HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. LATIN AMERICA AND HUMAN RIGHTS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to give an overview of the History of International Relations in Latin America from the point of view of Human Rights. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about the political evolutions related to Human Rights from the beginning of XIXth Century until our days.

Students will work with different materials (texts, movies…) to complement their daily work in class, as well as allow them to research on the contents of the course. To fulfill this goal, the professor will use the classroom as a debate area, in order to let students demonstrate their maturity and thinking capacities about the topics discusses, as well as their comprehension and discussion abilities.

COURSE STRATEGIES

Students will read the texts provided by the professor as a start to the thinking and discussion in class about the contents of the course. Movies related to Latin America will be shown, as a complementary material to discuss these topics with the class.

It is basic for the student to realize the importance of preparing the class daily. Because of the approach of the course, his / her participation in class will determine a big part of the final grade.

Texts will consist of political, social and historical documents directly related to the contents presented in class. This materials will be the neccessary complement to give the student a wide perspective about Latin American historical reality and Human Rights implications. Students will also read literary texts in order to get a global perspective of the topics.

There will be three written exams (50% of the final grade)

Students will write an essay, in which they will need to make an argument and support it with evidence from the readings selected. The goal will be to demonstrate analytical and critical thinking about the topic in question. The essays will have the following characteristics:

- Extension: minimum 3,000 words
- Format: Times New Roman 12 (Double space)
- Quotes and Works Cited: MLA System

Two versions of the essay will be handed. Deadlines will be as follows:

FIRST VERSION          End of Week 8
SECOND VERSION         End of Week 15
PLEASE NOTE THAT MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR LATE SUBMISSION OF PAPERS

PLAGIARISM WILL BE STRICTLY PROSECUTED. Please cite or quote all ideas that are not your own or common knowledge. If you are unsure about whether something would be plagiarism, please ask. Plagiarism will result in marks being deducted from the grade.
The rest of the final grade will result on attendance and ACTIVE participation, as following:

Written Exams 50%
Essay 30%
Attendance and participation 20%

Class attendance is mandatory. Each non justified absence will result in a 2% deduction in the final grade. Active participation is very important. Students should always feel free to state their opinions in a way that invites discussion. No outside knowledge of human rights or Spanish history will be necessary for effective class participation. Discussion of other scholarship, history and current events will be welcome when relevant, but careful reading of the materials assigned and concentrated thinking about the ideas raised in class will be a sufficient basis from which to contribute profitably to class discussion.

Using laptops in class is forbidden, except in justified cases or if required for class activities.

COURSE CONTENTS

0. Introduction: Human Rights in XXth

PART 1. HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

1. Latin America and Spain: the conquest and colonization
2. Latin America and the United States: political, social and economical consequences
3. Precedents in Latin America. Hispanoamericanism, Panamericanism, Interamericanism
4. The XXth Century in Latin America: crisis and reconstruction of Latin America

PART 2. HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CREATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SYSTEM IN LATIN

1. Development of constitutions in Latin America
2. ASO: the growing of an infrastructure for the defense of Human Rights in Latin America
3. From dictatorship to democracy: its influence in the development of Human Rights in Latin America

PART 3. HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS

1. General problems:
1.1. Latin America and the United States: the problem of interventionism
1.2. Military regimes in Latin America
1.3. Social problems in Human Rights violations: ASO resolutions

2. Human Rights and International Relations today
   2.1. The “Cumbres Iberoamericanas”: Human Rights regulations

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

AA. VV., *Defensores de los derechos humanos en Latinoamérica: más protección, menos persecución*, Madrid, Amnistía Internacional, 1999
   *Historia de América*, Madrid, UNED, 1989
   *Iberoamérica en el siglo XX, dictaduras y revoluciones*, Madrid, Anaya, 1998
Universitas Castellae

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COURSE SYLLABUS

IMPORTANT: This syllabus is a GUIDANCE for the student. Some activities may vary or be changed depending on class development and students’ needings. Aditional readings will be included in the reading packs along the course.

WEEK 1

-Introduction: Discovery of America and first relations Spain-America

Readings:

Manuel Lucas Salmoral, La América precolombina, Madrid, Anaya, 1989 (fragments)
Gonzalo Zaragoza, Colón y el descubrimiento, Madrid, Anaya, 1991 (fragments)
“Primeras noticias de la llegada de los españoles”

WEEK 2

-Social and economical changes in XVIIIth Century: the new relation between metropolis and colony
-The independence of Latin America and Human Rights treating: from Hispanoamericanism to Panamericanism

Readings:

Juan Pablo Viscardo y Guzmán, Carta a los españoles americanos
Simón Bolívar, Carta de Jamaica
Doctrina Monroe

WEEK 3

-The new approach to International Relations in the XIXth Century: “Panamericanism for inertia”
-The process of first American constitutions

Readings:

Tratado de unión, liga y confederación perpetua
Selected articles from American XIXth Century constitutions
WEEK 4

-The Mexican Revolution and its influence in America

Readings:

Constitución de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos de 1917 (selection)
Juan Rulfo, “Nos han dado la tierra”

WEEK 5

-From the League of Nations to ASO: evolution and definitive establishment of an inter american system for Human Rights
-WRITTEN EXAM 1

Readings:

Carta de la OEA (fragments)
ASO general regulations
American Committee of Human Rights
American Court of Human Rights

WEEK 6

-Military Dictatorships: a historical frame
-General considerations about Military Dictatorships

Readings:

“La Escuela de Asesinos”

WEEK 7

-Chile as an example of Military Dictatorship

Readings:

“Acción encubierta en Chile (1963-1973)”
Pierre Kalfon’s articles about Chile (1970-1973)

WEEK 8

-Showing and discussion of the film Missing (Costa-Gavras, 1982)
WRITTEN ESSAY (1st VERSION)
WEEK 9

-Argentina’s Military Dictatorship
-Showing and discussion of the film *La Historia Oficial* (Luis Puenzo, 1985)

*Readings:*

Discourse to the country by Jorge Rafael Videla (March 24th, 1976)
“Christian von Wernich, el ‘apóstol’ torturador”
Impunity Laws in Argentina (fragments)
Nullity of Impunity Laws in Argentina

WEEK 10

-Other Military Dictatorships in Latin America
-Recap: consequences of Military Dictatorships in American society
-WRITTEN EXAM 2

*Readings:*

Reports about Military Dictatorships in Paraguay, Bolivia, Uruguay, Brasil y Panamá
“El día que Fidel Castro entró en La Habana”
Reports about Human Rights in Cuba (selection)

WEEK 11

-Human Rights today: the “Cumbres Iberoamericanas” and the new International Relations system

*Readings:*

Articles from the “Cumbres Iberoamericanas” related to Human Rights
“Transformaciones de la economía latinoamericana en los años 90”
“Nuestra fe en Latinoamérica”
“La imagen de España en Latinoamérica se está deteriorando”

*Readings:*

“Situación de la mujer en el siglo XX: un largo camino”
Selección de artículos sexistas en las legislaciones hispanoamericanas

WEEK 12

-Human Rights today: racismo and inmigration
-Showing and discussion of the documentaries “La gente es lo que importa” (I)
Readings:

“La gente es lo que importa”
“Vivir en las sombras: una introducción a los derechos de las personas migrantes”

WEEK 13

-Human Rights today: poverty in Latin America
-Showing and discussion of the documentaries “La gente es lo que importa” (II)

Readings:

“La gente es lo que importa”
“Pobreza infantil en Latinoamérica”
“Niñez y adolescencia: informe sobre Derechos Humanos”

WEEK 14

-Human Rights today: violence and terrorism

Readings:

“Políticas violentas: una historia de la insurgencia, el terrorismo y la guerra de guerrillas desde la revolución americana hasta Irak”
“El crimen y la violencia: la violencia criminal y política”

WEEK 15

-Showing and discussion of the film Ciudad de Dios (Fernando Meirelles, 2005)
WRITTEN ESSAY (2nd VERSION)
WRITTEN EXAM 3