

Economics 361, George Mason University, Dr. Carrie Meyer
Economic Development of Latin America
Fall 2009, Innovation 136, Friday 1:30-4:10PM
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[webpage: //mason.gmu.edu/~cmeyer/](http://mason.gmu.edu/~cmeyer/)
Office Hours 1:30-3:30 MW

Course Goals:

By the end of the course, students should be familiar with the economic history and institutions of Latin America and key development issues such as the legacy of colonialism, import-substitution-industrialization problems, free-market reforms, sustainability and role of the agricultural sector. The course will approach topics from the perspectives of economic history and development theory, with an eye toward the institutions and cultural norms specific to Latin America.

Skill requirements and prerequisites:

Economics 103 and 104 are prerequisites to the course, but economics majors may also want to complete their intermediate theory courses before taking this course.

All students should have an email account. Email is the best way to contact your instructor.

Familiarity with the Internet is essential. The professor's webpage contains links to assist in research for the term paper.

Required Texts:

Cardosa, Eliana and Ann Helwege. *Latin America's Economy: Diversity, Trends, and Conflicts*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1995. (paper)

Franko, Patrice. *The Puzzle of Latin American Economic Development*. (3rd ed) Rowman and Littlefield, 2007. (paper)

Recommended Text:

Meyer, Carrie. *Days on the Family Farm: From the Golden Age through the Great Depression*. University of Minnesota Press, 2007. (paper) **On reserve.**

Course Requirements:

2 Midterms @ 20% each
Final @ 20% (Friday, Dec 18 – 1:30AM-4:15PM)
Paper @ 20% 8-10 typed pages of text.
Participation and quizzes 20%

Country focus and term paper:

Each student must choose a country by the 2nd week of class, or a country will be assigned to them. Students should keep up to date with their country, collect newspaper articles regularly, and be prepared to report on news from their country in class when called on.

At the end of the semester, a term paper (**8-10 pages, 2000 words of text minimum**) will be due on the chosen or assigned country. The term paper must focus on a particular economic issue for that country; e.g.: "Industrialization & Privatization in Brazil (Mexico)," "The Agriculture Sector in Mexico (Brazil, Chile)," "Inflation History in Argentina (Brazil)," "Dollarization in Ecuador", "Mexico and NAFTA," "The Role of Oil in the Venezuelan (Ecuadorian, Mexican) Economy," "The export sector in XXXXX," "the role of Tourism in the Dominican Economy," "The effects of rising oil prices and/or food prices on the XXXXX economy."

The paper must include relevant background on the country as well as economic history of the issue you are studying. If your topic is trade - review the history of trade; if your topic is inflation - review the financial history; etc. Depending on your interest, this history may be rather brief, or more in depth. Additionally, you must incorporate at least one news article (dated after the beginning of the semester) that relates to your country and topic in some way. See *The Economist*, *Washington Post* AP articles, or LANIC on the Web for articles by country. Integrate the article into your paper. A collection of at least 10 articles from throughout the semester, must be turned in with the paper. (Not all of them need to be used/referred to in the paper.)

Wiarda and Cline (on reserve) is a collection of country studies that provide references for good historical sources. For-up-to date information on your country, check the links on my homepage. In particular, the Economist Intelligence Unit, the CIA factbook, and LANIC should be useful. Many other useful links are included on my homepage. Your textbooks and the books recommended on the syllabus should also be useful sources. Journal articles from *Journal of Development Studies*, *World Development*, *Latin American Research Review*, or *Journal of Development Areas* might also be used.

The paper should be well organized and clear. Include an introduction and a conclusion. Subheadings often help the writer and the reader. Graphs and tables may be included in the 8-10 pages, but you need at least 2000 words of text.

Staple or clip your paper in the upper left hand corner. *Please don't use plastic covers or folders.*

Proper referencing will be an important criteria for your grade. **You must cite your sources throughout your paper with the author, copyright date and page number, for example: (Baer 2001: 120-24).** You must also include a list of references. The Chicago Manual of Style is a good standard to follow -- and available on line. See: <http://wac.gmu.edu/students/style.html>. When you quote directly from your source the quotation must appear in quotation marks with the page number indicated. When you paraphrase and use more than 6-8 words in a row identical to your referenced author you need quotation marks. When you paraphrase an author's words and ideas, cite the author, date and pages as above. All specific facts (unless they are common knowledge) and opinions require citation. Internet sources should include an author and date.

A proposal for your paper in the form of a brief outline must be submitted by October 16. I will OK this and/or make comments and return it to you. **Please save this proposal, with my comments and resubmit it with your final paper.** Your paper topic must be approved.

Papers are due on or before the last day of class.

Class Participation and Quizzes

You are expected to keep up with the readings as well as your country and participate in class discussions. There will also be some optional student presentations. The participation grade is not necessarily related to how much you talk in class. However, relevant questions, constructive comments, and alternative points of view are appreciated -- so is attendance and reflections relating readings to class discussion.

We will have at least two quizzes on the 2nd and 3rd weeks of class.

Topics

1. Latin America in the World Economy: An Overview
Franko Ch1, Cardoso & Helwege Ch1, Meyer–New Spaces & Fabrics
2. What is Development, Sustainable Development?
Measuring Development and Theories of Development
Cardoso & Helwege Ch3; Franko Ch1
3. Historical Roots -- Introduction
Cardoso & Helwege Ch2; Franko Ch2
4. International Trade and Development in Latin America
Franko Ch 3 pp 56-59; Ch8 pp.236-240, Todaro Ch12
5. Import Substitution Industrialization and State Enterprise
Cardoso and Helwege Ch4 Sections 1-5; Franko Ch3
6. Agriculture-led Industrialization in the American Midwest -- a contrasting experience
Meyer-*Days on the Family Farm*: Introduction, Ch1 p. 13, pp. 37-45; Ch2 pp. 47-61;
Ch3 pp. 81-82, pp. 101-103; Ch4 pp. 111-112, pp. 118-125
7. History of Agricultural Policy and Land Reform in Latin America
Cardoso & Helwege Ch10; Franko Ch10 pp. 364-370.
8. The Debt Crisis and Muddling Through
Cardoso & Helwege Ch5; Franko, Ch4

9. Inflation and Stabilization
Cardoso & Helwege Chs 6-7; Franko, Ch5
10. The Liberalization of Trade and Export Promotion
Franko Ch8
11. Privatization, Foreign Investment & Globalization
Franko Ch 6, Ch7, Meyer-Globalization
12. Modern Agriculture and Issues of Sustainable Development
Franko Chs 10, 14

Additional Useful Texts:

- Baer, Werner. *The Brazilian Economy: Growth and Development* latest edition.
- Bulmer-Thomas. *Economic History of Latin America*, Cambridge U. Press, 1994
- Edwards, Sebastian. *Crisis and Reform in Latin America*, Oxford, 1995.
- Interamerican Dev Bank – *Economic and Social Progress in Latin America* – Annual reports
- Meier, Gerald and James Rauch. *Leading Issues in Economic Development*.
- Meyer, Carrie A. *The Economics and Politics of NGOs in Latin America*. 1999.
- Meyer, Carrie A. *Land Reform in Latin America*, Praeger, 1989.
- Ruttan, Vernon. *Why Food Aid?* Johns Hopkin's paperback, 1993.
- Sachs, Jeffrey. *Developing Country Debt and the World Economy*
- Thorp, Rosemary. *Progress, Poverty and Exclusion: An Economic History of Latin America in the 20th Century*, Johns Hopkins Press for the IDB, 1998.
- Todaro, Michael. *Economic Development*. **(on reserve)**
- Wiarda, Howard J. and Harvey F. Kline. *Latin American Politics and Development*, Westview, 1990. **(on reserve)**