

## Introduction to Latin American and Latino Studies

Summer Session 2014

Instructor: Craig Schuetze

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Course Schedule: M, W 1:00-4:30

Office Hours: M, W 11:30-12:30

Office: Social Science 1, 410

This course is a critical overview of Latin America and its relationship to the United States. By exploring the history of US involvement and relationships with Latin America over time this course shows the historical roots of social inequality and contextualizes many of the current debates about US foreign policy in the region and immigration to the US. While the organization of the course is roughly chronological, this approach is meant to draw connections between previous policies and their modern descendants, tracking overarching themes in the relationship between the United States the rest of Latin America. The course assignments and heavy focus on documentary films are meant to explore and critique the media as a source of information. Rather than accepting media portrayals, we will learn tools to analyze different kinds of representations of Latin America and Latinos in the US.

### Course Assignments:

**Participation and Attendance:** Because of the condensed nature of the course, attendance is mandatory at all classes. Missing two classes will automatically lower your grade by one letter grade and missing three classes will result in a failing grade. Because a significant portion of class will be based around class discussion, everyone is expected to come to class having read all of the material and ready to participate.

**Reading Log:** In order to fully benefit from this course, it will be necessary to do the reading. In order to support and encourage students to read the course material, students will keep a reading log where they will document their reactions, questions, and write short summaries of the reading materials. The purpose of the reading log is to document your engagement with the course materials in a significant way.  
Due Weekly and Week 5.

**Group Media Presentation:** Work as a group (3-4 students) to find 6-8 articles from credible media sources about a given topic happening in Latin America or about Latinos in the US. Potential topics correspond with the reading and discussion topics in the course syllabus. Examine the articles closely and analyze what is said and implied about Latin America culture. Each group will work together to present a 15-20 minute presentation about their media search and the analysis they developed and will hand in a bibliography for their presentation. Each individual student write a 2 page paper about their own involvement, learning, and analytical engagement with the assignment.  
Due Week 5.

**Documentary Responses:** Write a one page response to one of the documentaries we watch in class, documenting your response and reaction to the films and relating them to the readings and class lectures.  
Due Week 3

**Final ethnographic Project:** Students will explore the class themes in relation to a local ethnographic context. We will have time to prepare for this in the latter weeks.

### Grading Criteria:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Reading Log	20%
Group Media Presentations	20%
Documentary Response	10%
Final Project	30%

### Required Readings:

Galeano, Eduardo (1997) Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent  
Hegel in Haiti by Susan Buck-Morris  
The Devil and Commodity Fetishism by Michael Taussig  
*Latino Politics* by Lisa Garcia Bedolla

PLAGIARISM: Any form of academic dishonesty plagiarism will be met with a failing grade and referral to the university for further discipline. As always, consult the following website if there is any question as to what constitutes plagiarism:  
[http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic\\_integrity/undergraduate\\_students/](http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/).

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER: If you have any additional needs within the classroom, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and give it to me in person within the first two weeks of the quarter. See <http://drc.ucsc.edu/> for more information on the qualifying criteria and the general process.

### **Week 1: Indigenous and Colonial Foundations of Latin America**

This week examines the historical origins of the development of the Americas, focusing on the cultural and economic processes that developed from the specific histories of colonization. This section also focuses on the relationship between the underdevelopment of Latin America and the development of the US and Europe, exploring in ideas of world systems and dependency theories. The also looks at the cultural, economic, and political foundation of modern problems such as racism, classism, and poverty.

#### **Day 1:**

Introduction to the course, reading materials, assignments, etc.

Crosby, Alfred (1989) Reassessing 1492. *American Quarterly* 41(4): 661-669.

Film: *La Otra Conquista* (1998) Dir. Salvador Carrasco.

Galeano, Open Veins, Chapter 1, "Lust for gold, lust for silver"  
Chapter 2, "King Sugar and other agricultural monarchs."

#### **Day 2:**

Galeano, Open Veins, Chapter 3, "The invisible sources of power."  
Chapter 4, "Tales of a Premature Death"

Film: *Brazil in Black and White* (2007) Educational Broadcasting Corporation.

### **Week 2: Latin America in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Cold War, US interventions and revolutions**

This week focuses on the growing US involvement in Latin America during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Looking at the historical development of trade, military intervention, and US influence in Latin America. This contextualizes Latin American revolutions within the larger geo-political climate of the Cold War and its aftermath.

#### **Day 1:**

Mark Danner, "The Truth About El Mozote," *The New Yorker*

[http://www.markdanner.com/articles/show/127?class=related\\_content\\_link](http://www.markdanner.com/articles/show/127?class=related_content_link)

Greg Grandin, "Muscling Latin America," *The Nation*: <http://www.thenation.com/article/muscling-latin-america>

Film: *Coffee: a sack full of power*. Dir. Valentini Alexander (1999) 52m. VT 6079

#### **Day 2:**

Galeano, Open Veins, Chapter 5, "The contemporary structure of plunder."  
Open Veins, Part III, Seven years after.

Film: *The Panama Deception* (1992) Dir. Barbara Trent

**Week 3: Slavery, Rebellion, Revolution, Immigration to US, Demographic Shifts, Transnationalisms**

This week looks at slavery and rebellion in the context of Haiti to ask where

**Day 1:**

Hegel in Haiti by Susan Buck Morris: Part 1 (pp 21-75)

Film: Maquilapoli. Dir. Vicky Funari et al. 68m. DVD 3897

Guest Lecture: Jessica Fernandez on the topic of immigration, beginning with the structural factors leading to im/migration and ending with contemporary debates on immigration and immigrants

**Day 2:**

MEDIA PRESENTATIONS

**Week 4: Modernity, Capitalism, Political Economy**

This week looks at the relation between modernity and capitalism in Latin America through the case study of Colombia. Here we will invert the perspective from Open Veins by looking not at how Europe shaped Latin America, but instead at what Latin America can tell us about Europe, capitalism, and modernity.

**Day 1:**

The Devil and Commodity Fetishism: Chapters 1, 2, and 3 (pp 1-69)

Film: The Take (2002) Dir. Avi Lewis

**Day 2:**

The Devil and Commodity Fetishism: Chapters 4,5,6,7 (pp 70-142)

Film: Walkout (2006) Dir. Edward James Olmos

**Week 5: The Shift to the Left in Latin America and Latino Activism in the US**

This section takes stock of the current political structures in Latin America, including the shift to the left and the new relationships that are established as these new opportunities take place. It also explores different activist traditions that have influenced these shifts, including new immigrant activists in the US and their challenges to the status quo.

**Day 1:**

Latino Politics – Chapter 1 Introduction: Latinos & U.S. Politics

Latino Politics – Chapter 3 Mexican-Americans

Film: Latino Americas (2013) PBS, selections.

**Day 2:**

Latino Politics – Chapter 4 Puerto Ricans [Dominicans?]

Latino Politics – Chapter 7 Conclusion: Context of Latino Migration

Film: South of the Border (2009) Oliver Stone.

