This course examines the variety of experiences that gave rise to radical and revolutionary movements in Latin America in the 19th and 20th centuries. What exactly those terms—radical and revolutionary—mean is part of the purpose of the course. We will begin with no a priori definition of either but rather will attempt over the semester to determine what such ascriptions mean and to whom as well as how the very meaning of such terms change over time. Questions we will consider include: What kinds of goals do “radicals” and/or “revolutionaries” have? What form does radicalism take and why? Who defines what is or is not radical? How do we explain the rise of revolutionary movements at certain points in time and not in others? In other words, how do we explain not only why people rebel, but why they do not? Where does radicalism come from? What is the relationship between experience and ideology in the process of radicalization? What is at stake in drawing out relations of cause and effect? Why? How are radical critiques and actions justified or explained? At the same time we will also consider more generally broader questions regarding ideology, culture, politics and the production of history. We will range broadly, from the Philippines to Spain, Mexico to Argentina, Chile to Guatemala, Brazil to Nicaragua.

Our primary goal will be to attempt to understand the goals of radicals and revolutionaries as valid ones based upon their own experiences. To do so, we will read a mix of primary and secondary material as well as a range of theoretical texts. Occasional mini-lectures will be given as needed, to provide you with the historical context necessary for particular readings. The structure of the course is both chronological and thematic and is designed both to deepen your understanding of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Latin America and to raise a series of theoretical, conceptual and methodological questions about how we understand and write about power and resistance, ideology and experience, defiance and submission, and structure and agency.

Assignments: This course has significant weekly reading (c. 200 pages per week) in addition to a final research paper. Please be prepared for a substantial workload. At various points during the semester we will not meet for readings but rather for you will be provided time to devote to your research. Your grade will be determined based upon two criteria:

**Participation (50%)**: 
This class is a seminar and I will not be lecturing. The dynamism of the course will come from the participation of all of you. Therefore, consistent participation in the seminar is extremely important and will be weighed heavily in determining your final grade. To help facilitate discussion, all students will be required to present the readings for one or more weeks during the semester.
Final research paper (50%):  
You will be required to write a final paper. For undergraduates, you should choose to write either a research paper on a topic of your choosing related to the course material, based in part on primary research, or you should write a paper that takes one theme from the course and expands upon it with additional secondary reading. In either case, the paper should be approx. 15-18 pages in length.

Graduate students will write a research paper of approx. 30pp, based on primary materials on a topic of their choosing related to the course.

Readings: The following texts, or a substantial portion of them, are required reading for the course. They are available—tax-free—at Buffalo St. Books, a local book cooperative at 215 N. Cayuga St. in DeWitt Mall in downtown Ithaca (an easy and relaxing walk down Buffalo St. from campus and a nice work-out coming back). When you enter the bookstore you will see their course book section in the back corner, next to the exit in to the DeWitt mall. Their phone number is 273-8246 and e-mail is BuffaloStreetBooks@hotmail.com. Buying from them will help support the only independent bookstore in the greater Ithaca area (a good thing for a community of readers and thinkers and for small presses and local authors) and the only bookstore collectively owned (to the best of my knowledge) in the state of New York. A recent study has shown that for every $100 spent at local bookstores, $45 remains in the local economy; by comparison, only $13 out of every $100 spent in chain bookstores remains in the local economy and $0 (nothing! nada! zip!) remains in the local economy if you order on-line. Regardless of how you choose to acquire the books, please ensure you have access to the readings by the dates required and please ensure that you read the correct edition of the text. In addition, all books are available on reserve in Uris Library.

Gioconda Belli, *The Country Under My Skin: A Memoir of Love and War*
Hakim Bey, *T.A.Z: The Temporary Autonomous Zone, Ontological Anarchy, Poetic Terrorism*
Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre: Latin America and the Cold War*
Valeria Manzano, *The Age of Youth in Argentina: Culture, Politics and Sexuality from Perón to Videla*
Mark Saad Saka, *For God and Revolution: Priest, Peasant and Agrarian Socialism in the Mexican Huasteca*
James C. Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*
Peter Winn, *Weavers of Revolution: The Yarur Workers and Chile’s Road to Socialism*

**Please note that History 1960 (Modern Latin America) or some background in modern Latin American history is strongly recommended for undergraduates in this class. For those of you unsure of your footing, you might consider purchasing a copy of John Charles Chasteen, *Born in Blood and Fire*, which is a very accessible and useful overview of modern Latin American history.**

PLEASE NOTE: Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student’s own work. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, I encourage you to go to the following site and to take the tutorial: https://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm
Course schedule and readings
[* denotes readings on blackboard/e-reserve]*

8/27  **Introduction**

9/3  **Why people rebel…**

*John Tutino, “Agrarian Life and Rural Rebellion,” in Tutino *From Insurrection to Revolution*
*Theda Skocpol, “Explaining Social Revolutions,” in Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*

9/10  **… why they don’t…**

James C. Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*
Hakim Bey, “The Temporary Autonomous Zone,” in Bey, *T.A.Z: The Temporary Autonomous Zone, Ontological Anarchy, Poetic Terrorism*

9/17  **… and how do we know?**

*Ranajit Guha, “The Prose of Counter-Insurgency,” in Guha and Spivak, eds., *Selected Subaltern Studies* *

9/24  **Libraries visit**

We will meet at Olin Library Circulation for a visit to the Kroch Rare Books and Manuscripts collections and then walk to Ives Library to visit the Kheel Center. These visits are intended to give you an overview of the collections, an opportunity to meet the superb archivists and bibliographers (your favorite friends when it comes to research), an introduction to how to find materials, and ideas for possible papers. This meeting is mandatory for all students. If you cannot attend, please do not take this class.
10/1 Priests and Peasants

Mark Saad Saka, *For God and Revolution*

10/8 Anarchism, anti-colonialism and transnationalism

Benedict Anderson, *The Age of Globalization*

*Raymond Craib, “Sedentary Anarchists” in Bantman and Altena, eds., Reassessing the Transnational Turn: Scales of Analysis in Anarchist and Syndicalist Studies*

Film screening: *La Patagonia Rebelde* (tbd)

10/15 Work on papers

I will be out of town. Please use this week to spend some time nailing down your paper topic. This means going back to Rare Books and Manuscripts and starting to sift through material, or meeting with a reference librarian to identify materials, or building a secondary bibliography for your topic, or something similar. The point is: use this week to get a good start on your papers. You will be required to submit a one-page, single spaced summary of your topic and preliminary sources and questions in the October 22 seminar.

10/22 Cause and effect

Greg Grandin, *The Last Colonial Massacre*

10/29 Youth, Resistance and Defiance

*Dick Hebdige, *Subculture: The meaning of style* [excerpts tba]*

*Paul Willis, “Introduction,” to Willis, *Learning to Labor: How working class kids get working class jobs*

*Victoria Langland, “Birth Control Pills and Molotov cocktails: Reading Sex and Revolution in 1968 Brazil,” in Joseph and Spensier, eds., *In from the Cold: Latin America’s New Encounter with the Cold War*

Valeria Manzano, *The Age of Youth in Argentina* [intro and chaps. 1 and 6]

11/5 Revolution from Below (i)

In class screening of portions of *The Battle of Chile* (Patricio Guzmán)

Begin: Peter Winn, *Weavers of Revolution*
11/12  Revolution from Below (ii)

Peter Winn, *Weavers of Revolution*
In class screening of *Chile: Obstinate Memory* (Patricio Guzmán)

11/19  No class. Work on papers

11/26  Thanksgiving break

12/3  Love and Revolution

Giaconda Belli, *The Country Under My Skin*