PSCI 343: Revolution and Development in Mexico and Central America

Fall 2003

Final Take-Home Exam

Choose one of the following and write a 9-11 page essay on that topic:

1. Is revolution a means by which Latin American peoples can improve their lives? Nearly forty years ago, in the aftermath of the Cuban revolution, many Latin Americans and others thought so. Che Guevara wrote his famous *Guerrilla Warfare* to illustrate how revolution could be achieved. But is revolution an efficacious path to a better life? If so, to a better life for whom? If not, why not? Is there an alternative to revolution for Latin America? Be sure to consider both constraints on achieving revolutionary goals and the merits of those goals themselves. Illustrate your answer with evidence from two cases.

2. How did Mexican revolution shape that nation's subsequent development? How were the goals of the nation's development strategy molded by the experience of the revolution and of the revolutionaries who made it? To what extent did the Mexican state accomplish those goals in the twentieth century? To what extent did the benefits of the revolution reach those in whose name it was made? Did the Mexican revolution create a better Mexico? How so or why not? Does the Mexican revolution still shape the debate about development in Mexico? How so or why not?

Your paper is due at my office (3 Horwitz House) at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 19. You should cite your sources as you would in a term paper. Because this is an examination, there should be no collaboration with your peers.