provisional syllabus

Graduate students will also attend extra discussion sessions, dates and times TBA

Sep 12: Introduction: What Use are Rights?
(reading: “Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms”; Basen)

Sep 19: Theory: Declarations of Rights

Sep 26: Theory: The Origins of Rights
(reading: Hobbes, Locke, Paine, Rousseau, de Gouge)

Oct 3: Theory: The Ends of Rights
(reading: Agamben, Deleuze, Matua, Moyn, Zizek)

Oct 3: Assignment One: Review

Oct 17: History: Wrongs in Latin America
(reading: Las Casas, Galeano)
Oct 24: History: Rights in Latin America  
(reading: Zavala, Bolívar, Crahan, Robins)

Oct 31: Case Study Argentina  
(reading: Nouzeilles and Montaldo)

Nov 7: Case Study Argentina  
(reading: Walsh, Feitowitz)

Nov 7: Assignment Two: Case Study

Nov 14: Case Study Guatemala  
(reading: Schlesinger and Kinzer)

Nov 21: Case Study Guatemala  
(reading: Perera)

Nov 28: Conclusion: What Use are Rights?

Nov 28: Assignment Three: Essay
SPAN5XX "Human and Civil Rights in Latin America"

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.

Expectations: You must come to class having done the reading and prepared to contribute. Assignments are to be handed in on time; late assignments will not be accepted.

Reading: Readings are available online at http://last301.wordpress.com/.

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. You will also comment on at least two other students’ blogs each week.

Assessment: 3 written assignments during the semester (20%, 25%, and 30%; 70% total); 2 blog entries per week (15%); attendance and participation (10%).

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: The course convenor is Jon Beasley-Murray (jon.beasley-murray@ubc.ca). His office hours are Tuesdays, 2-3pm, BuTo 808, or by appointment. You should get in touch with him if you have any queries. It is always better to deal with problems as they arise rather than to keep quiet and hope they go away!
SPAN5XX "Human and Civil Rights in Latin America"

Timetable: Mondays, 6-9pm, C215, UBC Robson Square

Jon Beasley-Murray, Buchanan Tower 808
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bibliography


