

Latin America: An Introduction

01.590.101.02-05

Course Syllabus

Prof. Daniel M. Goldstein, Instructor

Mr. William Kramer, Teaching Assistant

Meeting times: Lecture: Thursdays 12:35-1:55

Recitations: Sec 02 M 3:55-5:15
 Sec 03 T 10:55-12:15
 Sec 04 T 12:35-1:55
 Sec 05-Honors M 12:35-1:55

Course Description

This course is intended as an introduction to the cultures and societies of Latin America. Latin America is a rich and diverse region, with a wide range of peoples, cultures, political and economic systems, religions and languages. This course surveys the region, focusing on topics in culture, politics, literature, language, social inequality, and related issues. The course will feature frequent guest lectures by Rutgers faculty from different departments, affiliated with the Center for Latin American Studies. Through their presentations, students will learn about Latin America from a variety of different fields and perspectives, and become familiar with the various areas of expertise of Rutgers faculty who do research in and teach on Latin America. LAS 101 is a gateway course to the field of Latin American Studies, an interdisciplinary course for students of the region. The course is required for all majors and minors in LAS, and is recommended for anyone with an interest in the Spanish language or contemporary life in the Western hemisphere.

Course Learning Goals

The principal aims of this course are:

- to introduce students to Latin American society and culture, and to a range of themes within that region, and to encourage student interest in this important part of the world;
- to teach students about key contemporary issues in the Western hemisphere;
- to introduce students to the faculty of the Latin American Studies program, and acquaint them with the kinds of research that program faculty at Rutgers do;
- to help students recognize that Latin America does not end at the Rio Grande or the US/Mexico border, leading them to realize the deep interconnections between their lives in the US and those of people in Latin America;
- to help students challenge their preconceived notions about Latin American people, immigrants, and others;
- to provide students different avenues of learning about Latin America, including lectures and small-group discussions; and
- to develop students' written and oral skills, through group work, recitation attendance, and participation.

Course Format

Class will meet two times a week for 80 minutes. On the first meeting of the week (Thursdays), students will hear a lecture given by myself as course instructor, or by another faculty member from the Center for Latin American Studies. On the second meeting of the week, students will meet in recitation sections, to discuss issues raised in the lecture and readings.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Grades: Student grades will be based on 100 points divided as follows: one midterm and one final exam (30 points each), one short paper (15 points), the best three out of four pop quizzes (5 points each, 15 points total), and section participation (10 points).

Grading Scale: 90+ = A; 87-89 = B+; 80-86 = B; 77-79 = C+; 70-76 = C; 60-69 = D; 59- = F

Exams: Each exam will consist of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions, term identifications, and short and longer essays that address material covered in lectures, section discussions, films and course readings. The final exam will only cover material from the last half of the course, i.e., it is not a cumulative exam.

Short paper: One three-page paper will be assigned, worth 15 points, or 15% of your final grade. The grading criteria will be specified on the assignment sheet. The paper will be due in lecture on Thursday 11/13 at the start of class. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade for each day late that they are submitted.

Pop quizzes: Four pop quizzes will be given in lecture or recitation section during the course of the semester; you may drop your lowest quiz grade, so that your three best quizzes count towards your course grade. If you are late to class and arrive after the pop quiz has started, or if you are absent from class on the day a pop quiz is given, whatever your excuse, you will not be able to take a make-up, though the missed quiz can count as the one you drop.

Attendance You are required to attend all class meetings, and I take attendance daily. We cover a lot of material in class, all of it potentially appearing on the exams, so missing any class session can be costly. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; instead, I give you three free passes to miss class for any reason. After you use up those three absences, each additional absence will reduce your grade by 5 points. Of course, if you have a severe illness or family emergency that causes you to miss multiple classes, I will accept a Dean's note excusing you, though you will be expected to make up the work you missed. If you have concerns about your attendance record, please consult with me in office hours.

Lateness I do not like late arrivals to class – it shows a disrespect for your professor, your studies, and your fellow classmates. I do realize, though, that sometimes lateness is unavoidable. Therefore, like at the opera, we will have one late seating. Students arriving late to class will have to wait in the hall until I admit them to the classroom, usually about 15 minutes after the start of class. Do not open the door if it is closed. Students arriving more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted to class, and it will count as one absence.

Academic Integrity: All students must strictly adhere to the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy, which identifies and defines violations of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. Full definitions of each of these violations, as well as the consequences of violating the Academic Integrity Policy, are available as part of the student handbook. Details: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Readings: All readings will be available electronically for download through the course Sakai site. There is no required text to purchase for the course.

Course Outline

Week One (Thurs 9/4) – Introduction to the Course

LECTURE: Prof. Daniel Goldstein, Dept of Anthropology

Week Two (Thurs 9/11) - Colonial Latin American History

LECTURE: Prof. Herman Bennett, Dept of History

READ: Klor de Alva, Jorge. 1995. "The Postcolonization of the (Latin) American Experience"

Week Three (Thurs 9/18)– Modern Latin American History

LECTURE: Prof. Aldo Lauria-Santiago, Dept of Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies, and
Dept of History

READ: TBA

Week Four (Thurs 9/25) – Geography and Climate of Latin America

LECTURE: Prof. Laura Schneider, Department of Geography

READ: Clawson, David L. 2006. "Latin America and The Caribbean: Lands and Peoples,"
Chapter 1.

Zimmerer, K., and E.D. Carter. 2002. "Latin America in the Twentieth Century: Challenges and
Solutions." Chapter 7: Conservation and Sustainability in Latin American and the Caribbean.

Green, D. 2006. "Faces of Latin America. Chapter 3: Land, City and the Environment."

Week Five (Thurs 10/2) – Indigenous Peoples of Latin America

LECTURE: Prof. Goldstein

READ: Colloredo-Mansfeld, Rudi. 1998. "Dirty Indians, Radical *Indígenas*, and the Political
Economy of Social Difference in Modern Ecuador"

Allen, Catherine J. 1981. "To Be Quechua: The Symbolism of Coca Chewing in Highland Peru"

Week Six (Thurs 10/9) – Women and Gender in Latin America

LECTURE: Prof. Margaret Persin, Dept of Spanish and Portuguese

READ: Nelson, Sara. 1996. "Constructing and Negotiating Gender in Women's Police Stations in
Brazil"

Safa, Helen. 1995. "Economic Restructuring and Gender Subordination"

Salzinger, Leslie. 2000. "Manufacturing Sexual Subjects"

Schaeffer-Grabiell, Felicity. 2007. "Cyberbrides and Global Imaginaries"

Week Seven (Thurs 10/16) – Race in Latin America

LECTURE: Prof. Thomas Stephens, Dept of Spanish and Portuguese

READ: Wade, Peter. 1997. "Race and Ethnicity in Latin America." London and Chicago: Pluto.
Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-58.

Week Eight (Thurs 10/23) – Midterm Exam

Week Nine (Thurs 10/30) – Economies of Latin America

LECTURE: Prof. Goldstein

READ: Nietschmann, Bernard. 1977. "When the Turtle Collapses, the World Ends"

Goldstein, Daniel. 2005. "Flexible Justice: Neoliberal Violence and Self-Help Security in
Bolivia"

Greenberg, James B. 1995. "Capital, Ritual, and Boundaries of the Closed Corporate
Community"

Week Ten (Thurs 11/6) – Health in Latin America

LECTURE: Prof. Peter Guarnaccia, Dept of Human Ecology and Prof. Daniel Hoffman,
Nutritional Sciences

READ: Uauy, Ricardo, et al. 2001. “Obesity Trends in Latin America”

Kain, Juliana, et al. 2003. “Obesity Trends and Determinant Factors in Latin America”

Bastien, Joseph, “Kiss of Death,” Intro and Chapter 4

Mitnick, Carole, et al. 2003. “Community-Based Therapy for Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis in
Lima, Peru”

Seas, C., et al. 2000. “New Insights on the Emergence of Cholera in Latin America”

Week Eleven (Thurs 11/13) – Politics of Latin America (**Paper Due**)

LECTURE: Prof. Robert Kaufman, Dept of Political Science

READ: Mainwaring, Scott. 1999. “The Surprising Resiliency of Elected Governments,” *Journal
of Democracy* 10(3): 101-114

Karl, Terry Lynn. 2000. “Economic Inequality and Democratic Instability,” *Journal of
Democracy*, 11(1):149-156

Lagos, Marta. 2008. “Latin America’s Diversity of Values,” *Journal of Democracy*, 19(1).

Diamond, Larry. 2008. “The Democratic Rollback: The Resurgence of the Predatory State,”
Foreign Affairs, March/April.

Mainwaring, Scott. 2006. “The Crisis of Representation in the Andes,” *Journal of Democracy*,
17(3).

Week Twelve (Thurs 11/20) – Fiestas and Popular Culture of Latin America

LECTURE: Prof. Carlos Fernandez, Director, Center for Latino Arts and Culture

READ: Stephen, Lynn and James Dow, eds. 1990. “Introduction: Popular Religion in Mexico and
Central America.” In *Class, Politics, and Popular Religion in Mexico and Central America*.
Washington, D.C.: American Anthropological Association. Pp. 1-24.

Brandes, Stanley. 1988. “Fiesta Organization.” In *Power and Persuasion: Fiestas and Social
Control in Rural Mexico*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Pp. 40-58.

Sallnow, Michael. 2000. “Pilgrimage and Cultural Fracture in the Andes.” In *Contesting the
Sacred: the Anthropology of Christian Pilgrimage*, edited by John Eade and Michael J.
Sallnow. Chicago: University of Illinois Press. Pp. 137-153.

Fernandez, Carlos. 2002. “The demanda in the Parish of Santa Cruz.” In *Offerings to the Black
Christ of Esquipulas: Devotional Practice and Artistic Performance in Santa Cruz,
Guanacaste Province of Costa Rica*. Indiana University: Ph.D dissertation. Pp. 85-137.

Week Thirteen (Tues 11/25) – Democracy, Rights and Social Struggles

LECTURE: Prof. Goldstein and William Kramer

READ: Albro, Robert. 2006. “The Water is Ours, Carajo! Deep Citizenship in Bolivia’s Water
War”

Grandin, Greg. 2004. “The Last Colonial Massacre,” Introduction.

Week Fourteen (Thurs 12/4) – Globalization: Latin America in the US

LECTURE: Prof. Goldstein

READ: Inda, Jonathan Xavier. 2000. “A Flexible World: Capitalism, Citizenship, and Post-
National Zones”

Mountz, Alison, and Richard Wright. 1996. “Daily Life in the Transnational Migrant Community
of San Agustín, Oaxaca, and Poughkeepsie, New York”