

IDS 4933
INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITICAL INQUIRY SEMINAR:
LATIN AMERICAN INDIGENOUS RELIGION IN TRANSITION
(Friday, 8:00-10:50, MHC 116)

Dr. Rachel Corr
MHC Room 108
Phone ext. 6-8018
Email: rcorr@fau.edu

Dr. Tim Steigenga
MHC Room 104
Phone: ext. 6-8610
Email: tsteigen@fau.edu

I. Course Content and Objectives

Themes and issues examined in the course include: the role of religion in colonialism, indigenous culture and religion, syncretism, religion and political mobilization, liberation theology, identity politics, and religious transnationalism. Our goal is to introduce our students to the major religious, political, and social forces that have shaped indigenous culture and practice in Latin America.

II. Course Requirements

Class Participation:

Classes will consist of lectures, discussion, and some films and guest speakers. Because the class only meets for five weeks, attendance will significantly affect your grade. Class participation counts for thirty percent of your final grade. Each missed class will subtract twenty points from that portion of your grade.

Writing Assignments:

You will be required to write two short (3 to 4 page) reaction/analysis papers on films and readings for this course. We will provide you with written assignments for your papers. Your papers should be double-spaced, with 12 point font and normal (1 inch) margins. Papers will be graded for both style and content. Be concise and keep your prose organized. **DO NOT** simply write to fill up the pages. Present your thesis clearly and provide evidence to support your arguments. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the listed day and will be graded down 5 points for each day late.

Grading:

Class participation and quizzes	30%
Analysis/reaction paper 1	30%
Analysis/reaction paper 2	30%
Reading Quizzes	10%

III. Required Readings

The required texts for this course that are available at the campus bookstore are:

Steigenga: *The Politics of the Spirit: The Political Implications of the Pentecostalization of Religion in Costa Rica and Guatemala* (Lexington Books: Lanham, Boulder, New York, Oxford) 2001.

All other required readings are in the **coursepack**.

IV. Meetings, Topics, Films, and Readings

Week 1: A. Colonialism, Religion, and Images of the Indigenous

Film: *The Mission* Directed by Roland Joffe, 1986 (125 minutes).

Readings: Duncan Green, *Faces of Latin America* Chapter 11, "Race Against Time: Indigenous Peoples," 182-197.

James Schofield Saeger, "The Mission and Historical Missions: Film and the Writing of History" in *Based on a True Story: Latin American History at the Movies* (Wilmington: SR Books, 1997): 63-84.

Thierry Saignes, "The Colonial Condition in the Quechua-Aymara Heartland" in *The Cambridge History of the Native Peoples of the Americas, Volume III, South America* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press): 112-129

Week 2: B. Syncretism and Indigenous Resistance Reaction Paper #1 Due

Readings: Susan K. Staats, "Fighting in a Different Way: Indigenous Resistance through the Alleluia Religion of Guyana" in Jonathan D. Hill ed. *History, Power, and Identity: Ethnogenesis in the Americas 1492-1992* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press): 161-179.

Andrew Orta, "syncretic subjects and body politics: doubleness, personhood, and Aymara catechists" *American Ethnologist* 26 (4): 846-889.

Week 3: C. Indigenous Catholicism: Liberation and Inculturation

Film: *Romero* Paulist Pictures, Directed by Johan Duigan, 1990, (105 minutes).

Readings: Steigenga, Introduction and Chapter 1

Philip Berryman, *Liberation Theology*, Introduction and Chapter 1, (Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 1987).

Gordon Spykman et al, *Let My People Live: Faith and Struggle in Central America* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987): 1-29.

Gary H. Gossen, *Telling Maya Tales: Tzotzil Identities in Modern Mexico* (New York and London: Routledge, 1999): 247-266.

Week 4: D. Protestants, Politics, and the Pentecostalization of Religion

Readings: Steigenga, Chapters 2, 4, 6, and Conclusion

Michael Usendoski, "Purgatory, Protestantism, and Peonage: Napo Runa Evangelicals and the Domestication of the Masculine Will" in Norman E. Whitten Jr. ed. *Millennial Ecuador: Critical Essays on Cultural Transformations and Social Dynamics* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2003): 128-153.

Sunday, February 1: Fiesta Maya in Abacoa. Attendance Required.

Week 5: E. Indigenous Transnationalism and Religion.

Reaction Paper #2 Due

Readings: Allan F. Burns, *Maya in Exile* Chapters 4 and 6.

Nadje Al-Ali and Khalid Koser, "Transnationalism, international migration, and home" in *New Approaches to Migration* (London and New York: Routledge, 2002):1-15.

Lois Ann Lorentzen, "Who is an Indian? Religion, Globalization, and Chiapas" in *Religions and Globalizations: Theories and Cases* (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2001): 84-102).

Rachel Sieder, *Multiculturalism in Latin America: Indigenous Rights, Diversity, and Democracy* (London: Palgrave, 2002): Introduction.