

Introduction to Latin American & Latino Studies

LALS 1: Summer 2022

Remote Instruction

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Course Description

This course will introduce you to interdisciplinary approaches to topics and issues taking place in the Américas. Our focus is hemispheric, and we examine the inter-twined social, political, economic, and cultural history of Latin America and the United States. We will deploy a transnational approach that highlights the deep and growing interconnectedness across the regions and peoples of the Américas.

The course closely follows the origins, continuities, and transformations of power, from the distant colonial past to the neoliberal present. It encourages students to situate specific issues, peoples, nations, events and topics within larger regional, hemispheric, and global processes that have impacted the lives of people in Latin America and in the United States. Our aim is to sharpen our critical thinking skills, and to fan your interest and passion for discovering the diverse and complex histories that weave the destinies of people in the Americas.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Think critically about the power relations that have shaped lived experiences of peoples of Latin America and the U.S.
- Have familiarized themselves with key events that have historically shaped the linkages between Latin American and U.S. societies
- Identify key patterns of change and continuity that have historically shaped the existing relations between Latin American and US societies
- Articulate how interdisciplinary and transnational approaches can illuminate new ways of understanding the complex histories and experiences of Latin American and Latino peoples
- Appreciate the benefits of understanding hemispheric commonalities across difference.

Required Readings

The following two are the required books for the course:

- Chasteen, John Charles (2016) *Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America*, 4th. ed, New York, N.Y.; London: W.W. Norton & Co.

<http://www.wwnorton.com/college/history/born-in-blood-and-fire3/welcome.aspx>

- Selected chapters from Gonzales, Juan (2011) *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*. Revised Edition. Penguin Books. (available on Canvas)

Additionally, you will also watch and discuss the following videos:

- **“Harvest of Empire: The Untold Story of Latinos in America (2012)”**

“From the wars for territorial expansion that gave the U.S. control of Puerto Rico, Cuba and more than half of Mexico, to the covert operations that imposed oppressive military regimes in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador, Harvest of Empire unveils a moving human story that is largely unknown to the great majority of citizens in the U.S. <http://harvestofempiremovie.com/synopsis/>

- **"South of the Border (2009)"**: Oliver Stone's "road trip across five countries to explore the social and political movements as well as the mainstream media's misperception of South America while interviewing seven of its elected presidents. <http://www.southoftheborderdoc.com/>

- **"Open Pit (2011)"**: Gianni Converso's documentary that explores the socio-environmental impacts of the Yanacocha mine in Cajamarca, Peru.

Evaluation of Performance

Progress and performance will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

Discussion Board 15%

Students are encouraged to participate in the weekly discussion board by posting questions, responses, and comments.

Quiz 30% (15% each)

There will be two short response quizzes that are based on the course readings and lectures. The first quiz will occur during week 2. The second quiz will take place during week 4. Each quiz is worth 15 points for a total of 30 points.

Midterm 25%

Midterm exam will take place during week 3. The format will consist of short-essay exam questions that will be based on the readings, films, and lectures that we have covered throughout week 1 to week 3. The midterm is worth thirty points.

Final Exam 30%

Final exam will take place during week 5. It will consist of short-essay exam questions based on the readings and class materials that we have covered after the midterm. The final is worth 30 points.

Final Grade Distribution

Discussion Board (15%) + Quizzes (30%) + Midterm (25%) + Final (30%) = 100%

Final letter grade will be determined according to the following

A+ 100% to 98%

A < 97% to 93%

A- < 92% to 90%

B+ < 89% to 87%

B < 86% to 83%

B- < 82% to 80%

C+ < 79% to 77%

C < 76% to 73%

C- < 72% to 70%

D+ < 69% to 67%

D < 66% to 63%

D- < 62% to 60%

F < 60% to 0%

Course Schedule

I. BORN IN BLOOD AND FIRE: “ENCOUNTER” AND COLONIALISM

Key concepts: colonialism, hegemony, History

Day 1

Introduction to the course

Chasteen, Chapter 1, “Welcome to Latin America”

Chasteen, Chapter 2, “1492: Encounter? Discovery? Invasion?”

Day 2

Chasteen, Chapter 3, “The Colonial Crucible: Globalization”

II. THE CHALLENGES OF NATION BUILDING: INDEPENDENCE AND ASPIRATION FOR PROGRESS

Key concepts: nation-building, modernity, Progress

Day 3

Chasteen, Chapter 4, “Independence”

Day 4

Chasteen, Chapter 5 “Post-Colonial Blues”

Chasteen Chapter 6, “Progress”

Quiz #1 due July 5

III. THE EMPIRES OLD AND NEW: NEOCOLONIALISM

Key concepts: neocolonialism, coloniality

Day 5

Chasteen, Chapter 7, “Neo-colonialism”
Chasteen, Chapter 8, “Nationalism 1910-1945”

Day 6

Gonzalez, Chapter 3, “Banana Republics and Bonds: Taming the Empire’s Backyard (1898-1950)”
Midterm Review

Midterm Exam due July 11

IV. REVOLUTION, REACTION, AND THE HARVEST OF EMPIRE

Key concept: The “Cold” War

Day 7

Chasteen, Chapter 9, “Revolution 1945-1960”
Chasteen, Chapter 10, “Reaction”
Gonzalez, Chapter 8, “Central Americans: Intervention Comes Home to Roost”

Day 8

Gonzalez, Chapter 4. “Puerto Ricans: Citizens Yet Foreigners”
Gonzalez, Chapter 5, “Mexicans: Pioneers of a Different Type”
Gonzalez, Chapter 7, “Dominicans: From the Duarte to the George Washington Bridge”
Today’s US foreign policy towards Latin America
Film: Harvest of Empire

Quiz #2 due July 18

V. THE PINK TIDE, POST-NEOLIBERAL ALTERNATIVES, INEQUALITIES, AND THE FUTURE

Key concepts: The “Pink Tide,” neoliberalism, illegality, extractivism

Day 9

Chasteen, Chapter 11, “Neoliberalism and Beyond”
Film: South of the Border and Open Pit

Day 10

Global health crisis, migrant “illegality,” and extractivism in the Americas
Final Review

Final Exam due July 25

Policies

Protection of Course Materials

Please do not share/sell/copy lecture notes, handouts, or other course materials. Note that course materials are intellectual property of the creators protected by law.

DRC Remote Accommodations:

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. Operations continue via remote appointments. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email the DRC Schedulers at drc@ucsc.edu for an appointment.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, they may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of their college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity page](#) at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Title IX:

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion,

intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. [Information about the Title IX Office](#), the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#), and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response by using our [online reporting link](#).

For more information please visit the [Title IX Operations under Covid-19](#) page.

Important Summer Session Remote 2022 Deadlines

Summer Session 1: June 20 - July 22, 2022

- Add - Thursday, June 23
- Drop - Monday, June 27 (tuition reversed)
- No classes are held in observance of Juneteenth June 20 & Independence Day July 4
- Request "W" Grade - Sunday, July 10 (no tuition reversal)
- Change Grade Option - Sunday, July 17
- Grades Due - Thursday, July 28

Financial Aid Disbursement - June 13 (if enrolled by June 1 priority timeline) Summer is unique.

You will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment. You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a full-tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund). For all dates and deadlines, including 'change of grade option' (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar: <https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html> For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.