

COURSE: LATIN AMERICAN SOCIOECONOMIC ISSUES

45 clock hours

2 weekly meetings – 1 ½ hours each

Objectives:

- To make a general approach to the problems of Latin America's rural and agrarian problems.
- To place importance on the rural and agrarian processes in Latin America
- To analyze critically the present-day reality of Latin America's rural areas.
- To visualize and characterize the different social actors in Latin America's rural areas.

Contents

Unit 1: Historical stages of Latin American rural and agrarian development.

The passage from the Import-Substitution Industrialization (ISI) to the Neoliberal model in agriculture. Rural population. Country-city migrations. Food and agriculture and farming systems. Land distribution.

Unit 2: The peasantry and capitalist development in agriculture as a theoretical question.

A journey along the classical discussions about the "peasant" concept in the framework of capitalism. The appreciation of the actors' voice; peasantry as self-conferral.

Unit 3: Agribusiness territory and peasant territory: two conflicting rationalities.

The economic and ecological rationalities of agribusiness and peasantry. "Territory" as an analytical key to understand the relationship between agribusiness and peasantry.

Unit 4: Conflict in the rural areas.

Cornering, pollution and eviction as indicators of the plundering of the peasantry. Rural violence.

Unit 5: Social and political organization of the peasantry.

Experiences of peasant organization (fair trade networks, cooperatives, associations, communities, movements, etc. The struggle of peasant movements. The indigenous movement. The international scale of peasant politics.

Methodology

- Different techniques will be combined, seeking to activate different learning processes. The course will have moments of theory presentation and group work, always encouraging students' participation. Written and audiovisual material will be used to help students understand and come closer to the "realities" proposed by the course.

Evaluation

- To pass the course, students will take two tests:
- Critical analysis work on the course readings after unit 3.
 - Analysis of a concrete situation or "case study" chosen by students, to be completed and submitted two weeks after the end of the course.

Bibliography

Berger, John; "Epílogo Histórico"; Puerca Tierra, Suma de Letras, 2001, España.

Documents by the Coordinadora Latinoamericana de Organizaciones del Campo (CLOC) y Vía Campesina.

Sociología Rural Nº 6 (course notes): "La cuestión campesina", grupo de Estudios Rurales, 2005.

Otero, Gerardo; ¿Adios al Campesinado? Democracia y Formación Política de las clases en el México Rural, México, Universidad Autónoma Zacatecas – Simón Fraser University – Miguel Angel Porrua Editor, 2004. Caps.1 y conclusiones.

Quijano, Anibal; "Los movimientos campesinos contemporáneos", en OSAL Nº 2, Buenos Aires, CLACSO, septiembre 2000.

Teubal, Miguel; "La Tierra y la Reforma Agraria en América Latina", en Realidad Económica, Nº 200, Buenos Aires. IADE.

Warman, Arturo; "Los campesinos en el umbral del nuevo milenio", en Revista Mexicana de Sociología, vol. L, Nº 1, México, 1988.

Recommended Bibliography

Bartra, Roger; “Estructura Agraria y Clases Sociales en México”, México, Ediciones Era, 1978.

Diaz – Polanco, Héctor; “Análisis de los Movimientos Campesinos”, en Teoría Marxista de la Economía campesina, México, Juan Pablos Editor, 1981(139 – 177).

Foladori, Guillermo; “Polémica en torno a las Teorías del Campesinado”, Méjico, Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 1981.

Scott, J.C.; “Los dominados y el arte de la Resistencia”, Yale University, 1990. Prefacio y Cap. VII: “La Infrapolítica de los Grupos Subordinados”.

Shanin, Teodor; “El Campesinado como Factor Político” en La Clase Incómoda, Madrid, Alianza Editorial, 1983 (274 – 298).

Wolf, Eric; “Las luchas campesinas del Siglo XX”, México, Siglo XXI, 1973 (373 – 410) Conclusión.