

1-2004

FLLG 100.01: Introduction to Latin American Studies

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Spring 2004

FLLG100/ANTHRO100

Introduction to Latin American Studies

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Required texts:

- Mark Rosemberg & Douglas Kincaid. Americas. An Anthology. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992.
- Bernadette Orr. Americas. Study Guide. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.
- Assigned WEB pages on the Internet. Information through course list FLL100. Instructions on how to sign up to be given in class.

Optional:

- Thomas Skidmore. Modern Latin America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.
- (This text will also be available on RESERVE. I will place more than one copy of this important textbook on Reserve). As copies may come from different editions, you will need to check page numbers before doing readings.

The assigned readings for class are minimum requirements for the course. You should supplement topics with suggested readings recommended at the end of each unit. You should also check periodicals and publications on Latin American issues available in Mansfield Library:

Recommended:

- Latin American Research Review.
- All the 980 section in the Library.
- The Cambridge History of Latin America.
- Journal of Latin American Studies.

Course content and organization:

This course is a multi disciplinary survey and introduction to Latin America from pre-Columbian times to the present. It does not require previous background in the subject area and it aims to give a strong and varied basis for students who either will continue taking other classes in Latin America Studies or are interested in relating Latin American contemporary social issues to those in other areas (Business, Anthropology, Literature, Geography, Art, Political Sciences etc). After examining the main historical developments, starting with a description of the principal pre-Columbian societies and continuing with an exploration of the impact, cultural and ideological dimensions of the Conquest and the way of life of colonial societies, we will look closely at specific problems Latin Americans have faced in the twentieth century and at contemporary issues which constitute the challenge for the present millennium such as ethnicity, migration, processes of urbanization, popular culture, changing roles of women, the increasing economic pressures and the Latin American presence in the United States.

We will be watching several videos over the semester from the series AMERICAS. Most of the videos will be watched as assignments at the Language Lab (Liberal Arts 104) and will also be placed on Reserve at Mansfield Library. There are going to be set times to watch the videos. If for any reason you are unable to watch the videos at the assigned time you may go to the Language Lab and watch it on our own while the video is at the lab. When we move into the next unit, the videos will be returned to Mansfield Library and placed on Reserve. There are monitors at Mansfield Library for you to watch the videos. **Students are expected to have watched the videos before coming to class.**

The bases of each class are your readings. I will send you a message before each class indicating what we will discuss in class, providing you an outline of the class. Many times I will give you lists of names (people and/or places) that you will need to identify before coming to class. Also historical events that are important for you to get a basic knowledge of Latin American history and society. In this introductory course the use of informational web pages is very important and useful. For example: if I ask you to find out who *Fray Bartolome de las Casas* is, you can either check his name in a dictionary, encyclopedia or simply enter his name on an Internet engine like Google and access an informational page with different levels of specialization. Try to access messages from a computer where you have fast access to the Internet. This will facilitate your navigating the pages I assign for you to visit.

A viewing schedule (videos) will be distributed once arrangements are made with the FLL Language Lab.

Class preparation:

- There will be a discussion e-mail group for this class. To subscribe to this list you need to send an electronic message **to:** majordomo@majordomo.umt.edu

In the text of the message you need to write:
subscribe LAS100

- You need to check for messages before coming to class. Announcements, assignments, class outlines, questions to answers, links to important sites on the Internet will be posted. This e-mail group will be an essential part of our class. If you don't have an email address, please stop by at CIS (Liberal Arts Building 139) or call 243-4357 to find out how to open one.

- Keep all the messages in a folder. Do not delete them until the end of the semester. Even better, print them if you can, since they have important information for your four exams.

- **Do all readings!!!** Be prepared to participate in class actively, asking questions, bringing comments etc.

- Start reading your book early. Semesters become busier and busier as we approach the end of the academic year. Follow the guidelines to write your book review. Read the guidelines before you start reading your book so you read with that assignment on mind. Read the Student code

Manual on the section for **plagiarism** to avoid this practice. Some students commit plagiarism without being aware of it. Even if plagiarism was unintentional a University investigation needs to be done and the work needs to be rewritten. It often results in a loss of valuable time and energy.

- Watch the video that corresponds to the Unit we are working on. Write notes while you watch videos, write questions and comments and bring them to class.

- Get the phone numbers of two or three classmates and call them if you miss a class to find out if some changes have been announced. But, most importantly, check your email!!

Evaluation:

Class attendance and participation:	20%
Exams (15 points each)	60%
4 exams worth 15 points,	
Book Review	20%

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

Please make an effort to come to class on time and do not leave before class ends, unless you talk to the instructor ahead of time. Coming to class late and leaving early disrupts other students. Also, turn your Cell phones off during class. Ringing also disturbs students and the instructor. Absences (both excused and unexcused) and your lack of preparation to class will have a negative effect on your grade. Make-up exams are only given under very special circumstances (illness, family illness) and students need to communicate with the instructor before the exam. An attendance sheet will be distributed at the beginning of every class and will circulate among students. **You are only allowed to sign your name on the attendance sheet.**

You will receive a list of suggestions for your book review, but you may read another book if there is another topic that interest you. Also you may find suggestions at the end of each unit. You will receive instructions on how to write a book review. Book review sheets will be in place in class and you have to write the name of the book you have chosen. Your final date to make a book choice is February 23rd, but I recommend you to do it much earlier and start reading early in the semester.

Spring 2004. A detailed plan of activities for each unit will be distributed on paper or electronically.

Week 1.

January 26 Introduction to class. Syllabus. Presentations.
28 Majordomo set-up in computer lab. Unit 1.
30 Unit 1.

Week 2.

February

2 Unit 2
4 Unit 2.
6 Unit 2.

Week 3

9 Watch Video #3 in class.
11 Watch Video #4 in class.
13 Unit 3

Week 4

16 No Class Washington- Lincoln Day.
18 Unit 3
20 Unit 3

Week 5

23 **EXAM # 1.**
25 Unit 4
27 Unit 4

Week 6

March 1 Unit 4
3 Unit 5
5 Unit 5

Week 7

8 Unit 5
10 **EXAM # 2**
12 Unit 6

Week 8

15 Unit 6
17 Unit 6
19 Unit 7

Week 9

22 Unit 7
24 Unit 7
26 Unit 8

29 April 2: Spring vacation.

Week 10

April 5 Unit 8

7 Unit 8
9 **EXAM # 3.**

Week 11

12 Unit 10

14 Unit 10
16 Unit 10

Week 12

19 Unit 11
21 Unit 11
23 Unit 11

Week 13

26 Unit 12
28 Unit 12
30 **EXAM #4**

Week 14

3 Unit 13
5 Unit 13
7 Unit 13. Turn in your book review.

Final exams: May 10-14. **There will not be a final exam in this class. We will meet on the assigned time and book reviews will be distributed.**