

Latin American Philosophy

2:20 pm-3: 35 pm

YMCA 115

Dr. Gregory F. Pappas

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Office Hours- 11:00-12:30 TTH & by appt.

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Course Description:

The course will read and examine the philosophical writings of some of the most important contributions of Latino/as (or Hispanics) to the history of philosophy. Latin American philosophers have presented and defended philosophically plausible and unique answers to (1) some of the fundamental problems of philosophy, and to (2) philosophical problems that have arisen out of their unique historical circumstances. These philosophers constitute a philosophical tradition with its own historical development. The course will consider this development and examine the views of Latin American philosophers on the nature of reality, humans, philosophy, values, identity, and other issues that have faced them from the colonial period to the present day.

The emphasis will be on 20th century thought and philosophical issues but some texts will require that get acquainted with the common historical circumstances that have shaped the experience of Hispanics in Latin America and the United States. In other words, we will combine a historical and thematic approach. However, the focus will be of evaluating philosophically the positions considered and determining their contemporary relevance.

Course Objectives:

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works in Latin American philosophy (EEO 1). 2. To understand the values of Latin American Philosophers as expressions of their historical circumstances (EEO 2). 3. To respond critically to works in Latin American philosophy and appreciate their relevance for today (EEO 3).

1. To demonstrate a

Required Texts:

Gracia & Millán-Zaibert, eds. *Latin American Philosophy for the 21st Century*, Amherst, NY: Prometheus, 2004. (Identified in outline as 'G')

Nuccetelli, Susan. *Latin American Thought: Philosophical Problems and Arguments*. Boulder, CO: Westview, 2002. (identified in outline as 'N')

Jose Ortega Y Gasset, *Some Lessons in Metaphysics* (W W Norton & Co Inc (Np); New Ed edition (June 1976)

Risieri Frondizi: *The Nature of the Self: A Functional Interpretation* (New Haven, 1953; Carbondale, Illinois, 1971)

Risieri Frondizi: *What is Value?: An Introduction to Axiology*, trans. Solomon Lipp (La Salle, 1962; 2nd ed, 1971)

Enrique Dussel, *Philosophy of Liberation*, trans. Aquilina Martinez and Christine Morkovsky (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, [1974] 1985).

Packet of readings (available at Notes & Quotes, University Ave)
(Identified in outline as 'P')

Outline of the Course:

Week 1: Pre-Colonial Philosophies, Scholasticism, and Latin American Positivism

"Pre-Colombian Philosophies" James Maffie (P)

"Scholasticism", "Positivism", pp.179-193 (N),

Sor Juana, pp.51-60 (G)

José Enrique Rodó, selections from *Ariel* (P)

Zea, *Positivism in Mexico* (P)

Week 2-3: Philosophy of Life and Metaphysics

"Metaphysics in Latin America" Jorge Gracia in *A Companion to Metaphysics* edited by Ernest Sosa (Blackwell) (P)

Jose Ortega Y Gasset, *Some Lessons in Metaphysics*

Miguel de Unamuno *Tragic Sense of Life*

"Carlos Vaz Ferreira: Uruguayan Philosopher"

(John H. Haddox *Journal of Inter-American Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 4, Special Issue: Argentina - Uruguay (Oct., 1966), pp. 595-600))

Samuel Ramos, selections from *Hacia un Nuevo Humanismo* (P)

Risieri Frondizi, selections from *El Punto de Partida de la Filosofía* (P)

Week 4: Philosophical Anthropology (on Human Nature)

Romero, *A Theory of Man* (P)

Antonio Caso (Electronic Reserve, Library)

Samuel Ramos (Electronic Reserve, Library)

Risieri Frondizi: *The Nature of the Self: A Functional Interpretation* (New Haven, 1953; Carbondale, Illinois, 1971)

Week 5-6: Value Theory

Introduction, pp.161-166 (G)

Risieri Frondizi, *What is Value?: An Introduction to Axiology*, trans. Solomon Lipp (La Salle, 1962; 2nd ed, 1971)

Alejandro Korn, pp. 167-180 (G)

Alejandro Deustua, pp.181-192 (G)

Week 7-8: Identity: Race and Ethnicity.

Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*

Introduction, pp.219-229 (G)

Jorge J. E. Gracia, selections from *Hispanic/Latino Identity: A Philosophical Perspective* (P)

Gregory Fernando Pappas, "Jorge Gracia's Philosophical Perspective on Hispanic Identity" in *Philosophy and Social Criticism* volume 27, no 2, 2001, pp.20-28.

Gloria Anzaldua "From Borderlands"(P)

Ofelia Schutte, pp.335-354 (G)

Linda Martin Alcoff, pp.311-334 (G)

Week 9: Philosophy of education and religion.

Gutiérrez, selections from *A Theology of Liberation*,

“Homilies of Romero” (P)

Paulo Freire Pedagogy of the Oppressed

Week 10-13 Socio-Political Philosophy: Justice, Democracy, and the Philosophy of Liberation

Jose Carlos Mariategui, pp. 257-265 (G)

Luis Villoro, “Which Democracy?” “On Consensual Democracy”
<http://them.polylog.org/2/fvl-en.htm>

Enrique Dussel, *Philosophy of Liberation*, trans. Aquilina Martinez and Christine Morkovsky (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, [1974] 1985).

Paget, *Caliban's Reason: Introducing Afro-Caribbean Thought* (P)

Mendieta, ed. *Latin American Philosophy: Currents, Issues, Debates*,
Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2003.

Evaluation:

30 % 5 Critical Reactions:

These are short essays (try to keep it no longer than 1 page) by means of a list group on the Internet.

10 % Participation (in-class and in cyberspace)

20 % 1 Report:

There are two components to the report:

- (1) a brief outline of what is (are) the main argument or points made by the author.
- (2) some critical questions (or general evaluation) with the goal of opening a class discussion.

40 % Final paper 10 to 15 pages. This is your own personal inquiry about some issue or philosopher relevant to the class. You are welcome to consult with me early in the semester to see if I can guide you regarding the research or general outline of your paper.

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