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MCLG 100H.01A: Introduction to Latin American Studies

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MCLL100/ANTY103- Fall 2014

Introduction to Latin American Studies

Professor Maria José Bustos Fernandez

Liberal Arts 437- Office Hours: Weds. 3-5 pm and Fridays 12-1.

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Required text:

- -Winn, Peter. *Americas. The Changing Faces of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Third Edition. University of California Press, 2006.
- Readings included in MOODLE.
- Videos indicated in Moodle.

Optional:

- Skidmore, Thomas. *Modern Latin America*. New York: Oxford University Press, (latest edition if you buy a copy).
- Chasteen, John. *Born in Blood and Fire. A Concise History of Latin America*.

(These texts will also be available on RESERVE. As copies might 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 must become acquainted with the Library, books, periodicals, databases etc. on Latin America.

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:

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 to obtain a Minor, or are interested in relating Latin American contemporary social issues to those in other areas. 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, the increasing economic pressures and the Latin American presence in the United States.

This class will use MOODLE. Students should check assignments, study guides, additional material etc. before preparing for class.

Course organization:

Each class:

*Students will write **something** for each class: mostly answer questions given on the assigned readings, or comments on a video you will watch on your own, or identification of people, places or events. These **may** be collected by the instructor, so you have to be ready to turn in something for each class. Students are responsible for their own education under the guidance of the professor. **BRING AT LEAST ONE QUESTION OF YOUR OWN TO THE CLASS. COME PREPARED!!!**

*Go over the assigned reading and make sure you are able to understand and answer the questions given by the professor before coming to class.

***Keep a glossary of new terms related to Latin America.**

People/events/important dates/new words that describe social phenomena etc. Some book glossaries will be provided in Moodle, but they may not contain all the new terms, people, places and events that are new to you.

*If new terms appear in the chapter make sure you understand them, and add them to your glossary.

*Think historically. Some terms have a historical meaning, others change through history. For example if you learn the word “viceroy”, you must understand that it corresponds to a specific period of LA history.

-Get the phone numbers of two or three classmates and call them if you miss a class.

-Cell phones ARE NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS. You may have a cell phone on vibrate mode. **ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING IN CLASS.** Students texting in class will be asked to leave the room.

-Please check and read the UM student code.

Evaluation:

Class attendance/participation/homework	10%
2 Reviews on documentaries	10%
Exams (4) (15 points each)	60%
Final paper on a country and an issue of your choice	20%

This schedule only lists the chapters being covered each week. Detailed description of each class will be given on Moodle. Daily assignments will be indicated on Moodle. You need to check this on-line page on a daily basis.

Fall 2014

August

25 Introduction to the Course. Our book. Why study Latin America? Maps and locations.

27 Winn Chapter 1. "A view from the past". Skidmore. "Why Latin America"?

29 Winn. Chapter 2. "Legacies of Empire"

September

3 "Legacies of Empire"

5 "Legacies of Empire"

8 Chapter 3 "The perils of progress"

10 Chapter 3 "The perils of progress"

12 Chapter 4 "A second Empire"

15 "A second Empire"

17 "A second Empire"

19 EXAM # 1 *****

22 Chapter 5 'Capital Sins'

24 Capital Sins

26 "Capital Sins"

29 Chapter 6 "Continent on the Move"

Oct1 "Continent on the Move"

3 "Continent on the Move"

6 Chapter 7. "Children of the Sun"

8 "Children of the Sun"

10 "Children of the Sun"

13 EXAM #2 *****

15 Chapter 10: "The power and the glory"

17 "The power and the glory"

20 "The power and the glory"

22 Chapter 11: "Endangered states"
24 "Endangered States"

27 "Endangered States"
29 "Endangered States"
31 Environmental issues. Deforestation and its consequences. Resource extraction

Nov

3 Environmental issues. Deforestation and its consequences. Resource extraction
5 Environmental issues. Deforestation and its consequences. Resource extraction
7 EXAM # 3 *****

10 "Making Revolution".
12 "Making Revolution"
14 "Making Revolution"

17 "Making Revolution"
19 "Making Revolution"
21 "North of the Border"

24 "North of the Border"
26 TRAVEL DAY
28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Dec

1 "North of the Border"
3 Review
5 Exam # 4 *****
