

## **Latin American History and Politics**

One Week Introductory Course

School of International Studies (ZIS)

Tutor: Dr George Lambie

The aim of this short one week course is to act as an introduction to Latin America in preparation for further study, or to give a grounding to those wishing to do business, represent a company, organization, or government in the region. The course will examine:

- a) A historical background of Latin America
- b) Explore the diversity of the region
- c) Themes and problems of development
- d) The cultural and literary context
- e) Contemporary issues
- f) The future

The structure of the course will take the form of 9 one hour lectures, 8 group seminars, 9 hours for videos, group work and tutorials to assist with assessed work (depending on requirements).

### Lecture and seminar programme

Lecture 1 – ‘The pre-Columbian civilizations of Latin America and the consequences of the Spanish and Portuguese Conquest’

Lecture 2 – ‘The consolidation of Conquest, the Independence movement, and the impact of non Hispanic European influences on the region’.

Lecture 4 – ‘The post-war development period – structuralism, dependency theory, foreign intervention and international relations’.

Lecture 3 – ‘The cultural context of Latin America: art, poetry, literature and religion’.

Lecture 5 – ‘The impact of globalization and neo-liberalism on the region’.

Lecture 6 – Case study – ‘Argentina: A model of ‘Comparative Advantage’.

Lecture 7 - Case study – ‘Peru: the problems of geography, race and backwardness’.

Lecture 8 – Case Study – ‘The Cuban Revolution: causes; development; crisis; future’.

Lecture 9 - Contemporary Latin America – future prospects

### Seminars

A seminar will be held after each lecture starting with lecture 2 which will be followed by a seminar session on the content of lecture 1, giving time for students to do some reading, consider topics for discussion and prepare additional questions. Depending on local practices students may be chosen to specialize on a particular seminar topic. Seminars will give students an opportunity to present their opinions on selected topics and to discuss matters of interest in more detail.

### Supporting Materials

Most lectures and seminars topics will be supported by:

- a) A short and relevant reading list
- b) The lecturers personal notes on the topics addressed
- c) The lecturer's publications and conference papers
- d) Advice on other sources of information
- e) Relevant films, literature and documentaries – some of which will be shown in class.