HIST 483/583  
Spring 2016  

Intellectuals and Ideas in Modern Latin America  

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 8-9 am, Thursdays, 10-12 am.

Course Description

What is an intellectual? What is the role that intellectuals play in society? What are the sources and nature of their prestige and power? What are their connections to existing or potential configurations of class, gender, race, and national identities and hierarchies? This course attempts to explore these issues by looking at Latin American intellectuals during the twentieth century. Although their ideas will be thoroughly discussed, our main focus will be the analysis of the roles of intellectuals in public debates and their function as depositaries of cultural and political capital, forgers of national and other forms of identity, and mediators between civil society and the state. This course is an attempt to understand the multifaceted and conflictive relationship between Latin American intellectuals and the communities they live in and think about.

Requirements

A) Undergraduate students:

- Participation: 10%. Regular attendance is expected. Students must complete the readings BEFORE class and participate in class discussions.
- Weekly reading summaries: 10%. Every Wednesday, students will bring to class a 1-2 page written response to a question posted on Canvas by the instructor on Tuesday and based on that week’s readings.
- Two written exercises: 10% each. More information will be offered in class. Due dates are listed below. (Late assignments will be penalized with one letter grade per day).
- Midterm exam: 30%
- Final exam: 30%
B) Graduate students:

- Bibliographical exercise: 10%. Students will choose a topic for their final papers and will prepare an annotated bibliography due on week 6 (Minimum length: 3 pages).
- Weekly reading summaries: 10%. Every Wednesday, students will bring to class a 1-2 page written response to a question posted by the instructor on Tuesday and based on that week’s readings.
- Two written exercises: 10% each. More information will be offered in class. Due dates are listed below. (Late assignments will be penalized with one letter grade per day).
- Round table presentation: 10%. More details will be offered in class.
- Final research paper: 50%. Graduate students will write a 15-20 page research paper on a topic related to the course. These papers will be due on Friday, June 10, 2016.

Course policies

1. Students are expected to attend lectures consistently. A passing grade will be difficult to achieve without regular attendance. Students must also consistently read the assigned materials.
2. The course instructor will hold regular office hours every week. Students are encouraged to visit them to discuss pertinent issues or get additional information about the course’s themes, policies, and grades.
3. A common form of academic dishonesty, plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Students must become familiar with the University of Oregon rules about this issue. More information will be offered at the appropriate time.
4. An atmosphere of mutual respect, tolerance, and fairness will be enforced by the instructor and GTFs. Students must behave in ways proper to an academic environment-i.e. no talking, eating, chatting, text-messaging, or newspaper reading during lecture. The use of electronic devices is not allowed during class except for laptops. Students who need to bring a laptop computer to class to take notes MUST seat in the front row and may not engage in internet browsing during class time. Failure to comply with this policy will force the instructor to ban the use of laptop computers in the classroom.
5. Course incompletes will be granted ONLY in cases of extreme need and ONLY to students that have an acceptable record of class attendance and get at least a C in the mid-term. Students that need an “incomplete” grade must make arrangements with the instructor on or before the last week of classes.
What you can expect to learn in this course

- A basic knowledge of the history of Latin America from the late nineteenth century
- A survey of some of the most important intellectual currents in modern Latin America, such as Indigenismo, Marxism, nationalism, and others.
- Some of the most important intellectual controversies surrounding Latin American history over the last century
- How to interpret primary sources
- How to think about the impact of intellectuals and ideas on social and cultural processes

Required Readings

The following book is available for purchase at UO bookstore:


In addition, a number of articles and chapters will be available through Canvas.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1

03/28 Introduction to the course: What is an intellectual? Positions and debates.
03/30 Discussion

Readings:
Gramsci, *The Intellectuals.*
Said, *The Public Role of Writers and Intellectuals.*
Baud, *History, Morality, and Politics.*

Week 2

04/04 Letrados in Colonial and 19th-century Spanish America
04/06 José Martí: The making of a revolutionary intellectual

Reading:
Rama, *The Lettered City,* pp. 16-49.
Guerra, *The Myth of José Martí.*
Martí, *Our America.*
Martí, *Letter to the Editor.*
Week 3

04/11 Indigenismo and “The Indian Question”
04/13 “The first Latin American Marxist”: José Carlos Mariátegui and his time
(FIRST WRITTEN EXERCISE DUE)

Readings:
Dawson, Indigenismo and the Mexican Indian.
Basadre, Introduction.
Mariátegui, Selected texts.

Week 4

04/18 Intellectuals and Power in Post-Revolutionary Mexico
04/20 Redefining the Place of Intellectuals in Mexican Society (1968-2000)

Readings:
Camp, Serving the State.
Grenier, Octavio Paz.
Cohn, The Mexican Intelligentsia.

Week 5

04/25 Intellectuals and the Cuban Revolution
04/27 Intellectuals, the Cold War, and the Revolutionary Projects

Readings:
Castro, Words to Intellectuals
Chanan, Cuba and Civil Society
Franco, The Decline and Fall of the Lettered City.

Week 6

05/02 Midterm exam
05/04 New Literary Paths: the Latin American “Literary Boom”

Readings:
Herrero-Olaizola, Consuming Aesthetics.
Sorensen, Toward a Transnational Republic of Letters.
Week 7

05/09 Latin American public/global intellectuals (I): Mario Vargas Llosa
05/11 Latin American public/global intellectuals (II): Carlos Fuentes

Readings:
Van Delden and Grenier, The Private and the Public.
Vargas Llosa, Literature is Fire.
Vargas Llosa, Politics and Literature.
Van Delden and Grenier, Literature and the Political Apprenticeship.

Week 8

05/16 Women and the public sphere: female intellectuals in Latin America
05/18 Local and indigenous intellectuals.

Readings:
Miller, Recasting the Role of the Intellectual.
Warren, Telling Truths.
Rappaport, Between Sovereignty and Culture

Week 9

05/23 Intellectuals and Utopia in the Andes
05/25 Discussion / SECOND WRITTEN EXERCISE DUE

Reading:
Flores Galindo, In Search of an Inca (all).

Week 10

05/30 No class. Memorial day.
06/01 Review for Final Exam

Final exam: Wednesday, June 8, 14:45
Graduate Papers Due: Friday, Friday, June 10, 5 pm