

9-2013

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

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Recommended Citation

Bustos Fernandez, Maria Jose, "MCLG 100H.01A: Introduction to Latin American Studies" (2013). *Syllabi*. 1795.
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MCLL100/ANTHRO100- Fall 2013

Introduction to Latin American Studies

Professor Maria José Bustos Fernandez

Liberal Arts 437- Office Hours: W 1-3 pm; R 3-45-4.45 pm.

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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 included 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 a 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. 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.

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 on the assigned

reading, 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.

*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. Write as instructed. Answers should be short but **accurate and relevant**.

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

*Each student will choose a country/territory (**prime country**) where you will place a specific emphasis. You need to have this country in mind when we examine different aspects of Latin American reality (economics, politics, people, migration, ethnicity, etc.) I expect each one of you to make specific comments on your prime country when we discuss topics in class. The idea is that you can bridge the unity and diversity of Latin America. This country will be the topic of your final written assignment. You have a whole semester to become a specialist on ONE NATION.

Choices:

*Argentina (2)

*Chile (2)

*Uruguay

*Paraguay

*Peru

*Bolivia (2)

*Venezuela (2)

*Colombia (2)

*Ecuador (2)

*Panama

*Nicaragua

*Costa Rica

*Honduras.

*El Salvador

*Puerto Rico

*Haiti

*Dominican Republic.

*Brazil (2)

*Mexico (3)

*Guatemala

*Cuba (2).

-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 and participation:	20%
Exam #1	30%
Exam #2	30%
Final paper on your country	20%

***What can I do to succeed in this class? Read, read, read, read!!!
There are going to be lots of READING!!! You have to complete all readings and come prepared to class to discuss the questions about the readings.***

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 2013

August

27 Introduction to the course. Guidelines. Getting acquainted. Why study about Latin America? Maps. Geographical location.

29 Winn. Ch.1 "A view from the South" Pp. 1-38.

September

3 Winn. Ch. 2. "Legacies of Empire". pp. 39-91

5 Winn. Ch 2. Legacies of Empire. pp. 31-91.

10 Winn. Ch. 3 "The perils of progress". Pp. 91-125

12 Winn Ch. 4. "A second Empire". pp. 126-165.

17 Review Chs. 3 & 4.

19 Review Ch. 5. "Capital Sins". pp. 165-214.

24 Ch. 6. "Continent on the move". pp. 214-250

26 Ch. 7. "Children of the Sun" pp. 250-291.

October

1 Review Chs. 6 & 7.

3 Ch. 8. "A question of color" pp. 291-329.

8 Ch. 8. "A question of color" pp.291-329.

10 Catch up Day.

15 Exam #1. *****

17 Ch. 10 . “The power and the glory” pp. 372-420.

22 Ch. 10. “The power and the glory”. pp. 372-420.

24 Ch. 12 “Endangered States” . pp. 470-525.

29 Ch.12. “Endangered States”. pp. 470-525.

31 Ch. 13. “Making Revolution” pp. 525-584.

November

5 Ch. 13 “Making Revolution”. pp. 525-584.

7 Ch. 14“North of the Border”. pp. 584-633

12 Ch. 14. “North of the Border” pp. 584-633

14 Latin America in the 1990’s. Neoliberalism.

19 Latin America in the 21st century. New approaches to democracy.

21 Catch up day.

26 Epilogue. Pp. 633-647

28 Thanksgiving

December

3 Epilogue. pp. 633-647

5 Exam #2. *****
