



UNIVERSIDAD  
DE GRANADA



CENTRO DE  
LENGUAS  
MODERNAS

SYLLABUS

HISPANIC STUDIES  
COURSE

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY  
Contemporary History of  
America

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## CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF AMERICA

### General description

This course covers the historical development of the Latin-American countries from their independence up until the present-day. Through well-characterised periods the most relevant aspects of their nationality are studied: the formation of the state, the political evolution, social classes, economic areas, without forgetting questions such as the demographic boom, the foreign debt, or the indigenous problem. The objective is a better understanding of the causes and determining factors of contemporary Latin-America.

### Content

- 1. INDEPENDENCE**
  - Internal and external causes
  - Phases of the independentist movement
  - The thought of Simón Bolívar
- 2. TYRANNY AND MILITARISM**
  - Origins and meaning
  - The individualist regimes
  - Towards the formation of the State
- 3. LIBERALISM AND ECONOMIC EXPANSION**
  - The liberal constitutions
  - Political stability and economic growth
  - Immigration and colonisation of unoccupied areas
- 4. IMPERIALISM AND INTERVENTIONISM OF THE USA**
  - Determining factors of expansion
  - Political, military and economic interventionism
  - The Caribbean and Central-America in the orbit of the USA
- 5. THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION**
  - Ideological analysis
  - The constitution of 1917
  - The institutionalised revolution
- 6. THE CRISIS OF 1929 IN LATIN AMERICA**
  - Origins and development
  - Economic and social consequences
  - Political consequences
- 7. LATIN AMERICA FROM 1945 ONWARDS. THE POLITICAL QUESTION**
  - The political powers and the political parties
  - The populisms and the military dictatorships
  - The revolutionary systems
- 8. THE STRUCTURE OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY**
  - Demographic growth
  - Elite, middle classes and popular sectors
  - The indigenous population
- 9. THE CONTEMPORARY ECONOMIC STRUCTURE**
  - Large estates and the agrarian reform
  - Industrialisation and foreign investment
  - The foreign debt

### Activities

The students must follow the teacher's explanations in class, and participate in debates. They must also prepare group talks on one determined subject. Optionally they may do an end-of-term short piece of written work on a topic from the syllabus.

## Assessment

The final exam is compulsory. Also there will be a mid-term eliminatory exam.

Assessment criteria are:

- Attendance, class participation and written work up to 30%
- Final exam, up to 70%

## Bibliography

- Manuel LUCENA SALMORAL (coord.): Historia de Iberoamérica, III (Edad contemporánea). Madrid, 1991.

-Miguel IZARD: América Latina, siglo XIX. Violencia, subdesarrollo y dependencia. Madrid, 1990.

-G. VAZQUEZ/N. MARTINEZ DIAZ: Historia de América Latina. Madrid, Madrid, 1990.

-Carlos MALAMUD: Historia de América. Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 2005.