Human Rights and Public Policy in Contemporary Latin America

LAST 3010 AFLA (SPAN) / PLST 3001 AFLA (SPAN)

Liberal Arts

Spanish

3

45

Fall 2020

The infringement of human rights marked the reality of Latin America and the Caribbean throughout its history. In the last decades, with differences among the various countries, processes developed that made visible and allowed the denunciation, trial and repair of situations related to this fact. The role of organizations and social movements was complimented by public policies. The course will analyze the situation in Argentina within the framework of Latin America, through a historic and comparative perspective. It will allow the students to understand the inherent concepts of Human Rights, the role of movements and organizations related to its defense and the role that public policies occupied. First, the historical processes, the pacts and treaties on Human Rights and the concepts of citizenship that several human rights organizations share will be analyzed. Secondly, the birth of human rights movements in Argentina, particularly the case of the "Madres de Plazas de Mayo" and the comparison to cases in Chile, Brazil and Uruguay will be considered. Then the role of the State will be studied, particularly the change from laws that assured impunity in the 80’s and 90’s to the construction of policies in favor of the defense of rights, communication and education with the possibility to take to court not only the militaries, but also the civilians and economic corporations that participated in the last military dictatorship. Finally, the challenges that appear from a broad perspective, including matters of labor, land, gender, ethnicity and standards of living, will be analyzed. The course includes contact with key players in the field of human rights and the visit to the Espacio de la Memoria located at the largest clandestine detention center ever to exist in Argentina.
Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Understand the processes involved in the defense of Human Rights and Public Policies in Argentina through the contact with Latin America.
- Analyze the role of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International treaties, identifying their interpretation and influence in Latin America.
- Compare and analyze the promotion of Human Rights through the Argentine experience. As well as other Latin American countries, paying close attention to the role of social movements and public policies.
- Become acquainted with the role of Human Rights movements in Argentina and its main organizations.
- Identify the challenges of rights related to labor, citizenship, ethnic roots, gender, sexuality and standards of living.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Classes will include presentations and exhibits by the professors, students’ individual and group work and instances of general discussion. Concepts will be developed through the projection of videos, power points, printed documents (documents, newspapers) and audios (testimonials, popular songs).

Individual work will include reading and presentation of bibliographic material, journal review, selection of a subject for research and further presentation in a final paper.

Group discussion will be supported by texts, both academic and literary, as well as media, based on assignments proposed by the professors. The class’s dialogue will be complimented by projections and individual work.

Final paper will be the result of each student’s chosen subject analysis, prepared outside of class and presented in class (a printed version will be handed in to the professor).
Note: This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to take advantage of current experiential learning opportunities.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Journal Review 10%
2. Reading Reviews (5) 20%
3. Written test 25%
4. Final paper 25%
5. Participation 20%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Journal Review

Students will have to write one Journal Review on Human Rights aspects of the contemporary world that have a special impact in their daily life. The Journal Review will have an extension of 800-1000 words and will be valued in the selection of journals, the synthesis and comparative analysis, the critical perspective and personal view of the student.

Reading Reviews (5)

Students will have to hand-in five reading reviews on specific mandatory course readings. These will have an extension of 500-700 words and will resume the reading’s key aspects and enlightening reflections.

Written test

Students will sit a written test where they must answer 5 questions based on the topics and readings seen in class. Comprehension and broad analysis of the key aspects seen will be assessed.

Final paper
Final paper

The final paper is a written essay on a topic seen in class or approved by the instructor, selected by each student developed through individual research and analysis of cases. Students will have to present an outline of the paper for instructor approval; a draft version will be handed in one week before classes end and the final version will be handed in with a PPT and oral presentation on the last day of classes. The oral presentation will show key aspects addressed on the written paper. Assessment will be done based on the analysis of the subject matter, bibliography sources, correction in formal aspects and proper conclusions.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.
Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements, 3% grade penalty &amp; written warning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.
Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class  Introduction to International System of Human Rights

The professor will make a first approach to the beginnings of Human Rights system and its implications for Latin America and Argentina, including video projection. International system will be reviewed explaining the Covenants and treaties, Pact of San José de Costa Rica, International Criminal Court of The Hague, statements, courts and others.

Students will participate and present themselves, including interests and expectations on the course. Finally, different generations of human rights in situations of daily life will be identified to prepare a "journal review" that students will present in the following class.

Week 2

Class  Human Rights through history

The instructor will provide a brief introduction on human rights in historical perspective that will lead to understand the implications of conquest, domination and dependence on indigenous people, African-Americans, farmers, workers and social movements. The problem of the "other" will be the conceptual axis that will allow to link the historical processes, with case analysis and discussion. Other topics will be contemporary Latin American, colonialism in the 20th century, national-popular governments and actual problems such as external debt, exclusion, social justice, development, dependence, wealth and poverty in international relations.


Assignment due: Journal Review.

Week 3
Class Human rights in Latin America: the 60s and 70s


The group will participate with a dialogue on mandatory readings, conceptual presentation through power point and video. Students will share their previous knowledge and opinions on the subject. The professor will organize the presentation of reviews on the texts of the course.


Assignment due: Review on bibliography (1)

Week 4
Class Movements and organizations of civil society

The class will include: People rights, Social movements and organizations of the civil society. New forms of citizenship and human rights. Covenants Solidarity and rights in Latin America.

It will begin with a presentation and conversation about reading reviews prepared by students. The instructor will make a conceptual presentation on the day topics with power point and videos. Students will work in pairs (notebook or cell phone is required) identifying actors of civil society in relation to the promotion and defense of human rights.
and analyzing the relevance of social movements in Latin America, their organization and actions for the defense and promotion of rights. The class will conclude with a course dialogue.


Assignment due: Review on bibliography (2)

Week 5
Class A look at Argentine history from the perspective of rights

The class will begin with a presentation and dialogue on reading reviews prepared by the students. Instructor will make presentation on the subjects with power point and videos. Main subjects: Independence, civil wars, economic and political divisions, national-popular base projects. Dictatorships

Then students will work in groups with news stories and excerpts from academic articles. Finally, students will share what they have worked on. Last section will be oriented to the presentation of the topics for the Final paper. The professor will make brief comment on the formal guidelines for the preparation of the document.


Assignment due: Review on bibliography (3)

Week 6
Class Argentina: resistance against the dictatorship and the movement of human rights

The class will begin with a presentation and conversation on readings prepared by the students. Then the instructor will make a presentation of the day's topics with power point and videos. They will include:
Crimes against humanity. Mothers of Plaza de Mayo and other organizations. Consolidation of movements and social organizations.

A guest speaker on human rights organizations will be invited to talk with the students.

Assignment due: Questions for the guest

Week 7
Class Written exam

During the first part of the class students will develop the written test (90 minutes).

In the second part the instructor will make a brief introduction and give recommendations about the visit to the “Espacio de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos” (Place for Memory and Human Rights) to be held the following week. A video linked to the subject subjectof the visit will be screened.

Assignment Due: Written Exam

Week 8
Class Visit to the Space of Memory and Human Rights

Students will attend the Space for Memory and Human Rights. It’s a Navy School used as former detention center during the last Dictatorship in Argentina.

Through a 2 hours tour the students will learn the details of the systematic plan carried out by the Dictatorship and the relevance of the claim for memory, truth and justice promoted by human rights organizations in Argentina.

Week 9
Class The end of the Dictatorship and Human Rights policies
During the first part of the meeting the instructor will dialogue with the students and propose different dynamics to recover the main experiences, concepts and images incorporated in the visit to the Ex-Esma. In the second part students will present the outline of their final papers.

Assignment due: Final paper outline

Week 10
Class The role of the State

The class will begin with a presentation and dialogue on readings. Then the instructor will make a conceptual presentation on the subjects: Public policies and human rights in the Southern Cone. Laws of silence and impunity in the 90s. Cases in Chile, Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina. Human Rights as a State policy: the Argentine case. Suits against economic corporations.

The students will work with journal information and then a course dialogue will be held on other texts. Students will learn about political and legal evolution around the defense of Human Rights and public policies in Argentina and the region.


Assignment due: Review on bibliography (4)

Week 11
Class Towards a human rights agenda in Latin America

The instructor will begin with a presentation subject of the day using power point and videos: Scoual issues, poverty and exclusion. Work, land, housing, health and education in Latin America. Movements and organizations related to their defense.
Students will work with journal articles and later a group conversation will be held about the readings. The last part of the class the professor will talk with the students about the organization of the Final Paper and the bibliography to be used.

Week 12
Class
Right to good living and development


Power point and videos will be used.


Assignment due: Review on bibliography (5)

Week 13
Class
Rights related to body, gender and sexuality

The class will begin with a presentation and conversation about readings prepared by the students. Then the instructor will make a conceptual presentation on the subject with power point and videos. Main topics: Rights related to body, gender and sexuality. Development since the 1960s, organization and movements in Latin America. Feminism. LGBTI +. Laws and current situation in Argentina.

Students will analyze cases and a course dialogue will close the class, identifying challenges on rights related to gender, body and sexuality in Latin America. Finally, the professor will make a brief reference to the legislation on family, gender and reproductive rights in Latin America and Argentina.

Week 14
Class Workshop

Each student will present their drafts to the rest of the class following a group dynamic by the instructor. Comments and contributions will be received for the final preparation of the Final paper. Later, the instructor will propose a general dialogue and conclusions about the day.

Assignment due: Draft of the Final paper

Week 15
Class Final paper presentation

Individual presentation of Final Paper using power point and media resources. General dialogue and conclusions. Final comments about the course.

Assignment due: Final paper (printed document). Personal presentation with Power Point and other media resources.

Course Materials
Readings

Note: additional readings will be offered to the students to develop the individual topics they choose for their Final Paper.


Transaction Publishers


De la Garza Toledo, Enrique (compilador) 2005. Sindicatos y nuevos movimientos sociales en América Latina, Buenos Aires, CLACSO.


Berkeley, University of California Press.


https://www.du.edu/korbel/criic/humanitarianbriefs/rachelkoepsel.pdf


Rapoport, Mario (2010), “The development of the Historiography of International Relations in Argentina, from the eighties to the present. Controversies over foreign policy, economic development, global changes and historical perspective” in What’s New in the History (and Theory of International Relations after 1989), Alfredo Canavero (org) with Claudio Spiguel. Rome, Scriptoweb


Serna, Pedro y Toller, Fernando (2000). La interpretación constitucional de los derechos fundamentales.
Una alternativa a los conflictos de derechos. Buenos Aires, La Ley


Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar. Quito, Abya Ayala.
