

Below is a "working" syllabus. We may add or delete readings as the semester goes on.

Calendar:

Week 1 - January 14 - Introduction

Week 2 - January 21 – Mandatory meeting with Health Services

- Review the "Health & Safety Information" from the CGE web site, above.

CGE Readings: NOTE: To navigate the CGE Readings, look in the right-hand column (Current Issues in Nicaragua); most of the readings will be from this section. NOTE ALSO the middle column (Current Issues in Latin America); many of these articles, while not particular to Nicaragua, are of general interest for Central America. Read any of these that might interest you.

"Country cooperation strategy" - World Health Organization data on Nicaragua, found at:

http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccsbrief_nic_en.pdf

"Health situation analysis and trends summary: Pan American Health Organization data on Nicaragua, found at:

http://www.paho.org/English/DD/AIS/cp_558.htm

Week 3 – January 28 - Politics & History (1)

Read: Booth, *Understanding Central America*, Chs. 3 and 5; and Kinzer, *Overthrow*, Ch. 3 and pp. 98-100.

Week 4 February 3 - Politics and History (2)

CGE Readings:

"Intellectuals condemn authoritarian Ortega"

"Is a softer side of Ortega emerging?"

"The mouse that roared"

The film *Under Fire*, a Hollywood story of the Sandinista revolution, will be shown this week on BC cable channel 53. As Hollywood movies go, it's not bad.

Week 5 February 10 - Mass Movements for Revolution: 1960s-1990s

Read two handouts:

"The Historic Program of the *Frente Sandinista Liberacion Nacional*, 1969"
Archbishop Oscar Romero, "Last Sermon"

Week 6 February 17 - Globalization

Handout:

Xavijer Gorostiaga SJ "Nicaragua: Struggling to Survive and the Global Market Place"

CGE Readings:

"Belts tightening in Nicaragua"

"NGO official describes food crisis in Central America"

"Spanish hotel "confiscated" by Nicaragua"

"Nicaraguan market matures"

Week 7 February 24 – Liberation Theology

Handouts:

Pablo Richard "Liberation Theology in the New International Context"

Maria Lopez Vigil, "The Church of the Poor in Nicaragua: A New Appraisal"

Jesuits of Latin America "For Life and Against Neo-Liberalism"

The film *Walker* will be shown this week on BC cable channel 53. You might want to read, from the CGE site, the article "Three Questions."

Week 8 March 3 – Spring break – No class

Week 9 March 10 - Education

CGE Readings:

"One for the books"

Handout: "San Juan Declared Free of Illiteracy"

Week 10 March 17 - Religion, Culture and Art

CGE Reading:

"Champion of the Garifuna Culture"

Week 11 March 24 - Nicaragua-US relations

CGE Reading:

"Empire of liberty"

"Former Nicaraguan Official Wins U.N. Assembly Presidency"

"Ortega leads anti-US critique at Latin American food summit"

"Some Leaders Reject US Drug War"

"The Sandalistas who never left"

"U.N. leaders wrong on rights"

Handout: Brentlinger, unpublished work

The film *Burn* will be shown this week on BC cable channel 53.

Week 12 April 1 – Nicaraguans in Boston (Guest speaker(s))

****GROUP RETREAT, MARCH 27-29****

Week 13 April 8 - EASTER WEEKEND – NO CLASS

Week 14 April 15 – Human Rights

CGE Reading:

"Nicaragua: Country Reports on Human Rights Practices - 2007"

"U.S. Slips in Peace Rankings"

"What is colonization?"

Week 15 April 22 – Agriculture & Environment

CGE Reading:

"Belts tightening in Nicaragua"

"Damages in Dole case are reduced"

"Who suffers from climate change?"

Week 16 April 29 - LAST DAY OF THE CLASS. We leave for Managua two weeks from today!

Supplementary Readings:

Belli, Gioconda. *The Country Under My Skin: A Memoir of Love and War*. Anchor (2003)
PQ7519.2.B44 Z413

Booth, John A. et al. *Understanding Central America*. (4th ed.) Cambridge, MA: Westview Press, 2006.

This is a solid academic work, an excellent introduction to the history and politics of Central America.

Read Chs. 3 and 5.

The third edition is in O'Neill: F1439.B66 1999. The 4th ed, is on order.

Brown, Timothy C. *Causes of Continuing Conflict in Nicaragua: A View from the Radical Middle*.

F 1528 .B778 1995

A44-page booklet that offers the interesting (quirky?) thesis that the "revolution" and its aftermath are continuations of struggles among traditional Nicaraguan oligarchic families.

Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America (Renny Golden et al.). *Dangerous Memories: Invasion and Resistance since 1492*. Chicago: Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America, 1991

E98.E85 G65x 1991

Read esp. pp. Ch 1 and pp. 144-173

Gullette, Davis. *Gaspar!: A Spanish Poet/Priest in the Nicaraguan Revolution*.
PQ6657.A6695 Z67 1994

Gaspar was a parish priest in San Juan del Sur. This small book is an interesting introduction to Gaspar, and to the Sandinista era, especially as it affected the area around San Juan del Sur.

Kampwirth, Karen. *Feminism and the Legacy of Revolution*. Athens, OH: Ohio U Press, 2004. HQ1236.5.L37 K347.

Read Introduction and Chs. 1-2.

Kinzer, Stephen. *Blood of Brothers: Life and War in Nicaragua*. (2nd ed.) New York: David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, 2007. An excellent introduction to the Sandinista Revolution.

The first edition is in O'Neill: F1528 .K57 1991; the second edition is on order.

_____. *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*.
New York: Henry Holt, 2006.

Read Ch. 3 and pp. 98-100.

E744 .K49 2006

Mullay, Sr. Camilla Mullay, O.P. and Fr. Robert Barry, O.P. *The Barren Fig Tree*.
Washington, DC: Institute on Religion and Democracy (1984)

A critique of the Sandinista government from 1979-1984.

F1528.M882

Plunkett, Hazel. *Nicaragua in Focus*, In Focus Guides, 2002.

(A small, short, non-academic introduction to various aspects of Nicaragua—its people, politics, and culture.)

Sobrin, Jon, S.J. *Where Is God? Earthquake, Terrorism, Barbarity and Hope*.
Mayknoll, NY: Orbis Press, 2004.

Read the Prologue, Introduction, and Ch. 1.

O'Neill: BX1795.J87 S6613.

Rushdie, Salman. *The Jaguar Smile*. New York: Holt & Co.; (1997); (original publication: New York: Viking, 1987.) [Rushdie is a Nobel laureate.]

ISBN: 0805053115

Walker, Thomas. *Nicaragua: Living in the Shadow of the Eagle*. Westview, 2003. (5th ed., 2009). On order for O'Neill.