LAS 6220
Issues and Perspectives in Latin American Studies
University of Florida
Spring 2017

Meets Mondays, Periods 8-10 (3 to 6 pm), Grinter 376

Instructor Information
Philip J. Williams
Director, Center for Latin American Studies
Office Location: Grinter 319
Office Hours: T 3-4:30 pm, W 10-11:30 am and by appt.
Email: pjw@latam.ufl.edu

Course Description
This course introduces graduate students to the interdisciplinary study of Latin America. It addresses some of the principal issues or problems that have commanded the attention of scholars in Latin American Studies and related disciplines (especially in the social sciences) and explores diverse approaches to those issues and problems. It also seeks to provide a firm foundation for further study. The course privileges class discussion and its success will depend on the informed contributions of the participants. Students are encouraged to bring to bear their experience and expertise and to pursue topics of particular interest.

Required Texts (available for purchase at UF bookstores and amazon.com)
Wade, *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America* (2/e, 2010)

Suggested Background Reading
Jackiewicz and Bosco, *Placing Latin America* (2/e, 2012)
Reid, *Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America’s Soul* (2009)
Course Requirements and Grading Components

Class Participation 20%
Response Papers 35%
Book Review 10%
Final Paper 35%

Class Participation
Students are expected to attend class, complete the weekly reading assignments prior to each meeting, post questions/comments on the readings on the Canvas discussion thread, and to participate actively in class discussions and exercises. Students will be appointed as discussion leaders at least once and solicit discussion questions from class members prior to class.

Reading Responses
Students will submit five response papers (3-4 pages each, typed and double-spaced) to assigned readings. Further guidelines are available on the Canvas course website.

Book Review
Students will provide a critical review of a book of their choosing (ideally, one related to the final paper topic). The paper should be approximately 5 pages (typed and double-spaced) and is due March 27 -- Further guidelines are available on the Canvas course website.

Final Paper
In lieu of a final exam, the final paper will be a substantive review of the scholarly literature on a particular topic of interest to the student and relevant to this class, to be determined in consultation with the instructor. The paper should be approximately 15-25 pages in length, typed and double-spaced, with standard fonts and margins, and adhere to the style guidelines and professional standards of the appropriate discipline. Students will report on their findings during one of the last two class meetings (April 10 or 17), and the final paper is due April 24. Further guidelines are available on the Canvas course website.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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Class Policies

Attendance
This is a graduate seminar that meets once a week; students are expected to attend all class meetings and be prepared to discuss the assigned reading each week.

Disruptions
Class participants should make every effort to avoid behavior that may disrupt class proceedings, such as chronic tardiness or early departures, or the eruptions of mobile phones. The use of laptops or tablets in class for non-class-related purposes is frowned upon.

Late Assignments
Late assignments will be accepted pending a satisfactory explanation (documentation may be requested) but will incur the following penalties: ½ letter grade if submitted within 24 hours after the deadline; one letter grade if submitted within a week of the deadline; two letter grades if submitted more than one week after the deadline.

Emergencies
Students should inform the instructor of emergencies or events that may affect their participation in this class as soon as possible. The instructor will work with students to make up any missed assignments due to events or circumstances beyond their control. Appropriate documentation may be requested.

Students with Disabilities
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities should register with the Disability Resource Center of the Dean of Students office, who will work with you and the instructor to make appropriate arrangements. Contact the Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565, at accessuf@dso.ufl.edu or go by their office in 0020 Reid Hall.

Academic Honesty
UF Students are expected to abide by the Student Conduct Code, which may be found at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php. Students should not receive unauthorized assistance in completing their assignments and should refrain from plagiarism (intellectual theft that represents the work of others as one’s own). Students should not submit the same paper for more than one class. Violations will be handled accordingly.
**Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Skidmore, et al, c. 1 and 2; Hillman and D’Agostino, c.2; Knippers Black, c. 1 (PDFs posted on Canvas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>MLK, Jr. Day (No Class)</td>
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<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Democracy in Latin America</td>
<td>Peeler, Building Democracy in Latin America, Introduction and Chapters 2-7. Reading Response Due</td>
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<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>The Political Economy of Latin America</td>
<td>Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America Reading Response Due</td>
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<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Environmental Social Movements in Latin America</td>
<td>de Castro, Hogenboom and Baud, Environmental Governance in Latin America, Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 6, 8 &amp; 11. Reading Response Due</td>
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<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Race and Ethnicity in Latin America</td>
<td>Wade, Race and Ethnicity Reading Response Due</td>
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<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Guest Author: Tanya Saunders</td>
<td>Saunders, Cuban Underground Hip Hop Reading Response Due Final Paper Topics Due</td>
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<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Spring Break (No Class)</td>
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Mar 13  Bridging Latin American and Latina/o Studies  
Guest Speaker: Nicholas Vargas  
Read assigned articles (PDFs posted on Canvas)  
Reading Response Due  
Final Paper Topics Due

Mar 20  US-Latin American Relations  
Read Weeks, *U.S. Latin American Relations*, Chapters 1 & 6-12  
Reading Response Due  
Working Bibliography Due

Mar 27  Individual Book Reports  
Book Reviews Due

Apr 3  Research Day (No Class)

Apr 10  Research Presentations (Group A)

Apr 17  Research Presentations (Group B)

Apr 24  Final Papers Due