Q1. The course sessions were conducted in a manner that helped me to understand the subject matter of the course.

a. Moderately Agree. No comment.
b. Strongly Agree. The discussion questions and class time were very useful. Organized notes on the board are always helpful for understanding trends and material.
c. Strongly Agree. Thank you for succinctly summing up the main points from each reading. Lecture might be replace class discussion occasionally as the sessions got to be a little monotonous after awhile.
d. Moderately Agree. Discussions in class were a great supplement to the readings and helped to make sense of these.
e. Strongly Agree. Good mix of discussion (mostly) and lecture.
f. Strongly Agree. Lecture/Discussions were helpful in flushing out overarching themes in Latin American history.
g. Moderately Agree. No Comment.
h. Strongly Agree. I thought that the class discussions were crucial to understanding the subject.
i. Strongly Agree. I really liked the combination of lecture/class discussion. Also I like that Prof. Silva calls students out when their comments are BS.
j. Slightly Disagree. I often felt intimidated to respond to questions in class, to the effect that I did not participate as much as or might have wanted to.
k. Moderately Disagree. The Prof. would often “brow beat” students into feeling intimidated to speak.
l. Moderately Agree. I enjoyed your questioning manner, it forced me to do the readings.
m. Strongly Agree. No Comment.
n. Slightly Agree. The sessions were slow; the professor obviously wanted an answer but would not prompt students clearly to reach a point.
o. Strongly Agree. I thought your method of grading participation worked well to encourage a variety of people to speak each class.
p. Moderately Agree. Good to provide discussion questions before class.
q. Strongly Agree. Discussion-based sessions were extremely helpful and engaging.
r. Strongly Agree. Classes were very structured—we knew what to expect—and this really helped focus my readings of articles and chapters. E-mailed questions were helpful. I liked the way class discussions flowed; they were driven by student input but guided by the professor.
Q2. The instructor helped me to understand the subject matter of the course.

a. Slightly Agree. To many lectures consisted of lists of themes found in readings. Class was rarely exciting or intellectually engaging and made thrilling subject matter dry. Professor had frequent office hours but while sometimes understanding and helpful, was equally often uninterested and aloof.

b. Strongly Agree. Very helpful during office hours and in answering questions.

c. Strongly Agree. An excellent professor whose office hours are very good venues for personal discussion.

d. Moderately Agree. Professor Silva was very knowledgeable about the course material. His lectures and comments were very helpful in understanding the readings. He was very good at directing conversation in class so that by the end, we would have a cohesive idea or thought about the reading.

e. Strongly Agree. No Comment.

f. Strongly Agree. No Comment.

g. Strongly Agree. Although sometimes I would have appreciated more lecture style teaching instead of what we interpreted from the reading.

h. Strongly Agree. Comments from the prof. were helpful for the final paper and understanding the reading.

i. Strongly Agree. Prof. Silva was knowledgeable and approachable. He was one of the best history pros I have had. He ranks w/V Brown.

j. Slightly Agree. No Comment.

k. Slightly Agree. No Comment.

l. Strongly Agree. No Comment.

m. Strongly Agree. Readings were really difficult to understand sometimes, so professor’s lectures were really helpful.

n. Moderately Agree. Much better one-on-one.

o. Strongly Agree. I found your lectures often entertaining and informative. You were very helpful and available in office hours.


q. Moderately Agree. One on one meetings about the paper were very helpful.

r. Strongly Agree. My favorite part of every class was the end, when the professor would give us insight into his own analysis of the topic.

Q3. Work completed with and/or discussions with other students in this course helped me to understand the subject matter of the course.

a. Slightly Agree. Mediocre class discussions. The very infrequent small group work was beneficial. Would have appreciated more structured peer work.

b. Strongly Agree. No comment.

c. Not Applicable/Don’t Know. This could be improved on I think because, outside of the summaries, there were little to no opportunities to work with students.

d. Slightly Agree. Little to no group work assigned.

e. Moderately Agree. We didn’t do much group work, but when we did I thought it was a good way to get the class discussion going.
Q3. Work completed with and/or discussions with other students in this course helped me to understand the subject matter of the course. (continued)

f. Moderately Agree. Very small group discussions, and very few discussions that involved anything but the required reading.
g. Moderately Agree. I appreciated most of the readings, however there seemed to be an excess of economic centered articles that were difficult to engage with without a good working knowledge of the terms.
h. Not Applicable/Don’t Know. The small amount of work done with other students wasn’t helpful.
i. Not Applicable/Don’t Know. No Comment.
j. Strongly Disagree. The only times that we did group work, I felt that the assignments were vague and arbitrary, and in general did not contribute much to the class.
k. Strongly Disagree. The group assignments were arbitrary, vague, and generally unhelpful.
l. Moderately Agree. Studying with other students was productive.
m. Strongly Agree. No Comment.
n. Slightly Agree. No Comment.
o. Moderately Agree. We didn’t really do much group work, exception, the weekly summaries. That worked fine though.
q. Not Applicable/Don’t Know. No Comment.
r. Strongly Agree. Class discussions were great.

Q4. The oral and written work, tests, and/or other assignments helped me to understand the subject matter of the course.

a. Slightly Agree. With only one paper, there was little to gain from non-reading assignments. I enjoyed my paper, but it was so specific it failed to illuminate other areas of the course.
b. Strongly Agree. No comment.
c. Moderately Agree. While the forms of assessment did not impair my ability to understand the material, they did not help me either. So, I think this is one area that can be improved on.
d. Slightly Agree. The paper and exam gave me a good overview of the main points of the course.
e. Moderately Agree. I guess that having one big semester long, paper was good, but I think maybe I could have developed my writing style (making an effective argument) better if we’d had more smaller papers w/comments.
f. Strongly Agree. Writing just one essay in a very specific format was very helpful. I used this format in an essay for another class this semester and had very good results.
g. Moderately Agree. Although, having a comprehensive final and research paper within the same 2 final weeks is sort of crazy.
h. Strongly Agree. No Comment.
Q4. The oral and written work, tests, and/or other assignments helped me to understand the subject matter of the course. (continued)

i. Moderately Agree. I think we could have done more take home writing than our one paper. I also think in class tests are a really dumb/pointless way to test ones knowledge of history. But I appreciate Silva’s dedication to helping us write strong history papers.

j. Moderately Agree. The final paper was enjoyable to work on.

k. Slightly Disagree. No Comment.

l. Strongly Agree. The research paper and preparation for tests was very useful.

m. Strongly Agree. No Comment.

n. Moderately Agree. No Comment.

o. Moderately Agree. I would have preferred 2-3 short papers instead of one long one, but I thought the stages of writing were handled well and built on one another.


q. Strongly Agree. Turning in parts of the final paper during the semester was really helpful to guide my research and give my paper more focus.

r. Strongly Agree. The research paper in particular was a great way to delve into a topic in more depth. Again, the structure involved in writing this paper was extremely helpful (multiple deadlines throughout the semester are great!)

Q5. Required readings or other course materials helped me to understand the subject matter of the course.

a. Slightly Agree. I found most of the readings to be quite frankly boring, save for the Rosenberg book. The course seem scattered, somewhere between an overall analysis of Latin America and a country by country in-depth study. To me, this resulted in confusion.

b. I really enjoyed/learned a lot from the books we read, particularly both Chasteen books, Wright, and Rosenberg. The economic readings were really difficult for me, as someone who has only the most basic knowledge of economics. More assistance on the more jargony pieces would have been helpful (for example, links to good term definitions like we received for 1 – 2 readings late in the semester).

c. Moderately Agree. All of the readings, except for the Reid and Great Depression pieces which were difficult to understand because I have no background in economics, were highly readable and informative. I especially enjoyed the Wright book because it was a great example of historical writing. I also would like to say thanks for assigning an appropriate amount of reading. Don’t change the load.

d. Moderately Agree. The books by Chasteen, while not as stylish as Tina Rosenberg were excellent at giving overviews of the events discussed in class.

e. Strongly Agree. I especially liked the Burns and the Rosenbaum. Sometimes though, the readings were a little heavy on the economic language, making it difficult to see what the authors were trying to get across.

f. Moderately Agree. Starting the course with Chasteen provided a good overview before returning to study periods in depth. Too many readings on neoliberalism.

g. Moderately Agree. No Comment.
Q5. Required readings or other course materials helped me to understand the subject matter of the course. (continued)

h. Moderately Agree. Some of the tests, particularly the ones relating to economics, were difficult to understand. I feel that all of the reading was useful, though Burns less so than others.

i. Strongly Agree. The only problem I had w/the reading is halfway through the course when he started to do only econ. Also – I wish we had watched movies!

j. Slightly Disagree. A lot of readings seemed redundant or useless. For example, we read 4 readings on Neoliberalism when the material seemed to only require 3. I also found the “Americos” both unhelpful.

k. Slightly Disagree. The readings at the beginning of the year were difficult and felt pointless.

l. Moderately Agree. I learned a lot from the readings and enjoyed most of the books, but several of the readings on e-reserve were quite boring.

m. Strongly Agree. Other than Chasteen (which I didn’t like), all the readings were very interesting and matched up perfectly with the topics discussed in class.

n. Moderately Agree. The Wright book was not convincing unless you are a member of the choir, so to speak.

o. Slightly Disagree. I liked the readings about narratives, people, social history—like Children of Cain. I didn’t like, and did not expect from the course description, the heavy focus on econ in the second half of the course. I think it would be helpful in the future if you made clear on the course description the amount of econ. included.

p. Moderately Agree. Liked Rosenberg & Chasteen BIBAF.

q. Strongly Agree. Really helpful readings esp Rosenberg, Wright & Chasteen.

r. Strongly Agree. Articles were, in general, carefully selected to fit closely with the larger topic we were addressing. My favorite books were Wright and Rosenberg.

Q6. I learned a lot in this course.

a. Slightly Agree. As noted in #5, I thought the course should have been country by country or focused on overall Latin American trends. By mixing the two, I thought everyone suffered. Silva is a cool guy, but unfortunately his teaching style did not mesh with my learning style.

b. Strongly Agree. This was by far my favorite class of the semester. I felt like virtually all of my time spent studying for this class was well spent. Thanks for an excellent semester!

c. Strongly Agree. No Comment.

d. Strongly Agree. I feel that after taking this course, my knowledge about Latin American History has become one of my greatest subjects in history. Before taking this course I knew next to nothing about it.

e. Strongly Agree. Oh yes, most certainly.

f. Strongly Agree. No Comment.

g. Moderately Agree. It made me view history and historical debate and interpretation in a way I had not before.
Q6. I learned a lot in this course. (continued)

h. Strongly Agree. Latin American History is something I knew little about before, but this course has managed to change that to a large degree.

i. Strongly Agree. I learned a lot about writing about history and I learned a lot of history in & of itself. This was the best class I had all semester.

j. Slightly Agree. No Comment.

k. Moderately Agree. I learned a lot with the final paper.

l. Strongly Agree. I have a much better understanding of Modern Latin America.

m. Strongly Agree. No Comment.

n. Slightly Agree. No Comment.

o. Strongly Agree. I definitely learned a lot, even from the parts I didn’t enjoy or understand as much. I found your focus on developing an argument for the paper to be helpful to me.


q. Strongly Agree. No Comment.

r. Strongly Agree. This was one of my favorite classes at Grinnell.