

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

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Office Location: Grinter 319
Office Hours: T 3-4:30 pm, W 10-11:30 am and by appt.
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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)

de Castro, Hogenboom and Baud, *Environmental Governance in Latin America* (2016)

(Available free online in English, Spanish, or Portuguese:

<http://www.engov.eu/es/inicio/92-noticias/281-book-presentation-environmental-governance-in-latin-america-3.html>)

Kingstone, *The Political Economy of Latin America* (2011)

Peeler, *Building Democracy in Latin America*, (3/e, 2009)

Saunders, *Cuban Underground Hip Hop: Black Thoughts, Black Revolution, Black Modernity* (2015)

Wade, *Race and Ethnicity in Latin America* (2/e, 2010)

Weeks, *U.S. and Latin American Relations* (2/e, 2015)

Suggested Background Reading

Bulmer-Thomas, *The Economic History of Latin America* (3/e, 2013)

Delpar, *Looking South* (2007)

Edwards, *Left Behind* (2009)

Franko, *The Puzzle of Latin American Economic Development* (3/e, 2007)

Jackiewicz and Bosco, *Placing Latin America* (2/e, 2012)

Knippers-Black, *Latin America: Its Problems and Promise* (5/e, 2010)

Hillman and D'Agostino, *Understanding Contemporary Latin America* (4/e, 2011)

Reid, *Forgotten Continent: The Battle for Latin America's Soul* (2009)

Reyes and Sawyer, *Latin American Economic Development* (2011)

Skidmore, Smith and Green, *Modern Latin America* (7/e, 2010)
Smith, *Democracy in Latin America* (2/e, 2012)
Smith, *Talons of the Eagle* (4/e, 2013)

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

A	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-73
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	84-86	D	64-66
B-	80-83	D-	60-63
C+	77-79	E	below 60

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

- Jan 9 **Introduction**
Read Skidmore, et al, c. 1 and 2; Hillman and D'Agostino, c.2; Knippers Black, c. 1 (PDFs posted on Canvas)
- Jan 16 **MLK, Jr. Day (No Class)**
- Jan 23 **The Past, Present and Future of Latin American Studies**
Guest Speaker: Paul Losch on the history of Latin American Studies at UF
Reading: Paul Drake and Lisa Hilbink, "Latin American Studies: Theory and Practice," in *The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines*, David Szanton, ed. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004); Alvavez, Arias and Hale, "Re-Visioning Latin American Studies" (PDFs posted on Canvas)
Reading Response Due
- Jan 30 **Democracy in Latin America**
Read Peeler, *Building Democracy in Latin America*, Introduction and Chapters 2-7.
Reading Response Due
- Feb 6 **The Political Economy of Latin America**
Guest Speaker: Pilar Useche
Read Kingstone, *The Political Economy of Latin America*
Reading Response Due
- Feb 13 **Environmental Social Movements in Latin America**
Guest Speaker: Susan Paulson
Read de Castro, Hogenboom and Baud, *Environmental Governance in Latin America*, Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 6, 8 & 11.
Reading Response Due
- Feb 20 **Race and Ethnicity in Latin America**
Guest Speaker: Rosana Resende
Read Wade, *Race and Ethnicity*
Reading Response Due
- Feb 27 **Guest Author: Tanya Saunders**
Read Saunders, *Cuban Underground Hip Hop*
Reading Response Due
Final Paper Topics Due
- Mar 6 **Spring Break (No Class)**

- 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**