CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN SOCIETY

ANTH 401a/601a
2:30 – 3:45pm MW
Ansari Business Bldg., room 110
Fall 2014

Instructor: Professor Louis Forline
Office: AB 511
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2 – 4 pm
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Course Description

In this course we will be looking at the origins, history and actual lifeways of contemporary Latin American Society. We will briefly examine Latin American prehistory and then take a closer look at Latin America from the time of Luso-Hispanic contact to the present, with emphasis on first encounters, cultural pluralism within national structures, race relations and processes of social change. Geographically, Latin America embraces a large area of the western hemisphere and its size also speaks to the large sociocultural diversity encountered in this region. This diversity can be found in cultural traditions, religion, art, music, language, race and ethnicity, not to mention Latin America’s many nation states. Diversity can also be seen in this region’s landscapes and ecology. All of these features will be examined in this course and we will also study Latin America in the context of globalization.

The class will be conducted through lectures and discussions on readings. Films will be shown and invited speakers will give talks to enhance the course material.

Students will be required to read the assigned texts and participate in class discussions and will also be graded by exams and a term paper.

Core Objectives

CO 10 – Diversity and Equity: Students will develop a set of cognitive, affective, and behavioral skills and characteristics that support effective and appropriate attentiveness to and analysis of diversity and equity.

Students will acquire an appreciation of the origins and variation encountered in Latin American cultures and its peoples. Thus, they will gain a comprehensive overview of Latin American prehistory, colonialism and current trends of this region. As such, this course will enable students to discuss and engage with issues pertaining to Latin America and embark on future inquiries regarding this region.

CO 11 – Global Contexts: Students will apply and evaluate modes of academic inquiry, creative expression, or results of research to problems in historical and contemporary global
contexts. Students will articulate connections among local, national, and international contexts and evaluate the ways that historical and contemporary global influences affect their current situations.

Students will be expected to articulate in written and orally the knowledge acquired in this course to discuss Latin American issues, past and present. Additionally, students will gain an understanding of the implications of globalization on Latin America and its diverse peoples, comprehending its complex history and how it articulates with the mechanisms of global interfaces.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1) Convey the varied aspects of Latin American history and different patterns of settlement, colonization and nation building (examining the Luso, Hispanic and French traditions and impacts on the region).
2) Critically articulate contemporary Latin American issues within the context of the region’s history and globalization.
3) Comprehend the unique formation of Latin American identities expressed in its syncretic religions and the heritage of its peoples (African, European and indigenous).
4) Assess the causes and consequences of globalization vis-à-vis Latin America as it pertains to the environment, migration, and indigenous peoples.
5) Demonstrate their understanding of Latin American regional diversity and how it is situated in the global geo-political scenario.

**Assignments and Tests**

Students are expected to keep up with reading assignments and participate in class discussions. You will be evaluated on class presentations (a book report) and three exams. Graduate students will also have to write a term paper of 15-20 pages in length.

**Texts:**

1) Whiteford & Whiteford: *Crossing Currents: continuity and change in Latin America*
2) Heath, Dwight: *Contemporary Cultures and Societies of Latin America*

**Additional readings will be posted on library e-reserve:**


One more reading is optional and is placed on paper reserve:

*Born in Blood and Fire,* John Chasteen

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 – Introduction, Aug. 25 & 27**

- Anthropology and Study of L. American Societies
- Why Latin America?

Theories/views on Latin America

- Dependency theories
- L.A. rich exploiting poor L. Americans
- Essentialism

Read: Whiteford & Whiteford’s Intro and Chaps. 1-3.
Read Heath’s Chap. 1

**Week 2 – Origins & Prehistory, Sept. 03**

- Origins and diversity of Peoples
- Demographics
- First Encounters
- “Columbian Exchange”

Read Whiteford & Whiteford’s Chaps. 4-6.
Read Crosby & Wilson articles (e-reserve)
View film *The Mission* and *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*

Sept. 01, Labor Day – no classes

**Week 3 – Colonization and impacts on native peoples, Sept. 08 & 10**

Colonial administration and its aftermath
Evolution of mixed peasant class

- Spanish Tradition
- Portuguese Tradition
• French Tradition

Read Whiteford & Whiteford’s Chaps. 7-8

Week 4 – Colonization & Impacts (contd.), Sept. 15 & 17

Concepts of nation-building

Week 5 – Imagining the ‘Other’ in colonial and post-colonial contexts, Sept. 22 & 24

Mestizaje
Reemergence & ethnogenesis
Identity
  • national
  • ethnic
  • racial

Read Whiteford & Whiteford Chaps. 9-10
Read Heath Chaps. 23-24
Read Harris Articles on Race (Chapters 6 & 7, on e-reserve)

Week 6 – Gender & Sexuality, Sept. 29 & Oct. 01

Gender issues
  - Machismo & Marianismo
  - Myths about virginity

Sexuality

Read Whiteford Chaps. 12-15
Read Heath Chap. 27

Begin Book Reports

Week 7 – Religion, Oct. 06 & 08
(1st Exam on Monday, October 06)
Religion
  • syncretism
  • sects of Catholicism
  • Afro religions
  • New Evangelical/Fundamentalist sects
  • Jews & “new” Christians

Read Heath Chap. 29
Read Whiteford & Whiteford Chaps. 20-22
Watch film Black Orpheus (Orfeu do Carnaval)
Week 8 – Social & Political Organization, Oct. 13 & 15

Social
- Families
- kinship
- compadrio/compadrazgo and its implications
- social networks
- Patron-client relations

Political
- Encomiendas
- Capitanias hereditárias
- Feudal systems similarity
- Independence and democratization
- Military dictatorships
- Leftist and populist governments
- Democratization processes
- Local & global politics

Read Whiteford & Whiteford Chaps. 16-19

Watch film *The Official Story* and/or *State of Siege*

Week 9 – Sports & Art, Oct. 20 & 22

Sports
- soccer
- team sports
- baseball
- new sports

Art
- music
- dance
- film
- paintings

Read Heath Chap. 14 & 30
Read José Lopes’ article on *Garrincha* (e-reserve)
Watch film *Frida* and/or *Buena Vista Social Club*

Week 10 – Local & Global Economics, Oct. 27 & Oct. 29

- local
- global
- extractivism
• produce & export
• ISI
• Boom & bust cycles
• Government protectionism
• Verticalization of internal products
• Nationalization
• Fiscal Policies
• Financial messes
• Intercontinental Trade Associations
• U.S. dumping of near obsolete items

Read Heath Chap. 21
Read Whiteford & Whiteford Chaps. 27-29
Read Smith article on Julio Arana (e-reserve)
Watch film Fitzcarraldo

Week 11 – Globalization and its consequences, Nov. 03 & 05

Globalization and its consequences
• cultural, political and economic hegemony
• neoliberal policies
  o privatization
  o big labor surplus
  o decentralization
  o harsh monetary policies & exchange rates
  o incentives for foreign investment
  o fiscal wars
• dependency
  o “hostage” to foreign capital & markets
  o capital investments to spur economy
  o foreign political and economic compliance & political will

Read Whiteford & Whiteford Chaps. 30-33
Watch film Pixote

Week 12 – Environment, Nov. 10 & 12

Environmental issues
• sustainable development
• indigenous knowledge
• environmental destruction
• local and global trends

Read Heath Chap. 4
Read Whiteford & Whiteford Chaps. 34-38
Week 13 – Conflicts & Violence, Nov. 17 & 19

• Internal
• Regional
• Authoritarian regimes and democratization
  o State-sponsored violence
  o Merger of political prisoners with common criminals
• Criminality

Read Heath Chaps. 34 & 35
Read Harris on Yanomamo Warfare (e-reserve)
Watch film City of God and/or Plata Quemada
Exam 2, Monday, Nov. 17

Week 14 – Migration & Immigration, Nov. 24 & 26

• pendular
• leap frog
• permanent
• causes & consequences

Read Whiteford & Whiteford Chaps. 39-43
Watch film El Norte

Week 15 – Health & World Views, Dec. 01 & 03
Concepts of:
• Health
• Illness
• Curing
• Death

Read Heath Chaps. 42, 45, 46 & 47
Read Whiteford & Whiteford Chaps. 23-26

Week 16 – Future Perspectives, Dec. 08
LAST DAY OF REGULAR CLASSES FOR THIS COURSE
DEC. 10, Wednesday – Prep Day, no class

Course wrap-up
Trends & outlooks
Anthropology’s contribution
Social Movements
Cross currents in influence & power
Read Heath Chaps. 2, 3, 9 & 13
EXAM #3 DAY/DATE – DEC. 17, Wednesday: 12:30 – 2:30pm
Term papers due (graduate students)

Important dates:
Sept. 01 (Monday)          Labor Day, no classes
October 01 (Wednesday)    Book reports begin
October 06 (Monday)        Exam #1
November 17 (Monday)       Exam #2
December 08 (Monday)       Last Day of regular classes
December 10 (Wednesday)    Prep Day, NO CLASS (Optional Review)
December 17 (Wednesday)    Date scheduled for Exam #3, 12:30 – 2:30pm
                               (term papers due for graduate students)
December 17                Fall term ends

Course Requirements and grading: The requirements of the course are as follows:

Undergraduates
1 book report (oral & written, 100 points)
3 exams (100 points each)
400 points total

Graduate Students
1 book report (oral & written, 100 points)
3 exams (100 points each)
1 term paper (100 points)
500 points total

Grading Scale: The grading scale for the course will be as follows:

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 0-59

Academic Dishonesty includes cheating on exams, plagiarism on papers, and signing the role sheet for another student. None of these will be tolerated and any can result in a failing grade for the course and the implementation of other university disciplinary procedures.

A Word To The Wise: Attendance in this class is required for you to do well and attendance sheets will be filled out in each class. Keep up with the reading assignments and if you must miss class, please notify me ahead of time. Written excuses are required for absences and make up exams will be given at the discretion of the instructor. Makeup exams will be scheduled at the end of the semester.

Student athletes and others involved in university sanctioned activities must see me during the first week of class to discuss and resolve conflicts of schedule. Written verification is required. See university policy on student absences and religious holy days below.
Office Hours, Phone Calls and E-mail: I will be in my office during the office hours indicated above. You do not need to make an appointment during these hours and are welcome to come in and talk about anything. If you need to see me but cannot do so during these times, we can try to arrange an appointment for another time. If you wish to telephone, please do so during office hours and please do not leave messages at other times unless it is really important. In general, e-mail is preferred over phone calls (I usually check my e-mails several times a day) but I would prefer to handle anything that requires discussion in person. Please do not leave phone messages requesting me to phone you (I usually get a machine when this happens) unless it is very urgent and alternatives such as coming in to office hours and e-mail will not work. Personal and confidential matters will be discussed through messages on Webcampus in compliance with FERPA regulations.

Special Needs or Disabilities or Other Problems: The department of anthropology is committed to equal opportunities in education for all students, including those with physical or learning disabilities. If you have a disability for which you will need to request accommodations, please contact me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 100, tel. 748-6000) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations. In addition, students who anticipate other problems involving work or family that might affect attendance or completion of any of the other requirements of the course are strongly encouraged to discuss them with me at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Success Services: Your student fees cover usage of the Math Center (784-4433 or www.unr.edu/mathcenter/), Tutoring Center (784-6801 or www.unr.edu/tutoring/), and University Writing Center (784-6030 or http://www.unr.edu/writing_center/). These centers support your classroom learning; it is your responsibility to take advantage of their services. Keep in mind that seeking help outside of class is the sign of a responsible and successful student.

Statement on Audio and Video Recording: Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded. I also ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before coming to class. You can use your laptop and iPads as long as they are for taking notes or making a quick consultation on an issue we are discussing in class.

Student Absences: By NSHE policy in Title 4 Chapter 20 A, Section 3, paragraph 1, http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Handbook/T4-CH20%20-%20General%20Policies%20Regulating%20Students%20and%20Student%20Government.pdf, there are no official absences from any university class. It is the personal responsibility of the student to consult with the instructor regarding absence from class. In the event that a student misses a class because of an official university function or event or because of serious personal issues, the Office of the Vice President for Student Services may, at its discretion, send an explanation to affected faculty. The instructor shall make the final determination on whether the missed work can be done at a time other than during the regularly scheduled class period.
Religious Holy Days: It is the policy of NSHE (Title 4 Chapter 20 A, Section 3, paragraph 2, http://system.nevada.edu/tasks/sites/Nshe/assets/File/BoardOfRegents/Handbook/T4-CH20-%20General%20Policies%20Regulating%20Students%20and%20Student%20Government.pdf to be sensitive to the religious obligations of its students. Any student missing classes, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holy days should, whenever possible, be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holy day absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor in advance in writing, if the student intends to participate in a religious holy day which does not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the assignment at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the institution which could not reasonably have been avoided.

Extra Credit: There is an opportunity to gain extra credit. If you attend any campus lecture, you can give me a brief 1-2 page write-up of this event. You can score up to 3 points on your write-up, depending on how well you prepare it. In this manner you can earn a total of 21 extra points; that is, by attending 7 different lectures. This total will be added on to the total number of points summed up in your tests, book reports, and term paper. After adding on this extra credit to your total number of points, I will then figure your average.

Films to see outside class (ON RESERVE IN LIBRARY)

Spanish-Luso Colonization & Missionization
*The Mission*
DVD 0752

Amazonian Rubber Boom
*Fitzcarraldo*
V06612

Missionizing Tribes in the Amazon
*At Play in the Fields of the Lord*
V11402

Carnival, Love and Religion
*Orfeu do Carnaval* (Black Orpheus)
DVD 0922

Military Regimes & Political Repression
1) *The Official Story*
V06191

2) *State of Siege*
V11664
Love, Sexuality and Political Repression
Kiss of the Spider Woman
V07425

Child Homelessness, Poverty & Criminality
Pixote
V07045

Criminality & Sexuality
Plata Quemada (Burnt Money)
DVD 0384

Race & Drug Trafficking
Cidade de Deus (City of God)
DVD 1103

Immigration
El Norte
V03017

Music & Art
1) Buena Vista Social Club
V09412

2) Frida
DVD0485