LAS 6220
Issues and Perspectives in Latin American Studies
University of Florida
Spring 2019

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

Instructor Information
Philip J. Williams
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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)
Wade, Race and Ethnicity in Latin America (2/e, 2010)

Course Requirements and Grading Components
Participation 20%
Response Papers 30%
Book Review 10%
Final Paper 40%

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 four 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 15 or 22), and the final paper is due April 29. Further guidelines are available on the Canvas course website.

**Grading Scale**

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<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 readings 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](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 7**  
**Introduction**  
Ronaldo Munck, *Rethinking Latin America*, **read only** pp. 17-37.  
(PDFs posted on Canvas)

**Jan 14**  
**The Past, Present and Future of Latin American Studies**  
**Guest Speaker: Paul Losch** on the history of Latin American Studies at UF  
Alvavez, Arias and Hale, “Re-Visioning Latin American Studies.”  
(PDFs posted on Canvas)  
Charles Hale, “The Future of Latin American Studies,” *Americas Quarterly* (Summer 2014): [http://americasquarterly.org/content/future-latin-american-studies](http://americasquarterly.org/content/future-latin-american-studies)

**Jan 21**  
MLK, Jr. Day (No Class)

**Jan 28**  
**US-Latin American Relations**  
Read Long, *Latin American Confronts the United States*, Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6.

**Feb. 4**  
**The Political Economy of Latin America**  
Read Kingstone, *The Political Economy of Latin America*.

**Feb 11**  
**Democracy in Latin America**  
John Peeler, Building Democracy in Latin America, (Lynne Rienner, 2009), Chapter 3.  
(PDFs posted on Canvas)

**Feb 18**  
**Environmental Governance in Latin America**  
**Guest Speaker: Karen Kainer, “Forest Governance”**  
Read de Castro, Hogenboom and Baud, *Environmental Governance in Latin America*, Introduction and Chapters 1, 4, 6, 8 & 11

**Feb 25**  
**Indigenous mobilizations, Human Rights, and Territorial Struggles**  
**Guest Speaker: Joel Correia**  
Read assigned articles
(PDFs posted on Canvas)

Final Paper Topics Due

Mar 4  
Spring Break (No Class)

Mar 11  
Race and Ethnicity in Latin America
Guest Speaker: Rosana Resende
Read Wade, Race and Ethnicity in Latin America
Annotated Bibliography Due

Mar 18  
Bridging Latin American and Latina/o Studies
Guest Speaker: Nicholas Vargas
Read assigned articles (PDFs posted on Canvas)
For the UC Santa Cruz LALS graduate program proposal, read only pp. 1-11.

Mar 25  
Discussion of sample literature reviews
Read assigned lit reviews

Apr 1  
Research Day (No class)
Book Reviews Due

Apr 8  
Research Day (No Class)

Apr 15  
Research Presentations (Group A)

Apr 22  
Research Presentations (Group B)

Apr 29  
Final Papers Due