Dr. Edy Kaufman

Session 1
Introduction to Latin America, Methodology

Latin America in retrospect: The last 50 years. The impact of human rights protection on democratization: frameworks of analysis. Course outline, bibliography and requirements. Discussion: Latin America as a single unit of analysis.

Session 2
Human Rights in World Politics


Session 3
Continuity and Change in Latin America

The prevalence of the status quo after World War II and the influence of the Cold War in the repression of the traditional left. The impact of the Cuban Revolution. The repression of the left and the emergence of guerrilla movements throughout the subcontinent. The strategies of rural and urban guerrilla.


Session 4
Military Rule in Latin America

Session 5

Human Rights Impact on Democratization

From World War II to the end of the Cold War the role of the 'international citizens lobby' in the implementation of human rights principles. The formation of human rights organizations in Latin America and their importance in the process of democratization.


Session 6

Transitions to Democracy in Latin America

The rise and fall of military rule. Patterns of disengagement: back to the barracks? Political polarization in Central America. The issue of 'truth' and impunity in the Southern Cone.


Session 7

Regional Cooperation and Human Rights Institutions in the Inter-American System

The Organization of American States: structures and functions of the human rights regime. Moving towards the effective protection of democratic systems.


Session 8

The Position of the United States in Latin America

Latin America as a Sphere of Influence of the United States in a bi-polar world. The place of human rights in the US foreign policy. The breakdown of communism and the support to democracy.

- Forsythe, D., "United States Foreign Policy and Human Rights," in Human Rights & World Politics(University of Nebraska Place, Lincoln, 1989) pp 102-126

Session 9

Consolidation of Democracy in Latin America
The limits of formal democracy. Looking at the institutions through citizen's participation. The formation of a civil society. The new role of the military. The decline of populist violence.


Session 10

Social and Economic Parameters of Democracy in Latin America

The indivisibility of human rights and the relevance of social, political and cultural rights for democratization in the subcontinent. The effect of structural adjustment and privatization on the distribution of wealth. The extent and meaning of poverty in the region. Social pacts and other forms of incremental reform.


Session 11

Prospects of Democracy in Latin America

Is democracy in Latin America an irreversible process? Discussion. Comparison with South Europe and other regions. The role of the military revisited. The prospects for a culture of democracy and human rights in the subcontinent. Concluding remarks.