

**INST 207**  
**Introduction to Latin American Studies**  
**The Croft Institute for International Studies**  
**University of Mississippi, Oxford**  
**Croft 107**  
**TTh 1-2:15 PM**

Dr. Kate M. Centellas  
Office: Leavell Hall 116  
Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 TTh  
Email: [kmcentel@go.olemiss.edu](mailto:kmcentel@go.olemiss.edu)  
Office Phone: 915-7129

**Course Description & Goals**

The course aims to provide a theoretical and substantive understanding of the people, cultures, politics and development of Latin America. We ask what defines Latin America as a region and examine key historical, cultural, and political trends from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century through the present. We will also analyze several countries representing major regions of Latin America to understand how they reflect and shape regional socio-historical processes. By the end of the term, students will possess:

- a) An understanding of the broad forces shaping the region and its people
- b) Detailed knowledge about the cultures, conditions, and politics in various countries
- c) An awareness of the diversity of Latin American experiences
- d) The ability to analyze contemporary events in socio-historical context

**Required Textbooks**

Conaghan, Catherine  
2005 Fujimori's Peru. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press

Gates, Henry Louis Jr.  
2011 Black in Latin America. New York: NYU Press

Guevera, Ernesto Che  
2004 The Motorcycle Diaries. Ocean Press

Guy, Donna J  
2009 Women Build the Welfare State. Durham, NC: Duke University Press

Lazar, Sian  
2008 El Alto, Rebel City. Durham, NC: Duke University Press

Stephen, Lynn  
2007 Transborder Lives. Durham, NC: Duke University Press

\* Vanden, Harry E. and Gary Prevost  
2011 Latin America: An Introduction (LAI in course schedule). New York: Oxford University Press

These books are available at the bookstore or via Amazon

**There are assigned articles for the course.**

**These articles are indicated in the course schedule and are available for download on Blackboard.**

I also highly recommend keeping track of current events in Latin America by reading some of the following publications: The New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), L.A. Times ([www.latimes.com](http://www.latimes.com)), the BBC ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)), and Al Jazeera ([www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)). In Spanish, the national newspapers of most Latin American countries (ex. Mexico: El Universal ([www.eluniversal.com.mx](http://www.eluniversal.com.mx)); Chile: La Tercera ([www.latercera.cl](http://www.latercera.cl))). Bringing interesting and relevant articles to class may help your participation grade.

### **Assignments**

1. Participation (includes discussion leader)
2. Quizzes (Map quiz + bi-weekly quizzes on BB)
3. In-Class midterm
4. 1 essay (rough draft + final draft)
5. Final project

### **Grading**

For calculating the final course grade, the assignments will be given the following weights:

Participation: 20% (discussion leader = 30% of your final participation grade)

Quizzes: 15% (5% in-class map quiz, 10% biweekly quizzes on BB, 2% each quiz)

Midterm: 20%

Essay: 20% (50% rough draft grade, 50% final draft grade)

Final Project: 25% (presentation on an assigned course theme using primary sources, present in pairs)

**This course is graded on the +/- scale.**

The scale is:

93-100: A

90-92: A-

87-89: B+

83-86: B

80-82: B-

77-79: C+

73-76: C

70-72: C-

69 and below: D

59 and below: F

If you are borderline, i.e. 79.5, the decision to round up or down will be based primarily upon your participation grade, which is itself **20%** of your final grade. For instance, Sally has a 92 in participation and received a final grade of 89.5. Johnny has an 85 in participation and an 89.5 total. Johnny gets a B+ and Sally gets an A-.

## **Extra Credit**

There will be several opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. You will be able to attend evening lectures when available and write a 1-2 page response to the event that relates it to the course for extra credit. These response papers are due NO LATER than 1 week following the event and MUST discuss the themes of the event and the course for full credit. You can get up to 5 points extra credit per response, with the extra credit points added to your lowest assignment grade(s) – midterm or essay. You may also write a 1-2 page film review of the in-class feature films, due one week after the screening. These should not be summaries but rather a critical analysis of how the film relates to themes in Latin American studies. You may only write TWO extra responses, however. These events will be announced in class and, where known, are listed on the syllabus.

## **Technology Policy**

I encourage you to use e-readers, digital versions of the texts, and so on. You may take notes in class via iPad, tablet, or laptop. However, the use of technology in class is for class purposes only. If I catch you texting, chatting, or watching Netflix in class I will a) ask you to leave and b) not allow you to use your device for the next class period.

## **Late Policy**

I do not accept late papers or requests for make-up midterms. The only exceptions are if you have a doctor's note or a note from your advisor.

## **Attendance & Participation**

I do not take attendance in this class. However, I do not provide extensions, make-ups, or any other considerations for absences unless you have cleared the absence with me IN ADVANCE or have a doctor's note or a note from your advisor. There are no exceptions.

This course is both discussion and lecture based. Your participation in class activities is vital for your understanding (and enjoyment) of the material. A good participation grade is based on engagement with course themes in class. I encourage you to bring in examples from your lives, to mention anything that made you think of course topics, and to use course ideas to broaden your understanding of the world around you. Evidence for this includes: asking questions about the material; answering questions posed by myself and other students; referencing interesting or puzzling popular examples such as magazine articles or T.V. shows in discussion; posting to the Facebook page, and respecting others' opinions.

## **There is a Facebook page for this class.**

Since many of us are on Facebook more than Blackboard we have a class page instead of a discussion board. One component of your participation grade is to post links, questions, and comment on the Facebook page. You may also post general questions about the course on the page. Please note: I do not need to be friends with all of you for you to access the page.

Just search for it and like it from your account. The page name is Croft 207 Fall 2012:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Croft-207-Fall-2012/353058074768685>

## **Student Responsibilities**

Along with the course readings, assignments, and class attendance, you are expected to know and understand the material on the syllabus. I do not respond to questions that are clearly answered on the syllabus or on Blackboard (e.g. "what's the reading?") Also, if the question is "will this be on the test/essay?" the answer is yes. Anything discussed in class is part of course materials and you should know it. We will be discussing reading and study strategies with you as the semester proceeds.

Remember, always check Blackboard first if you have a question or need a reading/PowerPoint!

## **Statement on Accommodations**

I am happy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact the Office of Student Disability Services (915-7128). SDS will then contact the instructor through the student by means of an Instructor Notification of Classroom Accommodations form.

## **Office Hours**

If you have questions, concerns, or ideas about the material come and talk to me. I prefer to work with students in person (not over email) whenever possible. I have an open door office hours policy, meaning you can come to our offices during these times with no appointment. If you cannot make these times, send an email and we can arrange an alternate time.

## **Facebook, Blackboard and Email**

You are expected to check your email. I will send reminders and important notices to your Ole Miss account. I have posted the syllabus on Blackboard and additional readings on Blackboard. I will add PowerPoints and handouts as the semester proceeds. There will also be quizzes on BB approximately every 2 weeks. You may also check your running weighted grade total on BB.

A heads up: I do not keep the late hours many of you do! Therefore, if you email me at night (after about 8 PM) I probably not receive or respond to your email until the next day. Plan ahead!

## **Changes to the Syllabus**

Often during the course of a semester I may see new and interesting articles are the relevant to class. I will notify you when new materials are added to the readings. You are responsible for keeping track and reading (or watching/listening) to any new materials I add. Similarly, sometimes I have to change the order or dates of when we will be covering certain issues. I will inform you of these changes using various methods (email, FB, announcement in class, etc).

|

## Course Schedule

Theme	Tuesday	Thursday	Additional Assignments & Materials
<b>1. Introduction: What is Latin America?</b>	<b>8/21</b> Introduction & syllabus	<b>8/23</b> Chapters 1 & 2, LAI	Map quiz list & blank map distributed Thursday
<b>2. Formative patterns: conquest, colonization, and social structure</b>	<b>8/28</b> Chapters 4 & 6 LAI  Discussion Leader:	<b>8/30</b> Mann, Chs. 1 & 3, 1491 (on BB) Discussion Leader:	MAP QUIZ in class on Thursday
<b>3. Independence NOT revolution</b>	<b>9/4</b> Chapter 3, LAI  Discussion Leader:	<b>9/6</b> Chapter 8, LAI  Discussion Leader:	
<b>4. Race, religion, and society across Latin America</b>	<b>9/11</b> Gates, Intro, Ch 1 & 2 in Black in Latin America  Discussion Leader:	<b>9/13</b> Gates, Ch. 3 & 6  Discussion Leader:	QUIZ on BB, due before class Thursday
<b>5. Race, religion, and society cont.</b>	<b>9/18</b> In-class film: Black in Latin America Article: Hooker, J. "Indigenous Inclusion/Black Exclusion" (on BB) Discussion Leader:	<b>9/20</b> Ch. 5 LAI  Discussion Leader:	
<b>6. Gender, politics, and nationalism</b>	<b>9/25</b> Guy, Women Build the Welfare State Introduction, Chs. 1 & 2 Discussion Leader:	<b>9/27</b> Guy, Chapters 5, 6, and Conclusion  Discussion Leader:	QUIZ on BB, due before class on Thursday
<b>7. Peronism and revolutionary thought</b>	<b>10/2</b> Chapter 7, LAI The Motorcycle Diaries, to p. 90 Discussion Leader:	<b>10/4</b> Motorcycle Diaries, to end *start film	

<p><b>8. Peronism and revolutionary thought</b></p>	<p><b>10/9</b> Motorcycle Diaries to end</p>	<p><b>10/11</b> <b>MIDTERM IN CLASS</b></p>	<p><b>MIDTERM THURSDAY</b></p>
<p><b>9. Contemporary authoritarianism: Where's the revolution?</b></p>	<p><b>10/16</b> Chapters 9 &amp; 10, LAI  Weber, Max. "Politics as a Vocation" (on BB)  Discussion Leader:</p>	<p><b>10/18</b> Conaghan, Fujimori's Peru, Chs 1-4  Discussion Leader:</p>	<p><b>Extra credit DUE in class 10/16</b></p>
<p><b>10. Contemporary authoritarianism – corruption</b></p>	<p><b>10/23</b> Conaghan, Chs. 7-11  Discussion Leader:</p>	<p><b>10/25</b> In-class film: "The Fall of Fujimori"  Discussion Leader:</p>	<p><b>QUIZ before class on Thursday</b> <b>Explore</b> <a href="http://www.pbs.org/pov/falloffujimori/links_books.php">http://www.pbs.org/pov/falloffujimori/links_books.php</a>  We will also use some of these links in class</p>
<p><b>11. Reactions to corruption and neoliberalism: Bolivia</b></p>	<p><b>10/30</b> LAI, Chapter 11 Lazar, Intro, Chapters 1 &amp; 2 Discussion Leader:</p>	<p><b>11/1</b> Lazar, Chapters 3 &amp; 4 (5 recommended)  Discussion Leader:</p>	<p><b>Essay prompts distributed in class on Thursday</b></p>
<p><b>12. New formulations of citizenship</b></p>	<p><b>11/6</b> Holston, James, "Insurgent Citizenship." (on BB)  Stephen, Transborder Lives, chs. 1-3  Discussion Leader:</p>	<p><b>11/8</b> Stephen, Chs. 4, 5, 7  Discussion Leader:</p>	<p><b>QUIZ before class on Thursday</b>  Check BB and FB for links to recent stories by Human Rights Watch, slideshows and reports by The New York Times, and radio stories by NPR, along with additional up-to-date materials on the Mexican drug war and gang warfare in Rio's favelas. We will use some of these in class this week and next week.</p>

<p><b>13. Failed States? Citizens of What? Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil.</b></p>	<p><b>11/13</b> Readings &amp; listening/viewing assignments TBD (will be available on BB), usually articles from the New Yorker and a This American Life stories (1<sup>st</sup> half of class)</p> <p>Discussion Leader:</p> <p>Second half: Dossier assignment IN CLASS. Bring your readings for today as well as your computers to look up the HRW reports, other sources, and links available on FB and elsewhere.</p>	<p><b>11/15</b> <b>NO CLASS, AAA meetings</b></p>	<p><b>Essays (1<sup>st</sup> draft) due Tuesday in class</b></p>
<p><b>14. THANKSGIVING</b></p>	<p><b>11/20</b> NO CLASS</p>	<p><b>11/22</b> NO CLASS</p>	
<p><b>15. Conclusion</b></p>	<p><b>11/27</b> Film: También La Lluvia</p>	<p><b>11/29</b> cont.</p>	<p><b>Final essays DUE in class on TUESDAY</b></p> <p><b>Quiz before class THURSDAY</b></p> <p><b>Final extra credit DUE during the final</b></p>

**PRESENTATIONS DURING FINAL TIME SLOT, NOON-3:00 PM THURSDAY 12/6. Your topic will be assigned and guidelines distributed during the first week of November. You will present in pairs for 10 minutes.**