HI3K3-30 A History of Human Rights in Latin America

21/22

Department
History
Level
Undergraduate Level 3
Module leader
Rosie Doyle
Credit value
30
Module duration
22 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

In global histories of human rights Latin American nations and Latin Americans often appear as victims rather than possessors of a unique tradition of rights. A unique tradition of human rights took shape in Latin America from the 1940s. Latin American governments and diplomats were central to the processes which established the international human rights system in the 1940s. The ideas about social and economic rights that Latin Americans brought, and continue to bring, to the debating table were the result of a tradition developed through processes of revolution and reform since independence in the early nineteenth century. Some studies trace the tradition of rights in Latin America back to the colonial period and developments in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Module web page

Module aims

As current issues of rights to security, migrant rights and indigenous rights and rights to self-determination and autonomy take centre stage in Latin American political and social life, this course analyses the development of rights in the region in historical perspective. It looks at the

relationship between rights, democracy, liberalism, Catholicism and social revolt and analyses the range of civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights and their interplay with notions of citizenship, race, class and gender. It does so through an exploration of the processes of constitution-making, state-building, revolution and resistance in the nineteenth century and the rise of nationalism and processes of reform and revolution and Latin American states' involvement in the international human rights system and transnational movements of resistance and rights in the twentieth-century. Students will analyse the current literature on rights, the historiography of resistance and revolution as well a broad range of primary sources. The course starts with a series of lectures and seminars discussing the themes of human rights over the longue durée. It then takes a chronological approach starting with the colonial period but focusing particularly on the history of rights since Independence at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1

1. Introduction: Human rights today and human rights in history.
2. Religion and Rights 1: Scholasticism, evangelization and the Catholic Church.
3. Religion and Rights 2: Secularisation, Social Catholicism, Liberation Theology.
4. The Evolution of Rights 1: Nation, sovereignty and civil and political rights.
5. The Evolution of Rights 2: Economic, social and cultural rights. MRC Workshop (4-5pm).
6. Reading Week - no seminars
7. The Evolution of Rights 3: Communal rights and indigenous rights.
8. Citizenship and Identity: Collective and individual rights. Race, gender and class.
9. Political Legitimacy and Governance: Liberalism, socialism and democracy.
10. Gender, Sexuality and Rights: Rights and responsibilities.

Term 2

1. Consequences of Conquest: Colonialism and rights.
2. Independence and Rights in Revolution: state building, revolution, constitution-making and rights.
3. Rights in Reform: Liberalism, Popular Liberalism, Social Catholicism.
4. Liberalism in crisis: The Social Question and socio-economic rights.
5. Social Rights from above and below: Socialism, nationalism, populism, revolution.
6. Reading Week - no seminars
7. International Human Rights: Latin American delegations and social rights
8. Latin America and the Global Politics of Human Rights: The Cold War, authoritarianism, insurgency and counter-insurgency, revolution.
9. Globalization, Neoliberalism and Indigenous Rights: autonomy and self-determination.
10. Transitional Justice and Memory

Term 3

1. Democratisation and Rights: Rights-based development. Migrant rights and rights to security
2. Human Rights and Environmental Rights

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of the development of human rights in Latin America
- Critically analyse and evaluate a broad range of primary sources relating to the history of human rights in Latin America
- Effectively communicate ideas, and make informed, coherent and persuasive arguments, relating to the history of human rights in Latin America
- Take responsibility to identify, design, and produce a coherent project on human rights in Latin America by creating content for a non-academic audience
- Critically review and consolidate theoretical, methodological, and historiographical ideas relating to the developments in research on the Global History of Human Rights

Indicative reading list

General Texts on Lain American History

- John Chasteen, Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America (any edition)
- Andrew Dawson, Latin America since Independence: A History with Primary Sources, 2011.
- Will Fowler, Latin America since 1780 (any edition)
- Patrick William Kelly. Sovereign Emergencies: Latin America and the Making of Global Human Rights Politics. Cambridge University Press: 2018.
- Shawn William Miller, An Environmental History of Latin America. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007
- Jose Moya (ed.) The Oxford Handbook of Latin American History, 2012.
- Salomon, Frank and Stuart Schwartz (eds). The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Edwin Williamson, Penguin History of Latin America (any edition)

General Texts on Human Rights and the History of Human Rights and Human Rights in Latin America

- Agosín, Marjorie, ed. Writing Toward Hope: The Literature of Human Rights in Latin America. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2006.
- Cardenas, Sonia. Human Rights in Latin America. A Politics of Terror and Hope. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012.
- Jack Donnelly, International Human Rights. 4th ed. Boulder, CO: Westview, 2012.
- Jack Donnelly, Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice. Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 2003.
- Edward L. Cleary. The Struggle for Human Rights in Latin America. Westport, CT: Praeger 1997.
- Edward L. Cleary. Mobilizing for Human Rights in Latin America. Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian, 2007.
- Mark Goodale. Surrendering to Utopia: An Anthropology of Human Rights. Stanford CA: Stanford University Press, 2009.

- Margaret E. Keck, and Kathryn Sikkink. Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics. Cornell University Press, 1998.
- Lynn Hunt. Inventing Human Rights. W. W. Norton, 2008.
- Michael Ignatieff, Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry. Princeton: 2003.
- Micheline R. Ishay, The History of Human Rights: From Ancient Times to the Globalization Era. Berkeley, UC Press, 2008, 2nd edition.
- Sandel, Michael J. Liberalism and the Limits of Justice. 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 1998.
- Samuel Moyn. The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History. Belknap Press, 2012.
- Samuel Moyn. Christian Human Rights. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018.
- Samuel Moyn. Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World. Harvard University Press, 2018.
- Kathryn Sikkink. Mixed Signals: U.S. Human Rights Policy and Latin America. (Cornell University Press, 2011)
- Sikkink, Kathryn. 2014. “Latin American Countries as Norm Protagonists of the Idea of International Human Rights.” Global Governance 20(3): 389-404.
- Sikkink, Kathryn. 2018. Evidence for Hope Making Human Rights Work in the 21st Century. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press
- Daniel J. Whelan, Indivisible Human Rights – A History. Univ. of Pennsylvania, 2010.
- Alexander Wilde. Religious Responses to Violence: Human Rights in Latin America Past and Present. University of Notre Dame Press: 2015.

View reading list on Talis Aspire

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Seminars	20 sessions of 2 hours (13%)	
Tutorials	4 sessions of 1 hour (1%)	
External visits	(0%)	1 session of
Private study	256 hours (85%)	
Total	300 hours	

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
Seminar contribution	10%	
1500 word essay	10%	
3000 word applied history assignment	40%	
3000 word essay	40%	

Feedback on assessment

Written comments and oral feedback from the tutor one to one. Peer assessment and feedback from the tutor in class, study groups and on Moodle.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
    - Year 4 of VQ33 English and History (with Intercalated year)
    - Year 4 of VQ33 English and History (with Intercalated year)
- UHIA-V1V8 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)

    - Year 3 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 4 of V1V8 History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- UHIA-VL16 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 3 of VL16 History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
    - Year 4 of VL16 History and Sociology (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list A for:

- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
    - Year 3 of V100 History
    - Year 3 of V100 History
- Year 4 of UHIA-V101 Undergraduate History (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 4 of UHIA-V1V6 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with Year Abroad)
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
    - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
    - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
    - Year 3 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)