

Bolivia

Latin American Revolutionary Movements and Conflict Resolution

Examine the inequities that contribute to conflict and the factors driving conflict resolution in the context of Latin America.

Coursework

Please note: This program will have credit distribution and/or other curriculum changes beginning in the fall 2012 semester. Please visit www.sit.edu/BLP for details.

Latin American Revolutionary Movements and Conflict Resolution Seminar

LACB 3000 / 6 credits / 90 class hours

An interdisciplinary course conducted in Spanish with required readings and relevant educational excursions. The course provides an in-depth look at the emerging and often conflicting interactions of new political actors and revolutionary movements in Latin America. Lecturers are drawn from institutions such as Universidad Privada Boliviana, Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, Universidad Mayor de San Simón, and Universidad Católica Boliviana. Seminar topics typically include:

Module 1: Theoretical and Historical Background
Theoretical and conceptual tools for the study of social movements; revolution and conflict resolution: the legacy of the Mexican and Cuban revolutions; socioeconomic conditions of selected Latin American countries; the political economy of the "Bolivarian" governments in Latin America: Venezuela, Ecuador, and Bolivia.

Module 2: Social Transformation and Conflict in Bolivia

State and society: political and social transformation in contemporary Bolivia; revolution and resistance: political discourse and action of the New Political Actors and revolutionary movements in contemporary Bolivia; the role of class, ethnicity, and gender in the emergence of conflict.

Module 3: Bolivian Case Studies

Case Study I: the Bolivian coca-growers movement; workshop on the coca-growers movement; **Case Study II:** the Cochabamba-based water movements; workshop on a water cooperative; the political economy of regional conflict in Bolivia; **Case Study III:** the Bolivian regional civic committees; workshop on civic committees; **Case Study IV:** the Federación de Juntas Vecinales (FEJUVE) from El Alto; workshop on the history of the El Alto FEJUVE; workshop on the current political role of El Alto FEJUVE; **Case Study V:** institutional initiatives on conflict resolution and transformation; workshop with Fundación UNIR.

Module 4: Historical Background on Latin American Social Movements

Brief overview of the study of social movements in Latin America: indigenous movements, Latin American feminisms, labor movements, and land movements.

Module 5: Case Studies in Argentina and Brazil

Argentine socioeconomic conditions; **Case Study VI:** the Argentine Piqueteros; workshop on the Piquetero movement; **Case Study VII:** the Brazilian Landless Movement; workshop on the history of the Brazilian Landless Movement; workshop on the current action of the Brazilian Landless Movement.

Educational Excursions

Excursions are designed to reveal new perspectives on Bolivia's political development and the impact of revolutionary movements on the lifestyles and cultural traditions of urban and rural communities. Excursion sites within Bolivia include Cochabamba, the eastern plains of Santa Cruz, and El Alto. The program also includes an excursion to Jujuy, Argentina, as well as to Campo Grande in Brazil to examine the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST). *Local conditions may lead to program changes, as required.*

Intensive Language Study: Spanish

SPAN 2000–3000 / 4 credits / 60 class hours
Emphasis on speaking, reading, and writing skills through classroom and field instruction. Based on in-country evaluation, including oral proficiency testing, students are placed in small intensive intermediate or advanced classes, with further language practice during homestays, lectures, and field visits.

Field Study Seminar

ANTH 3500 / 2 credits / 30 class hours
A course in the concepts of learning across cultures and from field experience. Introduction to the Independent Study Project. Material includes cross-cultural adaptation and skills building; project selection and refinement; appropriate methodologies; field study ethics



Credits 16

Duration Fall/Spring 15 weeks

Program Base La Paz

Language Study Spanish

Homestay La Paz, 7 weeks

Rural Visit/Homestay Rural area outside La Paz, 4 days

Other Accommodations Hotels and hostels

Independent Study Project 4 weeks

Prerequisites Previous college-level coursework and/or other significant preparation in political science, political economy, development studies, international relations, or Latin American studies, as assessed by SIT. Three recent semesters of college-level Spanish or equivalent and the ability to follow coursework in Spanish, as assessed by SIT.

and the World Learning/SIT Human Subjects Review Policy; developing contacts and finding resources; developing skills in observation and interviewing; gathering, organizing, and communicating data; maintaining a work journal.

Independent Study Project

ISPR 3000 / 4 credits / 120 class hours
Conducted in an approved location appropriate to the project. **Sample topic areas:** the coca-growers movement and local drug war in Bolivia; role of Venezuela's influence in the Brazilian MST; gender relations in Argentine sociopolitical activism; state policy, social activism, and changing patterns in conflict resolution; indigenous movements and their political impact; US foreign policy and the Bolivarian revolution.