Unit Description
Modern Latin America has been unduly neglected by historians since the fall of the Berlin wall and the consequent decline in interest in Revolutions and peasant studies, all of which had made the region highly popular in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. This unit centres on a reassessment of the study of Revolutions and the role they have played in the development of modern American nations. It will study four major Latin American revolutions in chronological order – the Mexican (1910), the Bolivian (1952), the Cuban (1959) and the Nicaraguan (1979) – each time aiming to highlight common problems that are central to our understanding of modern Latin America. Among these are issues of nation building, land reform, militarism, democracy, the church and liberation theology, neo-liberalism, and the return of left-wing populism. Students will also be encouraged to come up with their own suggestions for independent study.

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
10 x 2 hour interactive lectures

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 3,000-word essay (50%), 1 x 2-hour exam (50%)

Essential Reading

Further Information