses? How has the rise and proliferation of international NGOs affected the Latin American human rights movement? How does U.S. foreign policy affect human rights situations in Latin American countries? What are the politics of development and military aid to Latin America? How do national human rights problems become transnational ones (ie: labor, the environment) in the era of globalization? What international bodies exist for the resolution of such issues?

The second half of the course consists of comparative country and case studies. This will give us the chance to highlight themes and issues developed during the first half of the course and analyze them in specific contexts. Some of the questions we will consider are: how do theoretical models of human rights become problematized on the local level? What are the strengths and limitations of national and international bodies in promoting and protecting rights? When and how do states compromise individual or collective rights claims? Requirements:

Course prerequisites are PACS 127a, PACS 128 or consent of instructor. Students will be graded on a midterm (25%), a research paper (30%), class attendance and participation (10%), and final exam (35%). Films and videos will be a regular part of the required readings. Some will be shown in class and others can be viewed at the Moffitt Library Media Resources Center. Midterm and Final will be in-class short-answer and essay format. Study questions will be distributed in advance. The midterm is October 5. No make-ups. Please consult the Fall Schedule of Classes for final examination schedule. Class Attendance and Participation are mandatory. Weekly required readings will be around 80-100 painful and heart-wrenching pages to be done ahead of class. Please email or tell me in advance if you must miss any classes. More than one unexcused absence will result in lower credit. Research Paper will be due on November 16. It must be at least 15 pages and requires outside research with an analysis of a human rights issue in one of the following works:

- o Timerman, Jacobo. *Prisoner without a Name, Cell without a Number*
- o Dorfman, Ariel. "Death and the Maiden"
- o Menchu, Rigoberta. *Crossing the Borders: an Autobiography or I, Rigoberta Menchu*
- o Alvarez, Julia. *In the Time of the Butterflies*
- o "Strawberry and Chocolate," Cuba (1994) by Tomas Gutierrez Alea
- o Barrios de Chungara, Domitila. *Let Me Speak! Testimony of Domitila, a Woman of the Bolivian Tin Mines*
- o Alvarado, Elvia. *Don't Be Afraid Gringo: A Honduran Woman Speaks From the Heart.*

- o Argueta, Manlio. *One Day in Life*.
- o Tula, Maria Teresa. *Hear My Testimony: Maria Teresa Tula, Human Rights Activist of El Salvador*.

Writing and editing assistance are available through Golden Bear Writing Center. I'm also happy to read your rough drafts, given advance notice. Therefore, not only quality of research and content, but also proper style, grammar and spelling all count toward your paper grade. I honor academic honesty: you should know the university rules to stay out of trouble.

Required Texts:

1. Rosenberg, Tina. *Children of Cain: Violence and the Violent in Latin America*. Penguin Books, 1991.
2. Jelin, Elizabeth and Eric Hershenberg, eds. *Constructing Democracy: Human Rights, Citizenship and Society in Latin America*. Westview Press, 1997.
3. Cleary, Edward. *The Struggle for Human Rights in Latin America*. Praeger, 1997.
4. Course Reader (on sale at Copy Central, Bancroft Way)

Schedule

I. Overview

Week 1: August 24, 26, 28

Human Rights in Hemispheric Perspective International Human Rights Law since 1945 Human Rights Bodies in Latin America

Readings:

- o Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- o Wiarda, "Democracy and Human Rights in Latin America: Toward a New Conceptualization" in Reader
- o Cleary, "Struggling for Human Rights in Latin America" in Reader
- o Farer, "The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights" in Reader
- o Sikkink, "The Emergence, Evolution and Effectiveness of the Latin American Human Rights Network" in Jelin

Week 2: August 31, September 2, 4

U.S. Foreign Policy Torture and the Training of Militaries Development and Military Aid

Readings:

- o Smith, "US-Latin American Military Relations Since WWII" in Reader
- o Stover, "Introduction: The Breaking of Bodies and Minds" in Reader
- o Claude, "Torture on Trial" in Reader
- o Farer, "The Torturer's Response" in Reader
- o Farer, "Human Rights and Human Welfare" in Reader
- o Nanda, "Development and Human Rights" in Reader

Films:

- o "School of Assassins" on Reserve at Moffitt Media Center
- o "The Panama Deception" C 2556

Sept 7: Labor Day Holiday

Week 3: September 9, 11

Health, the Environment, and Multinationals

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Readings:

- Mann et al. "Health and Human Rights" in Reader
- Johnston, "Human Rights and the Environment" in Reader
- Lippman, "Multinational Corporations and Human Rights" in Reader

Week 4: September 14, 16, 18

Women's Rights

Children's Rights

Indigenous Rights

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- Jelin, "Women, Gender and Human Rights" in Jelin
- Freeman, "Children's Rights: Evolution of a Concept" in Reader
- Nightingale & Wurf, "Children and Human Rights in Latin America" in Reader
- Stavenhagen, "Indigenous Rights: Some Conceptual Problems" in Jelin
- Stamatopoulou, "Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations" in Reader

Week 5: September 21, 23, 25

Refugees and Internal Displacement

Immigration and Citizenship

Liberation Theology

Guest Lecture: Prof. Patty Blum, Law School

Readings:

- Helton, "Displacement and Human Rights" in Reader
- Goodwin-Gill, "International Law and Human Rights: Trends Concerning International Migrants and Refugees" in Reader
- Bacon, "For an Immigration Policy Based on Human Rights" in Reader
- Levine, "Religion, the Poor and Politics in Latin America Today" in Reader
- Berreman, "Church and Revolution: Reflections on Liberation Theology" in Reader

Week 6: September 28, 30, Oct 2

**Truth & Reconciliation
Justice & Accountability
Amnesty
Review**

Guest Lecture: Eric Stover, Public Health/Human Rights Center

Readings:

- Hampton, "Impunity and Accountability" in Reader
- Neier, "What Should be Done About the Guilty?" in Reader
- Ignatieff, "Articles of Faith" in Reader
- Mendez, "Accountability for Past Abuses" in Reader

October 5: Midterm Exam

II. Case/Country Studies

Week 7: October 7, 9

Brazil's Street Children

Guest Lecture: Benedito dos Santos, Anthropology

Readings:

- Interview, "Battling Brazil's Child Labor Brutality" in Reader
- Cleary, "Streetchildren as a Human Rights Issue" in Cleary
- Nederstigt, "Broad Legal Assistance: Defence and Realization of Children's Rights" in Reader

Film:

- "A Guerra dos Meninos" C 4230

Week 8: October 12, 14, 16

Central America in Crisis: Guatemala and El Salvador

Guest Lecture: Prof. Beatriz Manz, Geography/Ethnic Studies

Readings:

- "Indigenous Indians Become the Target of Guatemalan Death Squads" in Reader
- Falla, "Introduction" and Manz, "Epilogue" in Reader
- "El Salvador: Introductory Survey" in Reader
- Binford, "A Reformed Military?" in Reader
- Montgomery, "Constructing Democracy in El Salvador" in Reader
- Buerghenthal, OpEd: "The U.S. Should Come Clean on 'Dirty Wars'"
- Kaye, "The Role of Truth Commissions in the Search for Justice, Reconciliation and Democratization: The Salvadoran and Honduran Cases" in Reader

Films:

- Highly Recommended: "Crisis in Central America" (Frontline) C 774
- Recommended: "Romero" 999:479
- Recommended: "Tu Eres Mi Otro Ojo" C 4230

Week 9: October 19, 21, 23

Military Dictatorships in the Southern Cone

Guest Lecture: Prof. Barrueto, UCSC

Readings:

- Donnelly, "The Domestic Politics of Human Rights: The Case of the Southern Cone" in Reader
- Rosenberg, Chapter 2 "The Good Sailor" in Rosenberg
- "The Argentine Military Conducts a 'Dirty War' Against Leftists" in Reader
- "Argentine Leaders are Convicted of Human Rights Violations" in Reader
- Rosenberg, Chapter 6 "The Pig's Tail" in Rosenberg
- Cleary, "Human Rights after the Military: Settling Accounts and Facing the Issues" in Cleary

Films:

- "Nunca Mas Nunca Mas" on Reserve at Moffitt Media Center
- "Las Madres" C 2180
- Recommended: "The Official Story" C 999:587

Week 10: October 26, 28, 30

The U.S.-Mexican Border, NAFTA, and the Maquiladora Industry

Guest Lecture: Prof. Harley Shaiken, Geography/Education

Readings:

- Fernandez-Kelly, "The Border Industrialization Program" in Reader
- Human Rights Watch, "No Guarantees: Sex Discrimination in Mexico's Maquiladora Sector" in Reader
- Human Rights Watch, "U.S. Frontier Injustice: Human Rights Abuses Along the U.S. Border" in Reader

Films:

- "Borderline Cases" C 4748
- Recommended: "Natives: Immigrant Bashing on the Border" C 3273

Week 11: November 2, 4, 6

Dictatorships in the Caribbean: Cuba and Haiti

Guest Lecture: Prof. Laurel Fletcher, Law School

Readings:

- Burr, "Assessing Cuba's Approach to Contain AIDS and HIV" in Reader
- Scheper-Hughes, "AIDS, Public Health and Human Rights in Cuba" in Reader
- Amnesty International, "Haiti: the Human Rights Tragedy" in Reader

- Human Rights Watch, "Thirst for Justice: A Decade of Impunity in Haiti" in Reader
- U.S. State Dept Dispatch, "Human Rights Situation in Haiti" in Reader
- Maguire, "Democracy and Human Rights in Haiti" in Reader

Films:

- "The Coup Continues" (Haiti Commission) C 4238
- "Looking for a Space: Lesbians and Gay Men in Cuba" C 3592

Week 12: November 9, 11, 13

The Sandinista Revolution and Nicaragua's Miskito Indians

Amazon Indians and Oil Exploration

Readings:

- Rosenberg, Chapter 5 "The Triumph" in Rosenberg
- Dennis, "National Revolution and Indigenous Identity: The Conflict Between Sandinistas and Miskito Indians on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast" in Reader
- Jochnick, "Amazon Oil Offensive" in Reader
- Egan, "Forging New Alliances in Ecuador's Amazon" in Reader

Films:

- Recommended: "Decade of Destruction: Killing for Land" C 1837

Week 13: November 16, 18 20

(Paper Due November 16)

Mexico from Tlatelolco 1968 to the Zapatista Uprising 1994

Readings:

- Cleary, "Human Rights Organizing Spreads: Mexico and the Theoretical Frame" in Cleary
- Poniatowska, "Introduction: Massacre in Mexico" in Reader
- Human Rights Watch, "The New Year's Rebellion" in Reader
- Hernandez, "The Escalation of the War in Chiapas" in Reader
- Stahler-Sholk, "The Lessons of Acteal" in Reader
- Kampwirth, "Peace Talks but No Peace" in Reader

Films:

- "The Sixth Sun" on Reserve at Moffitt Media Center
- Recommended: "Rojo Amanecer" C 3446 - in Spanish, no subtitles!

Week 14: November 23, 25

Peru: Shining Path and the Japan Embassy Hostage Crisis

Guest Lecture: Kimberly Theidon. Anthropology

Readings:

- Degregori, "A Dwarf Star" in Reader
- Manrique, "A Time of Fear" in Reader
- Rosenberg, Chapter 3 "Dialectic" in Rosenberg
- Canseco, "The Peruvian Crucible: Reflections of a Hostage" in Reader
- Witkin, "Peru Takes no Prisoners" in Reader
- Cleary, "Contemporary Societies Under Siege: Peru, Politics and Public Secrets" in Cleary

November 27: Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15: November 30, December 2, 4

Colombia: Drug Trafficking, Death Squads, and Rural Violence

Course Review

Guest Lecture: Claudia Steiner, Latin American Studies

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- Rosenberg, Chapter 1 "Quixote" in Rosenberg
- Human Rights Watch, "Colombia's Killer Networks" in Reader
- Tickner, "Colombia: Chronicle of a Crisis Foretold" in Reader
- SF Chronicle, "Top Rights Attorney Assassinated in Colombia" in Reader

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