

LAS 2001 Introduction to Latin American Studies

Spring 2022

- This class involves an in-person Full Class Lecture and an in-person Discussion Section.
- Full class lecture meets Tuesdays Period 10, and Thursdays Period 10-11 in LIT 0113

Instructor Information:

Prof. Marliz Arteaga

Email (Preferred contact): marliz@ufl.edu

Office Hours: by appointment only. You need to set up a meeting time in advance. Meetings may be on Zoom or in-person, which must be indicated before the meeting time.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide an overview of Latin America's cultures and societies. Latin America is a culturally and linguistically varied region, home to a vast spectrum of peoples, civilizations, political and economic systems, faiths, and languages. This course provides an overview of the region, focusing on cultural, political, literary, and linguistic themes, social inequality, and related challenges. The course will frequently feature guest lecturers from professionals from various colleges throughout Latin America. Students will gain knowledge of Latin America from a number of different fields and viewpoints through their presentations and will become acquainted with the diverse areas of expertise of professionals who conduct research and teach in Latin America. LAS 2001 is an introductory course to the discipline of Latin American Studies; it is an interdisciplinary course designed for students interested in learning about Latin America in its historical and contemporary context.

Required and Recommended Materials:

Required readings and materials, as well as recommended resources, will be available through Canvas.

Course Learning Goals

The course's primary objectives are:

- to introduce students to Latin American society and culture, as well as a variety of regional issues, demonstrate the region's importance to the global south;
- to introduce students to faculty who conduct research in Latin America and hear from first-hand contextualized research findings;
- to challenge students' preconceived notions about Latin American people, immigrants, and others;
- to expose students to a variety of methods of learning about Latin America, such as lectures, role play, music, and small-group discussions; and

- to help students improve their written and spoken communication abilities through group work, attendance, and participation.

Course Format

This course will consist of a mixture of presentations prepared by keynote guests from various colleges throughout Latin America and group and individual work by students throughout the course. This will help students put what they have learned in class into context, and they will be able to use their existing experience and apply it in conjunction with the new information they will acquire during the course.

Communications and Netiquette:

- **Remember that all in-person and online communications -- discussion, posts, chats, email -- should be respectful and polite.**
- Intellectual debate and contestation is an important part of learning and intellectual exchange. It is expected that students will have different perspectives and opinions, and everyone is welcome (and expected) to share their perspectives and understanding of information and concepts relevant to the course content. In all cases, the language and tone of the words is expected to remain respectful.
- Opinions, perspectives, personal experiences and hypotheses are valuable to share in a respectful manner. If you claim that something is a fact, you may be asked to support it with a verifiable and reputable source.
- When communicating with the professor by email, please use professional language ("Dear M.Sc. Arteaga..." and complete words and sentences (Not "r u available" but "Are you available..."). This is also good preparation for future business and professional communications.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please email Prof. Arteaga. Emails are normally answered within 2 business days (usually sooner). If you do not receive an answer within 2 business days, please send the email again.
 - Before emailing the professor with a question about course content or expectations, please check the information on Canvas thoroughly, including the Welcome page, the Course Overview and Policies, and the Syllabus.
- It is vitally important to keep your instructor informed if you are facing difficulties with meeting course expectations or deadlines. If you let us know promptly of difficulties that you are facing, we will work with you to find a reasonable accommodation. Do not wait until the end of the semester. The sooner we learn of problems you may be encountering, the sooner we can find a way to address them or assist in finding resources that can help.

Grading Policy

The course will be graded by standard percentages:

A	80%	to	94%
A-	94.0%	to	90.0%
B+	90.0%	to	87.0%

B	87.0% to	84.0%
B-	84.0% to	80.0%
C+	80.0% to	77.0%
C	77.0% to	74.0%
C-	74.0% to	70.0%
D+	70.0% to	67.0%
D	67.0% to	64.0%
D-	64.0% to	61.0%
F	61.0% to	0%

- Late Submissions: Late submissions of assignments will be discounted 10% per day. This is simply fair to those in the class who meet deadlines, otherwise they would be disadvantaged relative to those who take more time. Exceptions will be made for those who have documented illnesses and emergencies, or make prior arrangements to due to religious, athletic, or academic-related commitments.
- Policy on Plagiarism / Cheating: Plagiarism in written assignments (i.e. the copying of material without citation of the source) is unacceptable. It will lead to a zero on the assignment or paper if it is of a minor degree (less than a paragraph), and to a failing grade in the course in cases of extensive copying without citation. If you have doubts about when and how to cite sources, the professor will be glad to answer your questions.

Emergencies:

If you have a medical or family emergency that prevents you from completing an assignment or exam on time, or results in extended absence, bring it to the attention of professor as soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made with proper documentation. Medical conditions must be documented by a doctor's note. Other emergencies must be documented by an appropriate authority (check with the professor).

Class Attendance Policy:

If you have been exposed to a contagious disease (COVID19, flu) or if you are not feeling well for any reason – DO NOT COME TO CLASS.

- **If you are feeling ill or have been exposed to a contagious disease, you do NOT need a doctor's note to miss 1-2 classes (you WILL need a doctor's note to miss multiple consecutive classes due to illness or quarantine).**
- **If you need to miss a class for any reason, you need to email the instructor an explanation of why you are or will be absent.** It is always acceptable to have absences for religious observances and university sponsored athletic or scholarly events (e.g., conferences, musical performances, etc). You must advise the instructor of such absences.
- If you are withheld from campus, then you cannot attend class until you are cleared.
- **You are responsible for all material and information shared in class.** It is a good idea to find classmates with whom you can exchange notes.

- If you miss a class and want to discuss missed material, make an appointment with the professor to go over what you missed.
- **If you are ill or otherwise unable to complete assignments on time, then you will need to provide documentation (e.g., doctor's note)** to get an extension to submit a late assignment, quiz or exam.
- This class conforms to UF Attendance Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#illnesspolicytext>

This course is aligned with the UF policies below.

- **Contact Hours:** "Contact Hours" refers to the hours per week in which students are in contact with the instructor, excluding office hours or other voluntary contact. The number of contact hours in this course equals the number of credits the course offers.
- **Workload:** As a Carnegie I, research-intensive university, UF is required by federal law to assign at least 2 hours of work outside of class for every contact hour. Work done in these hours may include reading/viewing assigned material and doing explicitly assigned individual or group work, as well as reviewing notes from class, synthesizing information in advance of exams or papers, and other self-determined study tasks.
- **Accommodation for Student with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. This class supports the needs of different learners; it is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.
- **Statement Regarding Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available from [the Gatorevals website](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [the evaluation system](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at the [public results website](#).

Additional Course Policies and Information

Honor Code

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

In addition, students may not publish (including sharing with other students) any recording of a class lecture without the written consent of the lecturer. (See In-Class Recording below)

The Honor Code (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TA in this class.

UF Resources

University Police: The UF police are together for a safe campus. Phone: 392-111 (911 for emergencies)
<http://www.police.ufl.edu>

Career Connections Center: (352-392-1601 | CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu) connects job seekers with employers and offers guidance to enrich your collegiate experience and prepare you for life after graduation.

Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575) provides counseling and support as well as crisis and wellness services including a variety of workshops throughout the semester (e.g., Yappy Hour, Relaxation and Resilience).

Dean of Students Office (352-392-1261) provides a variety of services to students and families, including Field and Fork (UF's food pantry) and New Student and Family programs

Disability Resource Center(DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu | 352-392-8565) helps to provide an accessible learning environment for all by providing support services and facilitating accommodations, which may vary from course to course. Once registered with DRC, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Multicultural and Diversity Affairs (352-294-7850) celebrates and empowers diverse communities and advocates for an inclusive campus.

Office of Student Veteran Services (352-294-2948 | vacounselor@ufl.edu) assists student military veterans with access to benefits.

ONE.UF is the home of all the student self-service applications, including access to:

- Advising
- Bursar (352-392-0181)
- Financial Aid (352-392-1275)
- Registrar (352-392-1374)

Official Sources of Rules and Regulations

The official source of rules and regulations for UF students is the Undergraduate Catalog and Graduate Catalog. Quick links to other information are provided below:

- Student Handbook
- Student Responsibilities, including academic honesty and student conduct code
- e-Learning Supported Services Policies includes links to relevant policies including Acceptable Use, Privacy, and many more
- Accessibility, including the Electronic Information Technology Accessibility Policy and ADA Compliance
- Student Computing Requirements, including minimum and recommended technology requirements and competencies

Course Assignments

Home Country Specialist (HCS): Latin American and Caribbean scholars often specialize in one "home" country and study its history and culture using their discipline's paradigms (e.g., political science, history, economics, literature, etc). So, for the course duration, students will be an HCS of one of the following nations (groups 3-5). The HCSs will investigate the course's first five goals through projects (People, Land, Political Economy, Culture, and U.S. Relations). Next, pick a country/territory from the list.

* Cuba * Dominican Republic * Haiti * Puerto Rico * Costa Rica * El Salvador * Guatemala * Honduras * Nicaragua * Panama * Argentina * Bolivia * Brazil * Chile * Colombia * Ecuador * Paraguay * Peru * Uruguay * Venezuela * Mexico

Home Country Specialist Newspaper Journal: This project will examine how modern media sources report on and interpret current events in your chosen "Home Country" (HC). Read two articles and provide a summary (3-4 sentences) on your HC. You can report on some element of current life in your nation that corresponds to the week's theme. Articles should be cited by title, date, and newspaper source (no url/web address needed). Some Latin American and Caribbean journals are available in Spanish and Portuguese; please contact me if interested. Most of these are accessible online.

Three Empires Map Group Presentation: Students indicate the historical contours of Latin America and the Caribbean's enduring relationship with colonial powers and how those empires have shaped the region's geopolitical maps.

1. *Aztec/Inca Empires:* Precontact era-1492 -Identify the extent of the Aztec and Inca empires and principle indigenous populations within them at the time of encounter with Europeans.
2. *Spanish/Portuguese Empire:* 1492-1810/1889 -Indicate the political-administrative units of the Spanish and Portuguese empires. Identify origins of key founding populations (e.g., Europeans, Africans, Native Americans, etc) in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. *U.S. Empire:* 1848/1898-present -Identify the shifting geopolitical contours of Latin America and the Caribbean following the U.S. wars of intervention in 1848 and 1898.

Revolutionary/Political/Social movement group presentation: Case Studies briefly examine the reasons for the historical development of a revolutionary or national political movement. Examples include Fidel Castro in Cuba, Pancho Villa in Mexico, Rigoberta Menchu in Guatemala, The Landless workers movement in Brazil, and The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Argentina.

Women/gender/race group presentations: Several women's rights organizations in Latin America have organized to fight for their rights, including the Arpilleras in Chile, Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo in Argentina, Las Quebradoras de Babacu in Brazil, and a number of other organizations. Students must choose one of those (among others) case studies for this assignment.

Environmental Justice group presentation: Some of the case studies' details include illegal mining in the Andes Amazon, dam construction, deforestation and contamination, fertilizers exposure and contamination, and a variety of other issues that need to be addressed.

Symposium and experiential fair: This symposium will have an experiential fair format, where students, in groups, must show everything about the country they chose. It will have two parts, the part of the oral

presentation where the country's history will be shown from the colony to today, and the part of the exhibition table, where they can show the culture, music, and food. This will be a public event.

Evaluative Components

Total points: 240

- Attendance and class participation: 20 pts total
- Quizzes: 4 Quizzes, 10 pts each (40 pts total)
- Newspaper journal post: 6 posts, 5 pts each (30 pts total)
- Group presentation (case studies): 4 case studies, 20 pts each (80 pts total)
- Midterm: 20 pts
- Final project report: 20 pts
- Symposium: 30 pts

Course Outline (Full details are on Canvas. Adjustments may be made as the course develops)

Week	Date	Topic	Material	Activities & Assignments
1	Th 01/06	Presentations, introductions, icebreaker, syllabus.	See canvas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin America interactive map – Why Latin America? How much do you know? • Latin America representation (picture, song, piece of art, etc) • Listen: Latin America by Calle 13.
2	T 01/11 Th 01/13	Colonial Latin American History	See canvas	Home country specialist groups formation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed explanation about the activity, the process, and the final symposium (logistics and content presentation). Guest Speakes on the topic
3	T 01/18 Th 01/20	Modern Latin American History	See canvas	Guest Speaker Three Empires Map Group working in class. Students will be working in class and getting ready for the presentation next week. They should bring all the material needed for preparing their presentations and written documents.
4	T 02/01 Th 02/03	Geography and Climate of Latin America	See canvas	Guest speaker Three Empires Map Group presentations
5	T 02/08 Th 02/10	Indigenous People of Latin America	See canvas	Guest Speaker Quiz 1 Groups working on their indigenous group's presentation. Students will be working in class and getting

				ready for the presentation next week.
6	T 02/15 Th 02/17	Race in Latin America	See canvas	Guest speaker Group presentation about indigenous group selected. Present: organization, region, politics, actual distribution, history, etc.
7	T 02/22 Th 02/24	Women and Gender in Latin America	See canvas	Guest speaker Quiz 2 Groups working on their women/gender/race/ movements group's presentation. Students will be working in class and getting ready for the presentation next week.
8	T 03/01 T 03/03	Economies of Latin America	See canvas	Guest speaker Women/gender/race group presentations
9	T 03/08 Th 03/10	Spring Break	See canvas	Mid term (on-line)
10	T 03/15 Th 03/17	Politics in Latin America	See canvas	Guest speaker Quiz 3 Groups working on their Revolutionary/Political/Social Movement group's presentation. Students will be working in class and getting ready for the presentation next week. They should bring all the material needed for preparing their presentations and reports.
11	T 03/22 Th 03/24	Social Movements of Latin America	See canvas	Guest speaker Revolutionary/Political/Social movement group presentations
12	T 03/29 Th 03/31	Globalization of Latin America or Art and Music in LA (TDB)	See canvas	Guest speaker Groups working on their environmental justice case study group's presentation. Students will be working in class and getting ready for the presentation next week.
13	T 04/05 Th 04/07	Environment and Environmental Justice of Latin America	See canvas	Guest speaker Environmental justice case study group's presentation
14	T 04/12 Th 04/14	Simposium preparation	See canvas	Quiz 4 Tuesday: is dedicated to logistics. Students will begin forming logistical groups, including selecting venues, guests, an agenda, dates, design flayers, communications, event evaluation forms, and structural elements.

				Thursday: is all about content. Working in groups, they will produce an oral presentation, a report, and a showcase table for the country where they have been focusing their efforts for the whole semester. They must come to class prepared with all of the materials they will need to work on in class.
15	T 04/19	Simposium preparation	See canvas	Final report due
16	T 04/26	Simposium	See canvas	Simposium – Final Exam

In-Class Recording:

For full information consult: <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/>

- Students may audio or video record a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled. A class lecture is defined as an educational presentation delivered by faculty or guest lecturer, as part of a University of Florida course, intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session
- A Student may record a class lecture for three specified purposes as outlined in House Bill 233/Section 1004.097, Florida Statutes:
 1. For the student's own personal educational use;
 2. In connection with a complaint to the University where the recording is made; or
 3. As evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding.
- Students may record at any time during a class lecture, so long as the recording is made for one of the above listed specified purposes
- **A recording of a class lecture may not be published without the consent of the lecturer.** (This also means you cannot share a recording with another student in the class). Publish means share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of the recording, is considered to be published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper or leaflet.
- Students are required to know the laws of the State of Florida and the University Regulations as set forth in UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code, as amended September 2021. Additionally, a statement will be added to syllabi expressly noting that students may not publish recordings without the written consent of the lecturer.

- A student who publishes a recording without consent may be subject to a civil cause of action. A person injured by a violation of Section 1004.097, Florida Statutes, may seek declaratory and injunctive relief and may be entitled to damages plus court costs and reasonable attorney fees. Total recovery may not exceed \$200,000. Additionally, a student in violation may be subject to discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code, as amended September 2021.