LAS 6220
Issues and Perspectives in Latin American Studies
University of Florida
Spring 2018

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)
Kingstone, The Political Economy of Latin America (2011)
Wade, Race and Ethnicity in Latin America (2/e, 2010)

Course Requirements and Grading Components
Participation 20%
Response Papers 35%
Book Review 10%
Final Paper 35%

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. Students are also expected to attend three Latin America-related events (lectures, performances, workshops, conferences) and write a one-pager for each event. Further guidelines available on the Canvas course website.

**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) -- 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 16 or 23), and the final paper is due April 30. Further guidelines are available on the Canvas course website.

**Grading Scale**

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<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<td>A-</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

Jan 8  Introduction  
Read assigned articles (PDFs posted on Canvas)

Jan 15  MLK, Jr. Day (No Class)

Jan 22  The Past, Present and Future of Latin American Studies  
**Guest Speaker: Paul Losch** on the history of Latin American Studies at UF  

Jan 29  US-Latin American Relations  
Read Long, *Latin American Confronts the United States*, Chapters 1, 3-6.

Feb 5  The Political Economy of Latin America  
**Guest Speaker: Pilar Useche**  
Read Kingstone, *The Political Economy of Latin America*

Feb 12  Democracy in Latin America  
Read assigned articles (PDFs posted on Canvas)

Feb 19  Environmental Social Movements in Latin America  
**Guest Speaker: TBA**  
Read de Castro, Hogenboom and Baud, *Environmental Governance in Latin America*, Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 6, 8 & 11.

Feb 26  Pluralization of Violence in Latin America  
**Guest Speaker: Rebecca Hanson**  
Read assigned articles (PDFs posted on Canvas)  
*Final Paper Topics Due*

Mar 5  Spring Break (No Class)

Mar 19  Research Day (No class)

Mar 26  Race and Ethnicity in Latin America  
Guest Speaker: Rosana Resende  
Read Wade, Race and Ethnicity  
*Annotated Bibliography Due*
Apr 2       Bridging Latin American and Latina/o Studies
            Guest Speaker: Nicholas Vargas
            Read assigned articles (PDFs posted on Canvas)
            Individual Book Reports
            Book Reviews Due

Apr 9       Research Day (No Class)

Apr 16      Research Presentations (Group A)

Apr 23      Research Presentations (Group B)

Apr 30      Final Papers Due