

HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVES ON LATIN AMERICAN THOUGHT AND PHILOSOPHY

NEH Workshops in the Rio Grande Valley, 2006-07

Director: Susana Nuccetelli (University of Texas - Pan American)

Co-director: Gary Seay (University of Texas - Pan American)

Tentative Schedule of Activities

NEH Workshops: Humanities Perspectives on Latin American Philosophy

May 2006 - March 2007, University of Texas - Pan American

Palmetto Room, Student Union

May 8-11 (Monday - Thursday, 3:00-4:30). Introductory Sessions

Overview of Latin American Philosophy

May 8. “Knowledge and Reason in Pre-Columbian Cultures”

Faculty: Susana Nuccetelli

Presenter: Greg Gilson. Readings: León-Portilla, “The Birth of Philosophy Among the Nahuas;” Sahagún, *Florentine Codex*.

Background Readings: “Almanac,” in *Book of Chilam Balam of Chumayel* [RESERVE] ;

Hollis, “Reason and Ritual” Lukes [RESERVE] , “Some Problems about Rationality.”

[RESERVE]

May 9. “The Conquest and Its Philosophical Legacy”

Faculty: Gary Seay

Presenter: William B. Carter. Readings: Ginés de Sepúlveda, “Prologue to the Members of the Congregation”; Francisco de Vitoria, *On the Indians and the Law of War*.

Background Readings: Vitoria, *Political Writings* [RESERVE] ; Las Casas/Ginés de Sepúlveda,

“Aquí se contiene una disputa o controversia” [RESERVE] ; Todorov, *The Conquest of*

America [RESERVE] .

May 10. “Problems of Political Philosophy in the New Latin American Nations of America”

Faculty: Gary Seay

Presenter: Mark Noe. Readings: Simón Bolívar, “The Letter from Jamaica.” and “The Angostura Address.”

Presenter: Monica Diaz. Readings: Alberdi, *Bases and Starting Points for the Organization of the Argentine Republic*.

Background Readings: “Is Latin American Ready for Democracy?” Haya de la Torre.

May 11 “Latin American Values After Positivism: from Rodó to Vasconcelos”

Faculty: Susana Nuccetelli

Presenter: Danika Brown. Readings: Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*; Rodó, *Ariel*.
Background Readings: Valdés, *Del Ariel de Rodó a la CEPAL* [RESERVE] ; Feinmann, *Filosofía y Nación*; Biagini, *Lucha de ideas en Nuestramérica* [RESERVE] .

Fall 2006

October 7 (Saturday).

The Perspective of the History of Ideas in Latin American Philosophy

Morning Workshop: “The Origins and Development of Latin American Philosophy”

Faculty: Jorge Gracia

Presenter: Cynthia McWilliams

Readings: Jakšić, "The Sources of Latin America Philosophy"; Gracia, "Hispanic Philosophy: Its Beginning and Golden Age."

Background Readings: Gracia, "Latin American Philosophy Today"; Gracia *et al.*, *Philosophical Analysis in Latin America*.

Afternoon Workshop: “The Influence of History of Ideas in Current Latin American Philosophy”

Faculty: Jorge Gracia

Presenter: Suzanne Lalonde

Presenter: Marci Mitchell

Readings: Pereda, “Explanatory and ‘Argumentative’ History of Philosophy”; Rabossi, “History and Philosophy in the Latin American Setting.”

Background Readings: Beuchot, “The Study of Philosophy’s History in Mexico as a Foundation for Doing Mexican Philosophy”; Martí, “Breaking with the Past: Philosophy and Its History in Latin America”; “Introduction” to *Latin American Philosophy and the History of Philosophy*.

November 4 (Saturday).

The Perspective of Political Thought in Latin American Philosophy

Morning Workshop: “Ruptures and Continuities in the Concept of Our America”

Faculty: Ofelia Schutte

Presenter: Caroline Miles

Presenter: Lee Basham

Readings: Martí, “Our America,” 288-296; “The Montecristi Manifesto,” Haya de la Torre, “Is Latin America Ready for Democracy? Mariátegui, *Seven Interpretive Essays on Peruvian Reality*.

Background Readings: González Echevarría, “José Martí: An Introduction”; Belnap and Fernández, *José Martí’s “Our America”: From National to Hemispheric Cultural Studies*; Belnap, “Headbands, Hemp Sandals, and Headdresses: The Dialectics of Dress and Self-Conception in Martí’s ‘Our America’”; Chavarría, *José Carlos Mariátegui and the Rise of Modern Peru*; Hale, “Political and Social Ideas in Latin America, 1870-1930,” in *Cambridge History of Latin America*.

Afternoon Workshop: “Latin America from a Subaltern Perspective”

Faculty: Ofelia Schutte

Presenter: Steve Rice

Readings: Dussel, “The Latin American Culture,” and “Latin American Culture and National Culture”; Comblín, “Science and Technology.”

Background Readings: Dussel, *Ethics and Community*, and *A History of the Church in Latin America*; Bethell, “Latin American Since 1930: Ideas, Culture, and Society” in *Cambridge History of Latin America*.

Spring 2007

January 27 (Saturday).

The Perspective of History in Latin American Philosophy

Morning Workshop: “Folk-Cosmologies in Pre-Columbian Cultures”

Faculty: Meri Clark

Presenter: Luis Rodriguez-Abad

Readings: *Popol Vuh: the Mayan Book of the Dawn of Life*.

Background Readings: León-Portilla, *Time and Reality in the Thought of the Maya*; Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*.

Afternoon Workshop: “Latin American Positivism and Its Influence in Education”

Faculty: Meri Clark

Presenter: Kristin Wirts

Readings: Sierra, *The Political Evolution of the Mexican People*.

Background Readings: Ardao, “Positivism in Latin America”; Cruz Costa, *The Advent of Positivism in Brazil*; Zea, “Positivism and Porfirism in Mexico”.

February 24 (Saturday).

The Perspective of Literature in Latin American Philosophy

Morning Workshop: “Philosophical Issues in Colonial Hispanic Literature”

Faculty: Ilan Stavans

Presenter: Jennifer Mata

Readings: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, *Reply to Sor Philothea*; Paz, *Sor Juana or, The Traps of Faith*.

Background Readings: Sor Juana. Inés de la Cruz, *Autodefensa espiritual: Letter of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz to Her Confessor*; Reyes, “The Tenth Muse”; Maravall, *Culture of the Baroque*.

Afternoon Workshop: “Literary Essayists in Latin America: From Sarmiento to Paz and Fuentes”

Faculty: Ilan Stavans

Presenter: Suzanne Lalonde

Readings: Sarmiento, *Facundo: Civilization and Barbarism*; Fuentes, *The Buried Mirror*; Paz, *The Labyrinth of Solitude*.

Background Readings: Halperín Dongui *et al.*, *Sarmiento: Author of a Nation*; Kirkpatrick and Masiello, “Introduction: Sarmiento between History and Fiction”; Halperín Donghi, “Sarmiento’s Place in Postrevolutionary Argentina.”

March 24 (Saturday).

Latin American Philosophy in the Context of Philosophy and Other Humanities Disciplines

Concluding Workshop: “Latin American Philosophy: What It Is and How to Incorporate It in Teaching and Research”

Faculty: Susana Nuccetelli & Gary Seay

Presenter: Roxana Alavi

Presenter: Suzanne Lalonde

Primary Readings: Gracia, *Hispanic-Latino Identity*; ch. 6; Mariátegui, “Is There Such a Thing as Hispanic-American Thought?”; Frondizi, “Is There an Ibero-American Philosophy?” Salazar Bondy, “Can There Be a Latin American Philosophy?” Zea, “The Actual Function of Philosophy in Latin America.”

Secondary Readings: Gracia, “Latin American Philosophy Today”; Nuccetelli, “Is ‘Latin American Thought’ Philosophy?”; Coutinho, “Is There a Brazilian Philosophy?” Martí, “Is There a Latin American Philosophy?”