

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES / SOPHOMORE INQUIRY
UNST 240A
Spring 2003

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Class meeting time: 12:30-1:45
Room: CH 203

Office hours: Mon 12:00-2:00, Tues-Thurs 2:00-3:00 and by appointment

Welcome to this introductory class on Latin American Studies. We will try to cover a wide range of topics and approaches to the subject in order to give you a broad introduction to the historical, cultural, economic, and political forces that have shaped the region of Latin America. The class will also give you a foundation from which to choose classes in the Latin American Studies cluster, if you decide to pursue it, and serves as an introduction to the University and to University Studies. The course addresses the four University Studies goals:

- 1). The ‘*variety of human experience*’: “[To] enhance...appreciation for and understanding of the rich complexity of the human experience through the study of differences in ethnic and cultural perspectives, class, race, [and] gender....”
- 2). ‘*Ethical issues and social responsibility*’ (“...expand...understanding of the impact and value of individuals and their choices on society, both intellectually and socially....”)
- 3). ‘*Communication*’ (“...enhance ...capacity to communicate in various ways—writing, graphics, numeracy, and other visual and oral means—to collaborate effectively with others in group work, and to be competent in appropriate communication technologies”)
- 4). Students will learn *various modes of inquiry through interdisciplinary curricula* (problem-posing, investigating, conceptualizing)

Texts: Richard S. Hillman (editor). 2001. *Understanding Contemporary Latin America*. Lynne Reiner Publishers, Boulder.
Paul Goodwin, Jr. 2003. *Global Studies: Latin America*. McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, Guilford, Connecticut.
Ruben Martinez. 2002. *Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*. Picador Press.

Grading for the class is roughly as follows (see below for explanation of assignments):

200 points	Grant Proposal	100 points	Final exam
100 points	<i>Crossing Over</i> essay	100 points	Participation in class and in mentor section
100 points	In-class quizzes and exercises		

There are a total of 600 points for the class. Your final grade will be based on a percentage of the total points. The grade scale will roughly follow the 90-100 (A), 80-89 (B), 70-79 (C), etc. distribution.

Assignments:

1. **Grant Proposal** — you will write a 8-10 page (2000-2500 words) grant proposal for a research project to be carried out in somewhere in Latin America. The project can be on any topic, but must necessitate foreign area study. You will need to research both the pertinent aspects of the study (what are you going to do and why) as well as the logistics of accomplishing your work (itinerary, budget). Your study must entail at least 3 months of foreign area work and the budget must be no more than 20,000 US dollars. The proposal will be written in stages, the TA and I will read two of your drafts and return them with comments before your final draft is due. Your grant proposal will be reviewed and funded (or not funded) by a group of your fellow students. (This will not necessarily reflect on your grade.) I will hand out more specific guidelines for the grant proposals during the second week of class (200 points—10 points for title; 20 points for sources; 35 points for each rough draft; 100 points for final proposal).
2. **Crossing Over essay** — Read and review book by Ruben Martinez (5-6 pages, 750-1000 words). Focus on one of the following themes (or combine, say, race and popular culture), and discuss how Martinez develops the issue in *Crossing Over*. What examples can you draw from the text? Do manifestations, experiences, or impacts vary between Mexico and the US? What do you think about the issue—does Martinez characterize it fairly? What are the long-term implications for Mexico and/or the US? (100 points)

Impact on children

Women's role

Diffusion of popular culture

Race relations

Ethnicity

Economic situation for migrants in Mexico/US

Social status/class

Health and welfare

Community

Law enforcement (migration, drugs)

3. **In-class quizzes and exercises** — There will be occasional in class exercises and quizzes (100 points)
4. **Final Exam** — a final exam will cover material from the text and from class discussions. Exam will consist of identification, definition and long and short essay questions. I will give you a study guide (key words) and a list of sample questions before the exam (100 pts.)
5. **Participation** — you are expected to attend class and mentor section regularly; to be prepared for class discussion; to be an effective contributor to class activities; and to have your work done in a timely manner (100 points).

Students must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course. No make up for in-class work. I expect assignments to be turned in on time except in the case of verifiable illness or family emergency. I do not accept electronic files of your work, you must turn in a hard copy. If you want to demonstrate that you have the work done via electronic submission, you must then turn in a hard copy later that day or the following day.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the submission of another's work as your own. It is also a serious academic crime. Any instance of plagiarism will result in an automatic "0" for that assignment.

Date	Topic	Reading in: <i>Understanding Contemporary Latin America</i>	Reading in: <i>Global Studies: Latin America</i>	Assignment due
April 1	Introduction to class Intro to Latin American Studies			
April 3	Geographical Setting	Chapter 1 — Introduction Chapter 2 — Latin America: A Geographical Preface	Latin America: Myth and Reality pp. 3-6 Mexico: On the Verge of Change 7-14 Central America: Lands in Turmoil 16-22	
April 8	Geographical Setting		South America: An Imperfect Prism 47-53 Caribbean: Sea of Diversity 97-103 Article #1	
April 10	Historical Context	Chapter 3 — Historical Context		Title due, grant proposal
April 15	Historical Context			
April 17	Latin American Politics	Chapter 4 — Latin American Politics		Sources due (10 sources in correct format, max ½ internet sites)
April 22	Latin American Politics		Articles # 3, 5, 9, 17, 20	
April 24	Economies of Latin America	Chapter 5 — The Economies of Latin America		
April 29	Latin American Economic Development	Chapter 11 — Education and Development	Articles #2, 6, 7, 11, 24	
May 1	International Relations	Chapter 7 — International Relations		1 st draft due, grant proposal
May 6	International Relations		Articles # 8, 19	

Date	Topic	Reading in: <i>Understanding Contemporary Latin America</i>	Reading in: <i>Global Studies: Latin America</i>	Assignment due
May 8	Population	Chapter 8 — Population, Environment and Urbanization		
May 13	Environment		Articles # 13, 16, 26	2 nd draft due, grant proposal
May 15	Urbanization			
May 20	Race, Ethnicity, and Class	Chapter 9 — Patterns of Race, Ethnicity, and Class		
May 22	Race, Ethnicity, and Class		Articles # 15, 23	<i>Crossing Over</i> essay due
May 27	Role of Women	Chapter 10 — Role of Women	Article # 4	
May 29	Religion and the Church	Chapter 12 — Religion in Latin America		
June 3	Art and Literature	Chapter 13 — Latin American Literature		Final draft of grant proposal
June 5	Grant reviews			
June 9	Final Exam (Monday 10:15-12:05)			

Note: Lecture topics and schedules can change, but will roughly correspond to either the topics in the text or the pending assignments.