



**LATIN AMERICAN CENTRE**  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD  
ST ANTONY'S COLLEGE, OXFORD OX2 6JF, UK



## **Exam Options 2017/18**

### *Latin America since Independence*

#### **Course provider**

Professor Eduardo Posada-Carbó

Email address: [eduardo.posada-carbo@lac.ox.ac.uk](mailto:eduardo.posada-carbo@lac.ox.ac.uk)

#### **Course aims and objectives**

This course aims at providing students with a general understanding of the modern history of Latin America since independence; familiarizing them with some of the key debates in the academic literature; and enabling them to engage with their subject in an scholarly manner, both in their writings and in class discussion, and to relate the history of the region to other disciplines in the social sciences.

#### **Course description**

The course covers a selection of major themes, either generally applied to the whole region or to individual countries. The topics covered include: independence; problems of state and nation building; the role of Britain in 19<sup>th</sup> century Latin America; liberalism and state-church relations; the abolition of slavery in Brazil; the export economy and immigration in Argentina; elections, revolutions and democratization; relations with the United States and the Cuban revolution.

#### **Course structure**

The course is taught in Hilary Term through a series of eight seminars. Students are expected to attend and actively participate in the seminars, to which they are required to contribute with at least one presentation. Covering at least the 'core readings' in advance is a requirement to attend the seminars. Students are also required to write three essays, to be submitted by the end of weeks 3, 6 and 8.

Students are also expected to attend the Latin American History Seminar (Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. at the LAC), and other seminars organized by the LAC and the University, especially those on topics directly relevant to the course.

#### **Course assessment**

This course is assessed by a three-hour examination according to the provisions established in the Examination Decrees and Regulations. Further details are available from the Latin American Centre Student Handbook.

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## *Introduction to the Latin American Economies*

### **Course provider**

Dr Diego Sánchez-Ancochea

Email address: [diego.sanchez-ancochea@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:diego.sanchez-ancochea@sant.ox.ac.uk)

### **Course aims and objectives**

This course examines Latin America's main economic challenges from a historical perspective. In doing so, we aim to discuss economic concepts and theories and also analyse how policy has changed in the last century. In particular, we will explore how the long-term characteristics of the region have been modified by external shocks and how external factors have influenced internal dynamics. While concentrating on the general model of the region, we will also consider the differences and commonalities between various countries.

Our central goal is to explain why the region has struggled to achieve structural change and better income distribution—two key components of development—and how it is still struggling today. We will adopt a historical approach by studying the main economic models that have been implemented in the region since the beginning of the twentieth century and by evaluating their impact on economic growth and income distribution. Our analysis will also follow a political economy methodology, which considers the interplay between the state, economic actors and economic structure.

This course is designed for students interested in the process of economic and social development in Latin America, including students doing the MSc and MPhil in Latin American Studies and the MPhil in Development Studies. Students are not expected to have previous knowledge of Economics, although having some knowledge of key concepts will of course help. A selection of special readings on economic and development concepts will be available upon request.

### **Course requirements**

Essays and Tutorials: Students taking the Economics paper can expect to write at least two essays and undertake other individual and group activities. The essays will have around 2,500 words and the questions and reading list should be agreed in advance. One of the essays will be discussed in class and the other in a weekly group tutorial (time and day to be agreed). There may be other small written assignments during the course of the term.

### **Course structure**

The course is taught in Michaelmas Term in eight sessions of two hours and fifteen minutes where there will be a mixture of individual and group exercises and short lectures. Each student will also be expected to attend a one and a half hour group tutorial. All students are supposed to do the core readings (two or three articles) in preparation of the class. As such, they should expect to spend around 10 hours per week in the course.

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### **Assessment**

This course is assessed by a three-hour examination in Trinity Term. Copies of previous exams are available on-line from the Oxford Libraries Information Platform (OXLIP) and <http://oxam.ox.ac.uk/>. The dates of examination are set and publicised by the Examination Schools. Revision classes will be offered in Trinity Term.



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*Sociology of Latin America*

### **Course provider**

Professor Leigh A. Payne

Email address: [leigh.payne@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:leigh.payne@sant.ox.ac.uk)

### **Course description**

This course reviews the major sociological concepts and theories as applied to Latin America and the contribution of scholarship on Latin America to the field of sociology. The course covers issues including the state and nation formation, development, poverty and inequality, gender, social and revolutionary movements, religion, race and ethnicity, and crime and violence.

### **Course objectives**

This course introduces students to advanced research on sociology in Latin America, and prepares students for doctoral research in this area.

### **Course structure**

This course currently consists of 8 lectures and 8 seminars or small tutorials.

### **Course assessment**

Unmarked assessments: The following will form part of the overall assessment of the student's progress in the programme, but will not constitute part of the final mark for the course.

- Weekly attendance and participation in lectures
- One essay of approximately 2500 words (excluding footnotes and bibliographies) submitted during term. The essay should be selected based on past exam paper questions or in consultation with the course provider
- Short presentation of that essay in tutorial
- One critical written and orally delivered review of another student's essay in tutorial
- Revisions sessions including a mock exam
- Critical review of another student's mock exam question

Marked assessment: The following constitutes one component of the final mark for the MSc and MPhil: a three-hour written examination paper on Sociology of Latin America in Trinity Term.

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*The International Relations of Latin America*

### **Course provider**

Dr David Doyle

Email address: [david.doyle@politics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:david.doyle@politics.ox.ac.uk)

### **Course aims and objectives**

This course aims to provide students with a general understanding of the international politics of Latin America over the course of the last decades. Students will develop an understanding of the major theories of international relations, and learn to use these theoretical frameworks to systematically analyze international politics and events across the region. Students will also become proficient in studying theoretical frameworks self-sufficiently together with the search and collection of empirical evidence underpinning their analysis and argumentation.

### **Course description**

The course will examine the international relations of Latin America. Topics cover the evolution of the relations of the Latin American states with the United States (including hemispheric institutions such as the OAS); with other extra-regional powers (Europe, the USSR/Russia, China and Japan); the changing place of the region in the global economy and the development of relevant doctrines and theories; the evolving character of intra-Latin American relations, covering new security issues, migration, international trade and regional integration; and the foreign policy of the major states of the region. Students will become familiar with the broad historical development of the international relations of the region as well as the major theoretical perspectives that are relevant to the field.

### **Course requirements**

Students must write at least two 2,500 word essays. The first essay must be submitted by the end of week 4 and the second essay must be submitted by the end of week 7. Additional essays can be submitted in Hilary Term. The essays should be based on past exam paper questions or on a topic set in consultation with the course provider.

### **Course structure**

The course is taught in Michaelmas Term as a series of eight 90-minute sessions. Each session will include both a lecture component and a period of seminar-style discussion on that topic. The essays will be discussed in group tutorials (time and day to be agreed).

### **Term essays**

I expect those students who want to present themselves for examination in Trinity to write at least two, and preferably three, essays. Students are free in the choice of the topic and should present a theoretically guided and empirically sound systematic analysis (3000 words).

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## **Assessment**

This course is assessed by a three-hour exam in Trinity Term. Copies of previous exams are available on-line from the Oxford Libraries Information Platform (OXLIP) and <http://oxam.ox.ac.uk/>. The exam will be based on answers to three questions from a larger set of questions. Revision classes will be offered in Trinity Term weeks 1 and 2.



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*The Politics of Democracy in Latin America*

### **Course provider**

Dr Timothy Power

Email address: [timothy.power@lac.ox.ac.uk](mailto:timothy.power@lac.ox.ac.uk)

### **Course aims and objectives**

The course aims at enabling students to understand the politics of Latin America, particularly since the processes of democratic transition in the late 1970s; to be acquainted with key themes in the academic debates and the related relevant literature; and to enable students to engage with their subject in a scholarly manner, both in their writings and their class discussions.

### **Course description**

The course comprises a combination of the analysis of general themes with the examination of single aspects or problems of democratization in individual countries. The topics covered include: Democracy and Political Culture; Transitions to Democracy; Presidentialism; Parties and Congresses; Elections; the Media and Public Opinion; Populism; the Rule of Law and Security; Ethnicity; Democratic Performance; the Survival of Guerrilla Warfare; and Attitudes Towards Democracy. The course will mainly focus on Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Perú, México and Venezuela.

### **Course structure**

The course is taught in Hilary Term through a series of eight seminars. Students are expected to attend and actively participate in the seminars, to which they are required to contribute with at least one presentation. Covering at least the 'core readings' in advance is a requirement to attend the seminars. Students are also required to write three essays, to be submitted by the end of weeks 3, 5 and 7 of the term.

Students are also expected to attend the general Latin American Seminar, and other seminars organized by the LAC and the University, especially those on topics directly relevant to the course.

### **Course assessment**

This course is assessed by a three-hour examination according to the provisions established in the Examination Decrees and Regulation, a copy of which has been issued to each graduate student in their respective Colleges.

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## Exam Options 2017/18 Further Papers

### *Mexico, North America and the World*

#### **Course provider**

Dr Halbert Jones

Email address: [halbert.jones@sant.ox.ac.uk](mailto:halbert.jones@sant.ox.ac.uk)

#### **Course aims and objectives**

By the end of this course, students will have a sound understanding of the outlines of modern Mexican history and of Mexico's place in both a North American regional system and the wider world.

#### **Course description**

This course places Mexico in regional and global perspective through an examination of the ways in which the country's historical development has been shaped by its geographical position on the North American continent and by its interactions with its North American neighbours. Attention will be given as well to how broader international conditions shaped major processes in Mexican history, such as the Mexican Revolution, and to the impact on Mexico over time of world events and global trends, including World War II, the Cold War, and successive waves of globalisation. The course will also examine some of the common ties and shared challenges that link contemporary Mexico to the United States, Canada, Central America, and the Caribbean.

#### **Course structure**

The course will be organised as a series of eight 90-minute sessions. A seminar-style discussion on selected readings will be the primary component of each session.

#### **Course assessment**

Participants will be expected to prepare two essays of approximately 1500-2000 words on the course material, to be discussed in tutorials. Assessment will be through a three-hour examination, similar to that in other courses.

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*Andean Politics*

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### **Course provider**

Dr John Crabtree

Email address: [john@crabtree-condor.u-net.com](mailto:john@crabtree-condor.u-net.com)

### **Course aims and objectives**

The course aims to give students a general understanding of the dynamics underlying the politics of Peru and Bolivia since the 1960s. It will familiarise students with the key debates that arise in the academic literature, reflecting issues from the two countries concerned but also other experiences in Latin America.

### **Course description**

The course covers a selection of major issues that have defined the politics of both countries, in the case of Peru from the military government (1968-80) onwards, and in the case of Bolivia from the aftermath of the 1952 revolution. Topics will include democratisation, political violence, social movements, the activities of political parties, institutional weaknesses/reform, the narcotics industry, the military, amongst others. It will also involve some comparative analysis between the two countries, and reference to similar issues elsewhere in Latin America.

### **Course structure**

The course will be taught in Hilary Term and, depending on numbers, probably on the basis of tutorials. In principle, there will be six tutorials, with students expected to write four essays of no more than 2,000 words, of which one will be comparative in nature. The essay topics will be designed to cover as much as possible of the syllabus, but also chosen to reflect individual student's particular interests. A Reading list will be supplied on the essay topics students choose to select.

### **Course assessment**

By written examination in Trinity Term with a similar structure to that of other courses.

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## Research Methods (Core for MPhil Latin American Studies and Optional for MSc Latin American Studies)

**This course runs over two terms and comprises two modules.**

**The first module runs during Michaelmas Term and covers principles of research design, approaches to collecting data, and approaches for managing and analysing qualitative data.** During the first weeks of the course students are introduced to finding primary and secondary sources and are invited to explore the relationship between the social science disciplines and the empirical study of an 'area' such as China, South Asia, Japan, Russia and Eurasia or Latin America and to reflect on strategies for integrating social science theory with the production of area-specific knowledge. Subsequent sessions will consider different approaches to obtaining and analysing qualitative data. Specifically these include the collection and analysis of talk and texts; interviewing and ethics, historical and contemporary research and ethnography.

**The second module runs during weeks 1-8 of Hilary Term and introduces students to field skills research methods and techniques in quantitative analysis.** Students will develop the skills to understand and evaluate the quantitative statistics and statistical tests commonly used by authors in academic papers and official reports. Students will also develop the skills to carry out basic statistical tests of research hypothesis, including t-tests and simple regression analysis.

Through class exercises and assessed written work students will be required to obtain and demonstrate a general understanding of approaches to research. At the same time, students will enjoy the opportunity and flexibility to specialize in accordance with individual disciplinary and research interests.

### Course assessment

By a research proposal (5,000 words) and a take-home test in quantitative analysis.