

## History 121: Final Exam Study Questions

Two questions from each section will appear on the final. You will have to answer one question per section. You may use this sheet with notes on it to the exam. No other notes will be permitted.

Section 1: Material since the mid-term. Two of these three will appear on the exam; you will have to answer **one** of them.

- 1) The three decades from 1930 to 1960 formed a critical transition period in the political and economic development of Latin American societies. Outline the major changes that took place during these years using information from **three** of the following countries or regions: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Central America
- 2) Carlos Fonseca, a Sandinista leader, once remarked that Sandino's struggle against U.S. imperialism in the 1920s and 1930s had a greater impact on the Cuban Revolution than the Cuban Revolution on the Sandinista Revolution of 1979. Discuss how, in the Caribbean basin at least, "everything is part of everything else" by analyzing the political evolution of at least **three** countries from this area.
- 3) Was "Populism" the logical result of Latin American history? How? Did populism cause the military dictatorships that followed populist leaders? Do you think current Latin American democracies will turn to populist rhetoric and policies? Be sure to include a definition of populism.

Section 2: Comprehensive material. Two of these three will appear on the exam; you will have to answer **one** of them.

- 1) Is there a unified Latin American historical experience? Do we understand the region better through lumping it together or by splitting it into pieces? Give specific examples in your answer.
- 2) How has the struggle for democracy shaped the last 200 years of Latin American history? How are attempts to establish capitalist societies – and in some cases rejection of those attempts – related to the struggles for democracy? Be sure to give at least 2 concrete examples in your response.
- 3) We have discussed quite a few coups, civil wars, and revolutions. How are they connected? What ties the Chilean civil wars to the Ayuluta Revolution to the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1917 to Castro to the Sandinistas? Why do you think the Chilean and Brazilian militaries referred to their coups as "revolutions"? Do these connections help us make sense of Latin American history?