This course surveys the social, political, cultural and economic history of Latin America from roughly 1800 to the present. The primary aim is to help you develop a mental map of the history of Latin America—of prominent themes and issues; of historical eras and trajectories. Given the vastness of Latin America—and its somewhat arbitrary composition as an object of study—the approach of the course is thematic and chronological rather than regional. We will pay attention to a number of more specific and interconnected themes: the development of, and relationship between, capitalist economies and processes of state formation; the complex roles Britain and the U.S. have played in the region, but always with an appreciation for how Latin Americans have shaped their own histories; the ways in which non-elites—slaves, workers, peasants, among others—have shaped history; and the politics of the production of history. Weekly readings for the course are meant to complement and expand upon issues raised in lecture. As one of the main tasks of this class is to help you see how Latin Americans view their own histories, the majority of the readings are works—both primary and secondary—written by people from Latin America. Readings include works of fiction, poetry, memoirs, cartoons, speeches and journals.