

LAH 3931: Slavery, Race, and Social Movements in Latin America (Special Topics in Latin American History)

Spring 2023

Tuesday, periods 2–3 (8:30 AM – 10:25 AM); Thursday, period 3 (9:35 AM – 10:25 AM) – FLI 0113

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Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:25 AM – 11:55 AM – FLI 210/ liciniomiranda@ufl.edu

SYLLABUS

About this Course

This course will cover the history of contemporary Latin America from the nineteenth century to the present era. It will explore the major political, social, and economic transformations that occurred since Latin America's independence from colonial powers, delving into important topics, such as slavery, race, democracy, nation-state making, corruption, and civil rights. The course will trace the development of major themes and ideas in Latin America's formation, including political participation, social inclusion, racial equality, environmentalism, LGBT+ rights, and neoliberalism. More importantly, it will analyze the region's continuous struggle to establish and preserve democratic institutions, citizenship, and human rights. Furthermore, it will seek to understand the constant upheavals of dictatorships, widespread violence, and drug wars in its history.

The course is of great interest to new students, including those with background in Latin America, but, more importantly, to those concerned with understanding the region's developments in the recent past decades. It will be taught face to face (that is, in an actual classroom). Students will learn to develop critical thinking, writing, and analytic skills, all of which are integral to their professional development.

Lecture Schedule

- First Week (Jan 10–12): Introductions and Chapter 1 (The State...)
- Second and third weeks (Jan 17–Jan 27): Chapter 2 (Nation Building...) and Chapter 3 (Political Regimes...).
- Fourth and fifth weeks (Jan 31–Feb 10): Chapter 4 (Development...) and Chapter 5 (Democracy...).
- Sixth and seventh weeks (Feb 14–Feb 23): Chapter 6 (Political Inclusion...) and Chapter 7 (Political Parties...)
- Eight and ninth weeks (Feb 28–Mar 9): Chapter 8 (The Protection...) and Chapter 9 (Transitional Justice)
- Tenth week (Mar 14–Mar 16): Spring Break (no classes).
- Eleventh and twelfth weeks (Mar 21–Mar 30): Chapter 10 (High-Level Corruption...) and Chapter 11 (The New Violence...)
- Thirteenth and fourteenth weeks (Apr 4–Apr 13): Chapter 12 (Social Rights...) and Chapter 13 (Sustainable...)
- Fifteenth and sixteenth weeks (Apr 18–Apr 25): Chapter 14 (Basic Social Rights...) and Chapter 15 (Unequal Democracies...)

Recommended Text

The recommended textbook for this course is Gerardo L. Munck and Juan Pablo Luna's *Latin American Politics and Society: A Comparative and Historical Analysis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

There will be two examinations, which are worth 30% each (or 60% combined) of the final grade. The first midterm exam will occur in-class on the first session of February 28. The second midterm will be a 24h take home exam due on April 26. Both exams will be based on short answers and/or multiple-choice format, compelling the student to demonstrate a detailed and specific knowledge of the topics covered in class.

There will be an essay as well, which will be due on April 7. It is worth 30% of the final grade and should have at least 6,000 words, double-spaced, including the footnotes or endnotes. The student's formatting of notes and bibliography must abide by the style of The Chicago Manual of Style. The student will be provided with a prompt, and the essay shall be based on course lectures, a set of scholarly articles (listed in the following section) and at least one history book about Latin America.

Students are expected to engage in class discussions by making and answering questions, debating, and sharing opinions. Participation is worth 10% of the final grade. Students who are often late for class will be penalized. In sum, the final grade will be determined in the following manner:

- First midterm exam – 30%
- Second midterm exam – 30%
- Essay – 30%
- Participation – 10%

There are penalties for missing the deadline of the essay. Half a grade will be taken if the student turns in the essay an hour after the deadline. A full grade will be taken if it is turned in within the 24-hour period following the deadline, and the penalty is raised to two full grades in the 24-hour period following that, and so forth.

Any questions about grades can be raised with the instructor. You may request re-grading or dispute a grade up to one week after the assignment has been returned to you or the grade released. For more information, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Scholarly Articles for the Historiographical Essay

The student will employ each scholarly article presented below in the essay. They can be accessed online, using the George Smathers Library website to access the online version of each journal, which then can be searched for the article of interest.

- Beattie, Peter M. "The House, the Street, and the Barracks: Reform and Honorable Social Space in Brazil, 1864-1945." *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol.76, No.3 (August 1996): 439-73.
- Henderson, Kaitlyn. "Race, Discrimination, and the Cuban Constitution of 1940." *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 100, No. 2 (May 2020): 257-284.

- González, Juan Carlos Mezo. "Consuming the Mexican Body: Gender, Race, and the Nation in Macho Tips, 1985–1989." *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 100, No. 4 (November 2020): 655-687.
- Needell, Jeffrey D. "The Revolta Contra Vacina of 1904: The Revolt against 'Modernization' in Belle-Epoque Rio de Janeiro," *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 67:2 (May 1987): 233-270.
- López, Rick. "The India Bonita Contest of 1921 and the Ethnicization of Mexican National Culture," *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol.82, No.2 (May 2002): 291-328.
- Vrana, Heather. "The Precious Seed of Christian Virtue: Charity, Disability, and Belonging in Guatemala, 1871–1947," *The Hispanic American historical review*, Vol.101, No.2 (May 2021): 265-295.

Academic Honesty

The instructor will not tolerate **cheating** nor **plagiarism**. A student responsible for either misconduct will fail the course. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge. Furthermore, the Honor Code specifies several behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Also, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor, and/or see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

Students with Disabilities

Do not hesitate to ask for accommodation for a documented disability. Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Behavior and Etiquette

Treat the instructor and your colleagues with respect, whether in person or in online communication. Regarding the instructor, use the proper title (in this case, "Mr."), and avoid referring by first name. Be mindful to employ concise language and be clear, avoiding slangs and emoticons, and remembering to use the appropriate spelling and grammar. Also, be careful with personal information and the use of humor or sarcasm, which may be misunderstood, especially in online interaction. When writing an e-mail to the instructor and/or colleagues, use a descriptive subject line and be straightforward.

Common Courtesy

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be set to vibrate mode during class. Students who receive or make calls or text messages during class will be asked to leave and marked absent for the day. The instructors may ask a student engaging in disruptive behavior to leave the class. Although the instructor will not record attendance, students should be aware of tardiness and of the detrimental effects of missing classes.

Students in Distress

If you or a friend is in distress, contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the *U Matter, We Care Team* can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Counseling Resources:

Resources available on-campus for students include the following:

- University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575;
- Student Health Care Center, 392-1161; and
- Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261, umatter.ufl.edu.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.