

Courses 2021/22

The following exam options are open to LAC students in 2021/22. Please note that not all are supported by a course of teaching; in some cases, the emphasis is upon individual study and research supported by occasional tutorials. Further details are available from your Supervisor, the LAC Course Director, or the LAC Administrator.

MSc and MPhil Latin American Studies

Disciplinary Papers	Term	Further Papers for 2021/22	Term
Latin America since Independence	MT	Andean Politics	MT
The International Relations of Latin America	HT	Human Rights in Latin America	MT
The Politics of Democracy in Latin America	HT	Revolution and Counterrevolution in Cold-War Latin America	HT
Introduction to the Latin American Economies	MT	Politics of Brazil	MT
Sociology of Latin America	HT	Cities and Citizenship in Latin America	HT

Disciplinary Papers

Latin America since Independence

Course provider

Professor Eduardo Posada-Carbó

Email: 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 a 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 19th 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 Michaelmas 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.), and other seminars organized by the LAC and the University, especially those on topics directly relevant to the course.

Course assessment

Please see Exam Conventions for details.

Introduction to the Latin American Economies

Course provider

Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea

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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 reduce inequalities—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 inequalities. 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 one essay and undertake other individual and group activities. The essays will be around 2,500 words and the questions and reading list should be agreed in advance. One of the essays will be discussed in a weekly group tutorial (time and day to be agreed). There may be other written assignments during the course of the term.

Course structure

The course is taught in Michaelmas Term. Students will prepare for each class through a combination of core readings and other online material. These will be discussed in a one-hour seminar. Each student will also be expected to attend a group tutorial. Students should expect to spend around 10 hours per week in the course.

Course assessment

Please see Exam Conventions for details.

Sociology of Latin America

Course provider

Professor Leigh A. Payne

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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, migration, 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
- Two essays of approximately 2500 words (excluding footnotes and bibliographies), one submitted during term and one before week 10. The essay questions should be selected based on past exam paper questions or in consultation with the course provider
- Short presentation of one 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: Please see Exam Conventions for details.

The International Relations of Latin America

Course provider

Francesca Lessa

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Course aims and objectives

The course provides 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 examines the international relations of Latin America. The first four weeks cover traditional international relations concerns, such as the evolution of the relations of the Latin American states with the United States; the foreign policy of the major states of the region and relations with other extra-regional powers (Europe, China); and regional integration. The last four weeks encompass new challenges in contemporary Latin American international relations, including new wars and intrastate conflicts (Mexico, Colombia); humanitarian crises and migration (Venezuela, Central America); the impact of climate change and environmental politics (Brazil, Ecuador, Honduras); and human rights, democracy, and the OAS. 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 structure

The course is taught in Hilary Term. Students will attend a 75-minutes long lecture on Tuesdays and a 75-minutes long seminar on Thursdays each week (times and days subject to be confirmed). The essays will be discussed in group tutorials (time and day to be agreed).

Course requirements

Students who want to present themselves for examination in Trinity must write at least two 2,000-word essays. The first essay must be submitted by the end of week 5 and the second essay by the end of week 8. The essays should be based on past exam paper questions or on a question set in consultation with the course provider. Students are free in the choice of the topic and should present a theoretically guided and empirically-sound systematic analysis. Essays form part of the overall assessment of the student's progress but do not count towards the final mark for the course.

Course assessment

- Regular attendance, preparation of the weekly readings, and active participation in seminar discussions;
- Delivery of a 15-minutes long presentation;

- Submission of two written essays of no more than 2000 words;
- Critical discussion of another student's essay during tutorials;
- Submission of a written review of the essay discussed during tutorials;
- Please see Exam Conventions for assessment details.

The Politics of Democracy in Latin America

Course provider

Professor Eduardo Posada-Carbó

Email: eduardo.posada-carbo@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 emphasizes concepts, theories, tools and methods for the study of politics in Latin America. Because the emphasis is on theoretical approaches, this means that the course does not have a specific country-based or sub-regional focus (although students are free to apply concepts and theories to case studies in their essays). We will cover topics such as authoritarianism, democratization, presidentialism, the design of political institutions (parties, elections, legislatures), political culture and political attitudes, voting and political participation, and the rule of law.

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 two essays, to be submitted by the end of weeks 3 and 7 of Hilary Term. These essays will be discussed in paired tutorials throughout Hilary.

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

Please see Exam Conventions for details.

Further Papers

Andean Politics

Course provider

Dr John Crabtree

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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 comparing these with experiences elsewhere 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, elites, 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 Michaelmas Term and, depending on numbers, probably on the basis of a weekly class. In principle, there will be eight classes, with students expected to write at least two essays of no more than 2,000 words, and to provide an oral presentation on a topic of their choice. The essay topics will be designed to cover as much as possible of the syllabus, but will also be chosen to reflect individual students' particular interests. A general reading list will be supplied as well as reading lists on the essay topics that students choose to select.

Course assessment

Please see Exam Conventions for details.

Cities and Citizenship in Latin America

Course provider

Dr Andreza A de Souza Santos

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Course aims and objectives

This course examines the development of Latin American cities. The course engages with colonial and post-colonial urban theories, cities design and execution, violence and urban sprawl (against envisioned plans), and nostalgia and participatory politics as responses. The puzzle of 'what is a good city' endures, and cities will be discussed in their promises and limits. Critical ideas of Latin American cities will be debated as cities are both, sites of innovation and entrenched inequality. Cities & Citizenship offers a reading of Latin America's paradox of broad citizenship (political rights) and diminished changes (entrenched inequality).

Course description

In Latin America, colonial and post-colonial power have been expressed in mortar, concrete, and steel. From squares of religious and political order, to utopian dreams of equality and nationality; Baroque buildings or Modernist architecture, it is possible to read politics, economic changes, and demographic curves through cities. Considering the limits of cities to prompt social realities: equality, national identity, modernization; the course turns to common problems of Latin American cities looking at: transportation, gendered spaces, urban violence, and gentrification.

The course will review insights and cutting-edge research on urbanisation, infrastructure, and participatory politics. Geography and Sustainable Development, or more specifically: Gentrification, Infrastructure and Mega-Events, Transportation, and Mega Cities are topics that will feature in this programme.

Course structure

The course will be organised as a series of eight 1.5 hours sessions. There will be a mix of introductory remarks by the instructor and seminar-style discussion on selected readings. Students planning to sit the "Cities & Citizenship" paper in Trinity Term should complete two tutorial essays. Wherever possible, students will be paired for tutorials on allied topics.

Course assessment

Please see Exam Conventions for details.

Human Rights in Latin America

Course provider

Professor Leigh Payne leigh.payne@sant.ox.ac.uk

Dr Francesca Lessa francesca.lessa@lac.ox.ac.uk

Course aims and objectives

By the end of the course students will have developed a critical understanding of the key disciplinary and interdisciplinary concepts associated with the study of human rights and transitional justice issues in Latin America. They will also have acquired sound empirical knowledge of country case studies as well as the limitations and challenges associated with key human rights concepts and themes.

Course description

Human Rights has been a salient social, political, legal, economic, and cultural issue in the Americas since its so-called "discovery" or "conquest." This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to the historical legacy of human rights abuses, contemporary human rights challenges, and international, state and non-state actors' responses to those abuses and challenges. It analyses a variety of themes relating to human rights in the region, encompassing issues relating to truth, justice, reparations for past and present human rights abuses, the role of the Inter-American System for the protection of human rights, and recent challenges emerging from economic, social, cultural and health rights in the region. The theme-based analysis is complemented with specific country case studies (from Brazil and the Southern Cone countries to Central America). Additional themes related to human rights violations based on gender, LGBT, indigenous peoples, and the environment will also be explored.

Course structure

This course consists of weekly lectures, seminars, and tutorials in Michaelmas term and two revision sessions in Trinity term.

Course assessment

- * Regular attendance, preparation of the weekly readings, and participation in class discussions is expected but not marked;
- * Submission of two written essays of no more than 2500 words. Essays form part of the overall assessment of the student's progress, and assist in the preparation of extended essays, but do not form part of the final mark for the course;
- * Oral discussion of one essay in tutorial;
- * Critical written review of another student's essay in tutorial;
- * Oral presentation of the extended essay, and critical feedback on another student's extended essay will occur during revision sessions;

Please see Exam Conventions for assessment details.

The Politics of Brazil

Course provider

Dr Andreza A de Souza Santos

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Course aims and objectives

This course explores politics and society in contemporary Brazil. With a population of over 200 million, Brazil has been hailed as an “emerging power” and a “fallen giant” in just over a decade. Brazil's singular importance justifies the attention it receives. In this course we focus on a sustained theoretical and empirical evaluation of Brazil's political system.

Course description

While the broad theme of the course is the Brazilian democracy, we will focus on many of the theoretical concepts and literatures that have been brought to bear in the comparative study of Brazil. These include clientelism, patrimonialism, race and inequality, the military, social authoritarianism, new social movements, the politics of federalism, and formal political institutions in the country.

Course structure

The course will be organised as a series of eight 1.5-hour sessions. There will be a mix of introductory remarks by the instructor and seminar-style discussion on selected readings. Students planning to sit the “Politics of Brazil” paper in Trinity Term should complete two tutorial essays. Wherever possible, students will be paired for tutorials on allied topics.

Course assessment

Please see Exam Conventions for details.

Revolution and Counterrevolution in Cold-War Latin America

Course Provider

Dr. Timo Schaefer

Email: timo.schaefer@history.ox.ac.uk

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the history of the Cold War in Latin America and to recent advances and key debates in the literature on that topic.

Course Description

The course explores how the conflict between two super-powers was in Latin America refracted through regional, national, and sub-national social and political dynamics, and pays special attention to the culture and ideology of Latin American political militants and counterrevolutionaries. Among the topics examined in the course are the Cuban Revolution and its impact on the rest of the region; the military dictatorship that ruled many Latin American countries between the 1960s and 1980s; the role of the the US and the Soviet Union in shaping Latin America's Cold-War experience; the tension between a cosmopolitan and a vanguardist strand in the youth culture and student movement of the 1960s and 1970s; and the Central American civil wars of the 1980s. We will conclude by discussing the Cold-War's relevance for understanding contemporary Latin America.

Course Structure

The course will run over eight regular sessions and one tutorial meeting during Hilary Term. Most of the sessions will be divided between a (brief) lecture component, a student presentation, and a class discussion of the week's readings. It is therefore imperative that all students complete the core readings in advance of the weekly meetings. Students have to submit two pieces of written work: one tutorial essay in week 4, and one mini-research paper on any aspect of the Cold-War experience of a particular Latin American country in week 6. Lastly, students will participate in the course by giving two class presentations: one on a memoir or testimony by a participant in a Latin American Cold-War conflict, and one on their week 6 mini-research paper.

Course Assessment

Please see Exam Conventions for details.

