

Spring 2014
PHL 379-01 Latin American Philosophy
TTH 10:30-11:45 p.m.
Room HM 109

Instructor: Dr. Ernesto Rosen Velásquez
Office: 477 Jesse Phillips Humanities Center
Office Phone (973) 229-2320
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 p.m.
Email: evelasquez1@udayton.edu

Course Information

This course will provide a background to the history of internal debates of Latin American philosophy beginning with the colonial period which takes the Spanish Conquest of 1492 as its point of departure. We will think through the debates pertaining to the identity of Pre-Columbian Indians. Then we will transition to the Independentist and Positivist periods in which key political theorist/activists address the themes of breaking free from the Spanish Empire and eventually articulating principles to guide the process of nation building in the new postcolonial nations of Latin America. We will then shift to the contemporary period and discuss debates on poverty, education, plurination-states and the potentials and challenges with reconfiguring society in such a way that considers indigenous cosmovisions.

Assignments:

Homework/Group Exercises.....	20
3 Short Papers	30
Midterm	20
Final Paper	30

Grading: Grading scale will follow the one used on Isidore. At any time during the semester you will be able to track your progress, scores on assignments and current grade as calculated by Gradebook+ on Isidore.

All students are expected to be familiar with the Student Handbook's section on academic dishonesty and plagiarism. When it comes to plagiarism, ignorance is no excuse: for a clear overview of what constitutes plagiarism see http://library.udayton.edu/faqs/howto/plagarism_body.php. If you engage in any type of academic dishonesty, you will receive an automatic F in the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

Required Texts:

1. Tzvetan Todorov *The Conquest of America* Foreward by Anthony Pagden (University of Oklahoma Press, 1999) ISBN: 0-8061-3137-3
2. *Latin American Philosophy for the 21st Century* ed. Jorge J.E. Gracia and Elizabeth Millan-Zaibert (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 2004) ISBN 1-57392-978-6
3. Articles will also be available on PDF on Isidore. Just click on "Resources" and they will be posted.

(LAP)= Latin American Philosophy for the 21st Century

(PDF)= Article is on PDF on Isidore so go to our class tab and click on "Resources." The article should be there.

Classroom Decorum:

1. There will be daily quizzes/homeworks/group exercises for every class so **attendance is required**. If you miss class there is no make up for doing above mentioned work.
2. No laptops in class. All cell phones/I-phones and all electronic devices must be off while in class.
3. Your attendance and participation in class is very important, a substantial percentage of your final grade. Be attentive and mentally engaged and not simply a body sitting in a chair whose mind is somewhere else.

Course Objectives: The course has the following learning goals:

1. Transcend disciplinary boundaries.
2. Address contemporary social issues and problems.
3. Examine significant social issues in multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary frameworks.
4. Bring together different disciplinary perspectives to enhance students' understanding of significant issues.

How to earn an "A" in this course: Be an Active Learner

1. Read the daily reading assignments before each class period. There is nothing you can do that will improve your grade more than reading ahead of time. Your comprehension of the material will be many times greater if you're not hearing the material for the first time during class.
2. Ask clarifying questions during class. If you don't understand something, say so. A lot of students are afraid to admit when they don't understand something because they don't want to look dumb. In my experience, however, only the "A" students ask me about things they don't understand.
3. Participate in class discussion. Because philosophy is an activity more than the memorization of facts, students who remain disengaged from class discussion never score as well on the exams.
4. Ask questions, don't wait until the exam to figure out what you know and what you don't know.
5. Come to class everyday. My explanations in class will make a big difference to your understanding of the material. It's more difficult than you think to learn this stuff on your own.

Services for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may affect your work in the class, please let me know as early as possible in the term, so that we can make sure you have the accommodations you need. If you need to request academic accommodations due to disability, please contact Student Learning Support (LTC 023 at 937-229-2066) or by email at disabilityservices@udayton.edu.

Support for Your Learning in This Course

The LTC's Office of Student Learning Services (SLS) offers a variety of services to assist you in achieving academic success at the University, including study skills workshops, tutoring and consultations, disability screenings, and a web site with many resources (<http://learningservices.udayton.edu>). Please contact SLS at 937-229-2066 or visit the office on the ground floor of Roesch Library (LTC 023).

Below is the tentative syllabus:

Part I: The Education Crisis

T 1/14 Introduction (biographies, their disciplines)
TH 1/16 Ramon Grosfoguel “Dilemmas of Ethnic Studies in the United States”

T 1/21 Paula Moya “Why Latina/o?, Why Academy?” Nelson Maldonado-Torres “Latina/o Academy of Arts and Sciences” Ramona Hernandez “Dominicans and the National Latino/a Academy of Arts and Sciences”
TH 1/23 Anders Burman “Places to Think With, Books to Think About”

Part II: Colonial Period: Learning from the Spanish Conquest

T 1/28 Film *Precious Knowledge* **1st Short Paper Due**
TH 1/30 The Conquest of America Todorov Chpt. 1

T 2/4 The Conquest of America Todorov Chpt. 2
TH 2/6 The Conquest of America Todorov Chpt. 2

T 2/11 The Conquest of America Todorov Chpt. 3 Bartolomé de las Casas (LAP pgs.31-49)
TH 2/13 The Conquest of America Todorov Chpt. 3 Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda (PDF)

T 2/18 The Conquest of America Todorov Chpt. 4 & Epilogue Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala (PDF)
TH 2/20 The Conquest of America Todorov Chpt. 4 & Epilogue

T 2/25 Film *Harvest of Empire* **2nd Short Paper Due**
TH 2/27 *****No Class I Present at APA Central*****

Part III: Independentist & Positivist Periods: Nation Building in Postcolonial Latin America

T 3/4 Simón Bolívar (LAP pgs. 61-66) and José Martí (LAP pgs. 243-252)
TH 3/6 *****No Class Mid-term Break*****

T 3/11 Sarmiento (LAP pgs. 233-241) and Juan Bautista Alberdi (PDF)
TH 3/13 José Enrique Rodo (PDF), Samuel Ramos (LAP 279-285) and Leopoldo Zea (PDF)

T 3/18 Victor Raul Haya de la Torre (PDF) Edmundo O’Gorman (PDF) and Roberto Fernandez Retamar (PDF)
TH 3/20 Film *South of the Border* **Post-Midterm Exam**

Part IV: Contemporary Period: Dependency Theory, Revolutionary Thought, and Politics of Liberation

T 3/25 Plinio Mendoza, Carlos Montaner, Vargas Llosa “Guide to the Perfect Latin American Idiot” (PDF)
TH 3/27 *****No Class I attend White Privilege Conference*****

T 4/1 Eduardo Galeano Open Veins of Latin America (PDF) **Abstract of Final Paper Due**
TH 4/3 Ramon Grosfoguel “Developmentalism, Modernity and Dependency Theory in Latin America” (PDF)

T 4/8 Sub Marcos “The Third World War Has Begun” (PDF) Zapatistas “Sixth Declaration of the Selva Lacondona”(PDF)
TH 4/10 Che Guevarra “Man and Socialism in Cuba” (PDF) **3rd Short Paper Due**

T 4/15 Walter Mignolo “The Zapatistas Theoretical Revolution” (PDF)
TH 4/17 *****No Class Easter Recess*****

T 4/22 Enrique Dussel *Twenty Theses on Politics* (PDF)
TH 4/24 Enrique Dussel *Twenty Theses on Politics* (PDF) *****Last Day of Class*****

4/28-5/2 **Final Exam Week Final Paper Due Wednesday April 30, 2014**