Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies  
(LACS_OX 101)  
12A MWF (12 – 1:05pm) and 01A MWF (1:15 – 2:20pm)  

Instructor: Pablo Palomino  
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Office Hours: MWF 9-11:45, MW 3-4pm, and by appointment  

Description of the course  

This course provides a multidisciplinary approach to major historical and current issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its goal is to provide an introduction to the major socio-cultural areas of the region, to the economic and ideological features of its engagement with globalization, to different disciplinary styles in Latin American scholarship, to relevant political and policy debates—from ethnicity to economic development—and to social, academic, and policy themes that Oxford students can pursue in the region.  

The requirements for a successful course are your active participation in class, off-class assignments, and two exams. The course combines the instructor’s lectures, the discussion of a very varied body of scholarship on an array of topics and countries, and the analysis of contemporary cinema and relevant musical production. The exam prompts require a thorough study of the readings, lectures, films, and any other material discussed in class.  

After completing this course, students will be ready to pursue any other advanced course on Latin America and the Caribbean, will count with a counterpoint to comparatively study the United States, and will be able to approach larger debates on globalization from a solid and nuanced regional perspective.  

Grading  
Class attendance and participation 25%  
Class presentations (in-class + off-class assignments) 25%  
Mid-Term Exam 25%  
Final Exam 25%  

Grade Scale  
A = 94-100  A- = 90-93  B+ = 87-89  B = 83-86  B- = 80-82  C+ = 77-79  
C = 73-76  C- = 70-72  D+ = 67-69  D = 63-66  F = 0-62
Absences
One point per absence will be discounted from the final grade after the second unexcused absence.

Honor code
Plagiarism and any other form of academic dishonesty will automatically result in an F grade.

Laptops are not allowed in class, except on specifically indicated occasions.
Smartphones are not allowed in class under any circumstance.

Office hours
Students are expected to attend the instructor’s office hours at least once within the first three weeks of class. Failure to do this will affect their class attendance and participation grade.

Accessibility and Accommodations
In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, students who have disabilities must contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) and complete the registration process. Faculty may not provide disability accommodations until an accommodation letter has been processed; accommodations are not retroactive. Students registered with OAS who receive a letter outlining specific academic accommodations are encouraged to discuss them with their professor as early in the semester as possible. Contact OAS for more information: (770) 784-4690 / oas.oxford@emory.edu / http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html

Bibliography


*Articles and book chapters:*

- Angela Stuesse, *Scratching out a Living: Latinos, Race, and Work in the Deep South* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016), Chapters 1 “Southern fried” and 5 “Pecking order.”

**Filmography**

Either a DVD copy or a streaming access of each film will be available at the library, and they can also be watched through paid or free Internet media providers (some of them indicated below). It is the student’s responsibility to watch the films on time.

- *Cidade de Deus* [City of God], Fernando Meirelles (Brazil, 2002) / Available on Amazon Video, YouTube, Google Play, iTunes, Vudu, Netflix DVD
- *Nostalgia de la luz* [Nostalgia for the light], Patricio Guzmán (Chile 2010) / Amazon Video, Netflix DVD
- *Y tu mamá también* [And your mother too], Alfonso Cuarón (Mexico 2001) / Amazon Video, iTunes, Netflix Streaming
- *Habana blues* [Havana Blues], Benito Zambrano (Cuba, 2005) / iTunes, Netflix DVD

**Schedule of classes**

**R** = Reading / **A** = Assignment

**Introduction**

1 / 8-23 W: *Introduction to the course*
2 / 8-25 F: **R** Moya, ““Latin America: The Limitations and Meaning…”

**Beginnings**

3 / 8-28 M **R** Chasteen, Ch. 2, “Encounter” + **MAP QUIZ**
4 / 8-30 W **R** Chasteen, Ch. 3, “Colonial crucible”
5 / 9-1 F **Synthesis**

*Sept 4 LABOR DAY*

6 / 9-6 W **R** Chasteen, Ch. 4, “Independence”
7 / 9-8 F **R** Flores Galindo, “The Andean utopia”

**Ethnicity**

8 / 9-11 M **R** “What color are you?” & “Mixed blood”
9 / 9-13 W **R** Da Costa, “The myth of racial democracy”
10 / 9-15 F **A** FILM DISCUSSION: *Cidade de Deus*. Identify, in groups of four, a scene that dialogues in any way with any of the previous readings. (Email me indicating the group members and the chosen scene by late morning).

11 / 9-18 M **R** Alcubierre & Bazán, “José Vasconcelos’ classical readings”
12 / 9-20 W **R** Archetti, “Male hybrids”
13 / 9-22 F **A** ICONOGRAPHIC DISCUSSION. In groups of four, you will come prepared to discuss a series of images (images will be provided the previous week)

14 / 9-25 M **R** Arocena & Bowman, “Brazil: where were the blacks?”
15 / 9-27 W **R** Arocena & Bowman, “The awakening of indigenous culture in Bolivia”
16 / 9-29 F **R** Telles & Flores, “Not just color”

17 / 10-2 M Recapitulation
18 / 10-4, W Preparation for Mid-Term
19 / 10-6, F MID-TERM EXAM
**FALL BREAK**

**Modernities**

20 / 10-11, W R Chasteen, Ch. 5 “Postcolonial blues”
21 / 10-13, F R Chasteen, Ch. 6 “Progress”

22 / 10-16, M R Chasteen, Ch. 7 “Neocolonialism”
23 / 10-18, W R Chasteen, Ch. 8 “Nationalism”
24 / 10-20, F A DISCUSSION: the meaning of “culture” in 20th-century Latin America
(take notes on how “culture” appears in Chasteen’s chapters)

25 / 10-23, M R Monsiváis, “The funky dive”
26 / 10-25, W R Karush, Musicians in Transit, Ch. 5.
27 / 10-27, F A MUSICAL APPRECIATION (music will be provided the previous week)

28 / 10-30, M R Chasteen, Ch. 9 “Revolution”
29 / 11-1, W R Chasteen, Ch. 10 “Reaction”
30 / 11-3, F A DISCUSSION: the meaning of “democracy” in 20th-century Latin America
(take notes on how “democracy” appears in Chasteen’s chapters)

31 / 11-6, M R Fischer: “The influence of neoliberals in Chile”
32 / 11-8 W R Feitlowitz: “Night and fog”
33 / 11-10, F R FILM DISCUSSION: Nostalgia de la luz

34 / 11-14, M R Chasteen, Ch. 11 “Neoliberalism and beyond…”
36 / 11-17, F A FILM DISCUSSION: Y tu mamá también

37 / 11-20, M R Pick one of the following: Monsiváis: “Identity hour;” Hunter & Borges: “Transforming subjects;” Arocena & Bowman, “Gender and representation.”

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**Latin America and the Caribbean in the United States**

38 / 11-27 M R Mora, “Cross-Field Effects and Ethnic Classification”
40 / 12-1, F: A FILM DISCUSSION: Habana Blues

41 / 12-4, M: Conclusion

12-7, Thursday, FINAL EXAM (2-5pm 01A LACS and 7-10pm 12A LACS 101)