"Human and Civil Rights in Latin America"

Directed Reading for graduate students

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provisional order of texts

week one: Introduction: What Use are Rights?
(reading: “Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms”; Basen)

week two: Theory: Declarations of Rights
(reading: “Magna Carta,” “English Bill of Rights,” “The United States
Declaration of Independence,” “French Declaration of the Rights of Man,” “The
Federalist Papers: No. 84,” “Constitution of the United States: Bill of Rights,”
“UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide,”
“European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental
 Freedoms,” “UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of
Racial Discrimination,” “UN International Covenant on Civil and Political
Rights,” “UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,”
“American Convention on Human Rights,” “Vienna Declaration and
Programme of Action,” “UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”)

week three: Theory: The Origins of Rights
(reading: Hobbes, Locke, Paine, Rousseau, de Gouge)

week four: Theory: The Ends of Rights
(reading: Agamben, Deleuze, Matua, Moyn, Zizek)

Assignment One: Review

week five: History: Wrongs in Latin America
(reading: Las Casas, Galeano)
week six: History: Rights in Latin America (reading: Zavala, Bolívar, Crahan, Robins)

week seven: Case Study Argentina (reading: Nouzeilles and Montaldo)

week eight: Case Study Argentina (reading: Walsh, Feitowitz)

Assignment Two: Case Study

week nine: Case Study Guatemala (reading: Schlesinger and Kinzer)

week ten: Case Study Guatemala (reading: Perera)

week eleven: Conclusion: What Use are Rights?

Assignment Three: Essay
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**Description**: Focuses on human rights movements; state violence and impunity; reform of criminal justice systems; rights of indigenous peoples, women, and minorities; international protection of human rights; the UN and inter-American systems.

**Blog**: You will write two entries per week on a blog. One entry will be a discussion of that week’s reading; the other will be a commentary on news about human rights and struggles in Latin America.

**Assessment**: 3 written assignments during the semester (20%, 25%, and 40%; 70% total); 2 blog entries per week (15%).

The written assignments are: 1) a 2-3 page review of an article or book; 2) an 8-10 page case study of a human rights issue in or connected to Latin America; 3) an 20-25 page essay on the topic “What Use are Human Rights?”

**Further reading**: You will follow news from Latin America. One Internet starting point is the Latin American Network Information Center: http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/news/. You should also read up on Latin American history and culture. The following texts indicate further directions for study.


The following further reading is recommended on human rights:


**Instructor**: Jon Beasley-Murray (jon.beasley-murray@ubc.ca). His office hours are Tuesdays, 2-3pm, BuTo 808, or by appointment.
bibliography


