Latin America in the 1960s

Course Description

The 1960s in Latin America, as in most parts of the globe, was a period of intense political mobilization and conflict as well as dramatic cultural changes. The triumph of the Cuban Revolution, the spread of guerrilla movements, the emergence of new literary, artistic, and music trends, the forging of a youth counterculture, the development of student, women, indigenous and urban social movements, the rise of new intellectual and religious approaches to the burning social issues of the era, and –last but not least- the increasing visibility of the region in world politics, all of these framed and shaped a series of local, regional, and international developments that changed the contours of Latin American history. What characterized the 1960s most remarkably were the proliferation of utopian projects for social change and the spread of hopes and dreams for a new society. As historian Jay Winter has recently written “the one decade in the twentieth century marked most strikingly by utopian initiatives was the 1960s.” The outcomes were not always positive –military repression, US intervention, heightened social conflict, and violence also characterized these years- but the region changed dramatically during the 1960s and the changes that took place left important legacies and lessons that would resonate for decades. This seminar will focus on the 1960s in Latin America and will explore some of the hopes and dreams of social and cultural liberation that crystallized in the region during that momentous era.

Readings

All reading materials will be available electronically through Blackboard (https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/).

Course Requirements

All students are expected to attend classes consistently. More than one unjustified absence will result in a grade penalty. Participation is a central component of this course, so students must read all the materials assigned and come to class prepared to discuss them. A 20-25 pages research paper on a topic related to this course is required. A preliminary bibliography and abstract will be due on week 3. Students will also be in charge of introducing the weekly readings and offering themes and questions for discussion. A weekly report about the readings will be due at the beginning of each
This will consist of at least two pages of comments about the readings and a list of questions for discussion. No late reports will be accepted.

**Grade breakdown**

- Attendance and participation: 20%
- Weekly reports: 10%
- Oral presentation: 20%
- Abstract and bibliography: 10%
- Final research paper: 40%

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**

**Week 1. Introduction: The 1960s in Latin American History**

- **Readings:**

**Week 2. The Cuban Revolution**

- **Readings:**
Week 4: Liberation Theology

Readings:
Jon Sobrino, “The Church of the Poor: Resurrection of the True Church,” in The True Church of the Poor (Quezon City, Philippines: Claretian Publications, 1985), pp. 84-124.
Medellín Conference Documents, “Justice, Peace, and Poverty”

Week 5: Women: Between Revolution and Feminism

Readings:
Margaret Power, Right-Wing Women in Chile. Feminine Power and the Struggle Against Allende (Penn State University Press, 2002), pp. 71-125.

Week 6. The Latin American literary boom

Readings:

Week 7. A Military Revolution in Peru?


Week 8. Music, Youth, and Counterculture


Week 9. Activism, Internationalism, Solidarity: The Legacy of the 1960s

Guest speaker: Aviva Chomsky

Readings:

Week 10. Wrap up session, discussion of paper drafts.

Final Papers Due: June 15, 2012