

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change.

TOPICS IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY:

**THE MAKING OF RACE IN LATIN AMERICA
1492 TO THE PRESENT**

**21:510:441
Mondays 4:00-7:00
424 Conklin Hall**

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Since 1492, Latin America has been the site of intense encounters between indigenous people, people of European descent, and people of African descent. In turn, Latin Americans have developed complex and perhaps unique ways of understanding distinctions among and between themselves. Beginning with the pre-history of European conquest and ending in the late twentieth century, this course asks how and why such distinctions developed and what impact they have had on politics and culture in Latin America. We will also ask questions about how we understand Latin America in the context of global structures and ideas of race. Many scholars have argued that Latin Americans, because of the high degree of intermixture between people of different backgrounds, have developed notions of difference based less on a concept of “race” than on one of “color.” This course will examine this claim and ask what—if anything—is indeed unique about Latin American social distinctions.

Requirements:

First and foremost, you should complete the weekly readings and come to class prepared to participate actively in weekly discussions. Your written work for the class will consist of three components. First, you will write *weekly* responses to the reading, guided by a prompt provided by the professor. You will also write two essays. The first essay will ask you to analyze primary sources taken from the course readings. The second essay will ask you compare the readings in weeks ten and eleven.

Your grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Class participation: 20%

Weekly Reading Responses: 25%

Essay #1: 25%

Essay #2: 30%

ATTENDANCE: You are, of course, required to attend. You are allowed **1** unexcused absence without penalty. After that, each unexcused absence will result in a lowering of your

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final grade by 2%. ****Any student who misses four or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will not earn credit in this course; such students should withdraw from the class.****

Contacting Me:

The best way to get in touch with me is through email, at the address listed at the start of the syllabus. Telephone is much less effective; please do not leave a message on my machine. Please note, however, that I don't guarantee that I will answer emails sent late at night or on weekends until regular business hours resume. You are welcome and encouraged to make an appointment to meet with me at a time convenient to both of us.

Academic Integrity:

You will follow the University's guidelines on academic integrity. *I strictly follow the University's rules regarding plagiarism and other academic irregularities. Please consult me if you have any questions about what is and is not appropriate regarding the use of sources or citation.*

Course Materials:

*Available at New Jersey Books and the University Bookstore:

Frank Tannenbaum, *Slave and Citizen: The Slave in the Americas* (1946)

Marixa Lasso, *Myths of Harmony: Race and Republicanism during the Age of Revolution, Columbia 1795-1831*

Ricardo Pozas, *Juan the Chamula: An Ethnological Recreation of the Life of a Mexican Indian*

Carolina Maria de Jesus, *Carolina, Child of the Dark*

All other course readings are available on the Blackboard site for this course.

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Schedule of Classes and Readings

Jan. 26: Week One

Introduction: What is race and why Latin America?

Feb. 2: Week Two

The origins of "race"? The inner and outer worlds of Europe before 1492

Background: Burkholder and Johnson, 23-32

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Seymour Phillips, “The Outer World of the European Middle Ages”

David Brion Davis, “The Origins of Anti-Black Racism in the New World”

María Elena Martínez, “The Emergence of the Spanish Statutes of *Limpieza de Sangre*”

*Map of Africa, 13th Century

*Nuremburg Map, 1483

Feb. 9: Week Three

Colonial Encounter: The Making of Indians

Background: Burkholder and Johnson, 1-23; 40-47; 119-126; 130-139

* “The Letter of Christopher Columbus to Luis de Sant Angel Announcing his Discovery” (1493)

*The First Letter from Brazil (1500)

*“The Laws of Burgos” (1512)

*“The New Laws” (1542)

* The Debate at Valladolid, excerpts (1548)

Feb. 16: Week Four

Africans in Colonial Latin America

Background: Burkholder and Johnson, 32-40; 128-129; 139-149

Herman Bennett, *Africans in Colonial Mexico: Absolutism, Christianity, and Afro-Creole Consciousness*, Introduction and chs. 1, 2, and 4

*“Two Slaveries—The Sermons of Padre Antonio Vieira, Salvador, Bahia (ca. 1633) and Sao Luis do Maranhao (1653)

Feb. 23: Week Five: Mestizaje, Caste, and the Late Colonial Latin American Order

Burkholder and Johnson, 129-130

Laura A. Lewis, “Between ‘Casta’ and ‘Raza’: The Example of Colonial Mexico”
OR

María Elena Martínez, “The Language, Genealogy and Classification of ‘Race’ in Colonial Mexico”

Ann Twinam, “Purchasing Whiteness: Conversations on the Essence of Pardo-ness and Mulatto-ness at the End of Empire”

David Tavárez, “Legally Indian: Inquisitorial Readings of Indigenous Identity in New Spain”

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*“Taxonomic Chart”

*“Two *Castas* Paintings from Eighteenth-Century Mexico”

*Selected casta paintings.

Mar. 2: Week Six

Black Legends and Myths of Racial Democracy

Gregory Cerio, “Were the Spaniards that Cruel?”

*Frank Tannenbaum, *Slave and Citizen: The Slave in the Americas* (1946), 40-128

María Elena Díaz, “Beyond Tannenbaum”

Mar. 4: Extra Credit Talk

Mar. 9: Week Seven

Modern Latin America? Independence, Liberalism, and the Problem of Difference I

Marixa Lasso, *Myths of Harmony: Race and Republicanism during the Age of Revolution, Columbia 1795-1831* (chapters TBA)

SPRING BREAK

Mar. 23: Week Eight

Modern Latin America? Independence, Liberalism, and the Problem of Difference II

Michael T. Ducey, “Liberal Theory and Peasant Practice: Land and Power in Northern Veracruz, Mexico, 1826-1900”

Reading TBA on Caste War of Yucatan

*Three articles from *El Monitor Republicano*, a Mexico City newspaper (1848-1850)

Mar. 30: Week Nine

Living, Working, and Thinking Race in the Early 20th Century

George Reid Andrews: “‘A Transfusion of New Blood’: Whitening, 1880-1930”

AND “Black and White Workers: Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1888-1928”

Ada Ferrer, “Cuba, 1898: Rethinking Race, Nation, and Empire”

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Alexandra Minna Stern, "Eugenics and Racial Classification in Modern Mexican America"

Apr. 6: Week Ten

20th-Century Latin American Lives I

*Ricardo Pozas, *Juan the Chamula: An Ethnological Recreation of the Life of a Mexican Indian* (1962)

Alexander S. Dawson, "From Models for the Nation to Model Citizens: *Indigenismo* and the 'Revindication' of the Mexican Indian" (1998)

Woodrow Borah, "Race and Class in Mexico" (1952)

April 13: Week Eleven

20th-Century Latin American Lives II

*Carolina Maria de Jesus, *Carolina, Child of the Dark*

Robert M. Levine and José Carlos Sebe Bom Meihy, *The Life and Death of Carolina Maria de Jesus*, 1-94

April 20: Week Twelve

Living, working, organizing I

George Reid Andrews, "Browning and Blackening: 1930-2000"

Sérgio Da Silva Martins, Carlos Alberto Madeiros, and Elisa Martins Nascimento, "Paving Paradise: The Road from 'Racial Democracy' to Affirmative Action in Brazil"

*Abdias do Nascimento, *The Myth of Racial Democracy* (1968)

**Revista MNU*, "The National Day Against Racism" (1981)

Apr. 27: Week Thirteen

Living, working, organizing II

Alison Brysk, "Acting Globally: Indian Rights and International Politics in Latin America"

Juliet Hooker, "Indigenous Inclusion/Black Exclusion: Race, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Citizenship in Latin America"

Reading TBA

May 4: Week Fourteen

Racial Histories, Racial Presents

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Watch: “Black in Latin America”, “Cuba: The Next Revolution” and “Brazil: A Racial Paradise?” (PBS Documentary Series, 2011)

George Reid Andrews, “Into the Twenty-First Century: 2000 and Beyond”