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
Office hours: Tuesdays, 2-3pm
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bibliography


While feminist movements became prevalent in Europe and North America in the 1960s and 1970s, the women of Latin America were gathering to oppose dictatorships and civil wars. As democracy began to spread across the region, feminist movements gradually began to push for more reproductive rights. In the 1990s, many of the groups that made up the women's movement began to evolve in order to adapt to a changing political climate. These groups focused on specific policy issues, such as abortion, and were Assignment Three: Essay. “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. 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). Human rights practices in Latin America provide a lens through which to examine the relationship between international law and domestic politics. International human rights norms are expressed in numerous widely ratified treaties. We draw in particular on evidence from Andean countries and the Southern Cone. While basic civil and individual liberties are still far from guaranteed, especially in the Andean region, new Left countries show better overall performances in relation to socioeconomic rights, with respect to the past and to other Latin American countries. All new Left governments also show an increasing interest in 'third' generation rights (cultural and environmental rights), though this is especially marked in the Andean Left. This information deals with human rights in Latin America, with some documents dating from 1964 to 1995. Most of the documents concern El Salvador and Guatemala, but the collection also contains records on Brazil, Nicaragua, Honduras, Chile, and Peru. Some documents were released in 1993 to the United Nations Truth Commission for El Salvador, which sought information on 32 alleged human rights violations in El Salvador between 1980 and 1991. These records reveal that U.S. citizens, other foreigners, and indigenous people on both the left and right in El Salvador and Guatemala were victims of