



DR. JOSÉ CHÁVARRY

# HISP 252: FROM GOOD NEIGHBOR TO NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT- LATIN AMERICA AND THE US

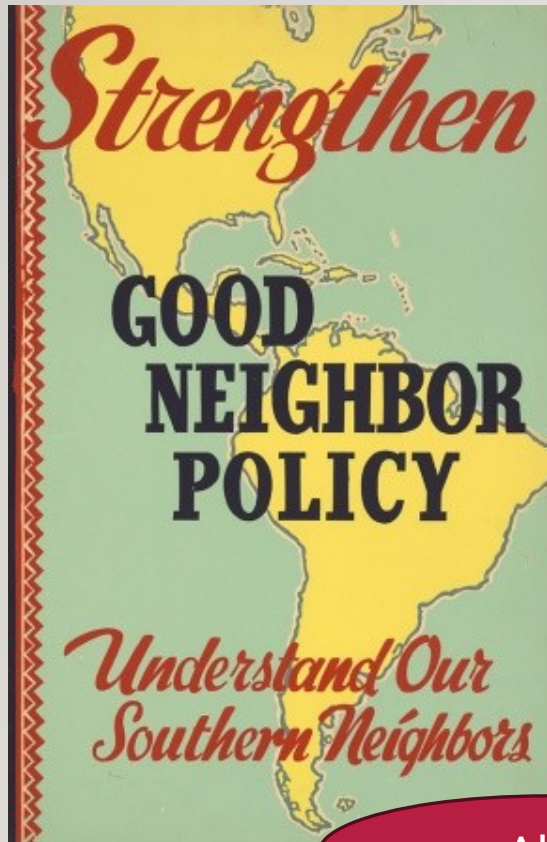


# WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?

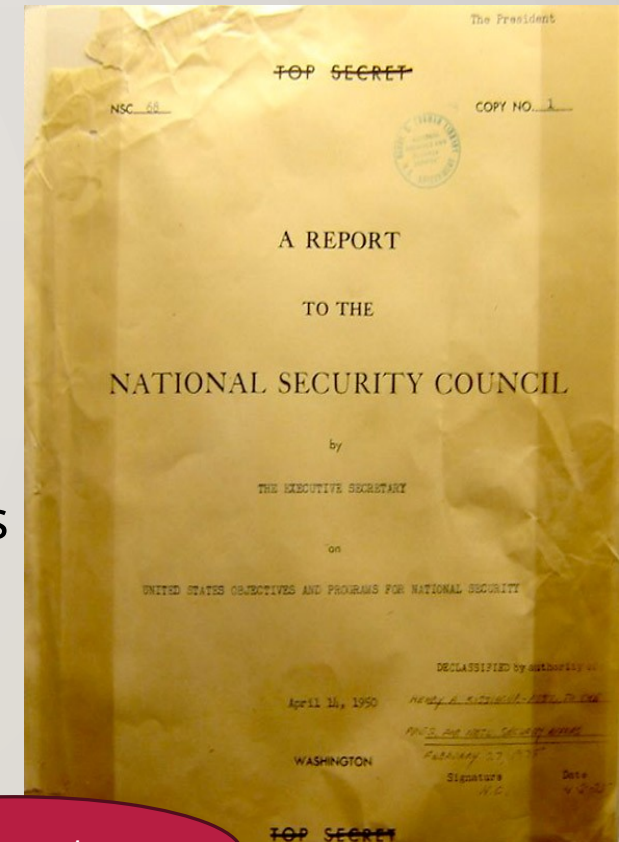
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- The history of the relationship between Latin America and the US from an interdisciplinary perspective.
- Not only politics but especially the role that language (literary, artistic, film) played in the construction of the Other – the ideological function of language.
- Difficult history – attempts at cooperation and US interventionism and imperialism.
- But, not victim vs. victimizer – much more nuanced and complex.
- To understand this relationship is to better understand US history and Latin American history, as well as today's media/pop culture discourses about Latin America in the US.

# GOOD NEIGHBOR – NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT



- Good Neighbor Policy – the attempts at political, economic and cultural collaboration between US and Latin America, around WWII.
- National Security Discourse – the idea that Latin America was a hotspot of Communist/terrorist insurgency that threatens the



Ally

from the Cold War to  
war on Drugs.

Threat

# LET'S INTRODUCE EACH OTHER

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- Name
  - Where you are from
  - What you study
  - Previous training (if any) in Latin American history, culture, society, languages, etc.
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- Take a few minutes to write down some thoughts: *In academic settings, where would you expect to learn about Latin America? Think about specific classes/disciplines in high school or college. Did you learn about Latin American history/culture in these classes? What did you learn? Or, why didn't you learn about it?*

Take 3 minutes  
to share in pairs



# LATIN AMERICA IN THE CLASSROOM

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## The Spanish language class

- Standard Spanish associated with Spain.
- Historical reasons: Royal Academy of Spanish (RAE).
- First university programs in US founded by Spaniards.
- Focus on grammar, communication, non-controversial topics.

## The History class

- US history: only insofar as it connects to US – war, crisis.
- World history: as part of a broader category, i.e., Third World, area studies.

## REI courses

- LACS courses, anthropology, political science especially dedicated to the region and listed as “Global” or “Non-US”.

Latin America as  
separate from the US



# LATIN AMERICA IN POPULAR IMAGINATION

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# LATIN AMERICA AS “OTHER”

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- These representations tend to “**other**” Latin America: a region that is inherently different, that has different values and norms, different logics regarding time, development, consumption, a different ethos and ways of envisioning the self.
- When we separate US and Latin America...
  - ...it makes it difficult to think Latin American-US history in a **relational** way, two regions whose very territorial and ideological emergence is profoundly connected.



# IN THIS COURSE...

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- We'll learn about the interconnected history of Latin America and the United States,
- We'll examine primary sources that demonstrate this historical relationship (literature, art, film, essays, pronouncements), through **close-reading**,
- We'll read secondary sources about these topics, to understand how other scholars have approached these topics,
- We'll focus on the power of language for influencing perceptions and creating realities.



# SYLLABUS

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- Attendance, participation and homework
- Materials
- Exams
- Article reflections
- Final essay
- Questions?

# WHAT IS LATIN AMERICA?

- Latin America vs. Spanish America (Latinoamérica / Hispanoamérica). Are they the same?
  - S.A. includes Spain, not Brazil, Haiti or French Guyana. L.A. includes these, not Spain
  - Not just territorial – historical, ideological
- Lat. Am. countries obtained their independence from Spain/Portugal (1810s-20s, mostly). But, still had economic/political/cultural relationships with Europe.
- France created the term “Latin” America to compete with Spain’s “Spanish” America (1850s).
- US replaces Europe’s sphere of influence by the late 19<sup>th</sup> cent.





# WHAT IS LATIN AMERICA?

- Independence mostly from 1810s-20s. Development of the nation-states.
- Territorial wars throughout 19<sup>th</sup> century (War of the Pacific, War of the Triple Alliance)
  - US role in arbitration
- Erasure of racial minorities, either by genocide or integration discourses.
  - Coloniality does not end, it continues as constitutive part of the republican model.
- US as both model and threat.



The caste system

# NEXT CLASS

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- Homework: map of Latin America:
  - Countries, their capital cities, major geographical landmarks and languages
  - OAKS > Week 1
- We'll look at the history of US-Latin American relations.