LAS 4935/6938 and LAH 3931/5934:
Conflict and Violence in 20th-Century Central America
University of Florida
Fall 2015
Tuesdays, Periods 8-10 (3-6 pm)
Grinter 376

Instructor Information
Richmond F. Brown, Ph.D.
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Course Description
Approximately 300,000 Central Americans were killed and perhaps two million more displaced in the civil wars and revolutions of the 1970s and 80s. For more than a decade, the region’s deadly Cold War drama drew intense international attention and the deep involvement of the US. A similar era of violence, if not on the same scale, afflicted much of the region in the 1930s and 40s. What happened? Why?

This course is an interdisciplinary seminar devoted to exploring the origins, course, and aftermath of civil war and revolution in twentieth-century Central America. It will emphasize common readings, collective discussion and individual reflection. It will focus most closely on the experiences of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

Required Reading
Gleijeses, Shattered Hope
Gould and Lauria Santiago, To Rise in Darkness
LaFeber, Inevitable Revolutions (Rev 2/e, 1993)
Macaulay, The Sandino Affair
Stanley, The Protection Racket State
Wilkinson, Silence on the Mountain

Suggested Background Reading
Bethell, ed, Central America since Independence
Booth, Wade and Walker, Understanding Central America (6/e, 2014)
Dunkerley, Power in the Isthmus
RL Woodward, Jr., Central America: A Nation Divided (3/e, 1999)

Course Requirements
Weekly Discussions (25%)
Response Papers (25%)
Midterm Essay (25%)
Final Essay (25%)
**Attendance and Discussion**
The success of this course depends on active student participation. Students are asked to read each week’s assignments prior to the class meeting and to be prepared to discuss them.

**Response Papers**
Beginning with the class of September 1 and on subsequent weeks, students will be asked to submit a brief essay on the week’s assigned reading. The essays should be typed and no more than two single-spaced pages. Further guidelines are forthcoming. Approximately 13 response papers will be due over the course of the semester. I will count your best 10 responses.

**Midterm Essay and Final Essays**
The midterm and final essays will ask students to respond to ideas and questions arising from the required reading and classroom discussions. Essays will be 5-7 pages for undergraduates and 8-10 pages for graduate students (typed, double-spaced, with standard fonts and margins). The midterm essay is due October 13; the final essay is due December 15.

**Tentative Schedule of Topics and Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>Introduction and Historical Overview</td>
<td>Readings TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>Setting the Scene (Part 1)</td>
<td>Read LaFeber, <em>Inevitable Revolutions</em>, 5-146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>Sandino in Nicaragua</td>
<td>Read Macaulay, <em>Sandino Affair</em></td>
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<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>El Salvador, cont’d</td>
<td>Read Gould and Lauria Santiago, 132-291</td>
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<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>Revolution in Guatemala</td>
<td>Read Gleijeses, <em>Shattered Hope</em>, 3-148</td>
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<td>Oct 6</td>
<td>Guatemala, cont’d</td>
<td>Read Gleijeses, 149-394</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Essay Due (No Class)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Setting the Scene (Part 2)</td>
<td>Read LaFeber, <em>Inevitable Revolutions</em>, 147-368</td>
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Oct 27  Revolution in Nicaragua  
Read Kinzer, _Blood of Brothers_, 13-208

Nov 3  Nicaragua, cont’d  
Read Kinzer, 209-404

Nov 10  Revolution in El Salvador  
Read Stanley, _Protection Racket State_, 1-132

Nov 17  El Salvador, cont’d  
Read Stanley, 133-266

Nov 24  *No Class*

Dec 1  *La Violencia* in Guatemala  
Read Wilkinson, _Silence on the Mountain_, 3-192

Dec 8  Guatemala, cont’d  
Read Wilkinson, 193-360

Dec 15  *Final Essay Due*

**Class Policies**

**Attendance**
Regular attendance is essential to the success of the seminar. Please inform the instructor as soon as possible if an emergency or another circumstance prevents your attendance at a class. Documentation may be requested for excused absences.

**Phones and Disruptions**
Please make sure that phones do not disturb the class. Please inform the instructor of any emergency or other matter than may require you to leave early or to arrive late and please make every effort to keep disruptions to a minimum.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students with disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. Please register with Disability Resources (392-8565), which will facilitate the necessary arrangements.

**Late Papers**
Late papers will incur the following penalties: half a letter grade if submitted one calendar day after the due date; a full letter grade if submitted within a week after the due date; two letter grades is submitted more than a week late. Documented extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis.

**Academic Honesty**
Students are expected to abide by the Student Honor Code, UF Regulation 6C1-4.017. The honor code is found at [www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php)