

AS.361 (PROGRAM IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES)

AS.361.130. Introduction to Latin American Studies. 3 Credits.

The goal of this course is to provide an overview of Latin America, analyzing political and cultural aspects, chronologically organized. We will begin studying the origins of the multi-ethnic societies, starting with the ancient civilizations and their transformation under colonization. It is important to understand the survival of cultural traits among indigenous peasants today in the countries that were the cradle of ancient civilizations: Mexico, Guatemala and the Andean countries. In the republican era the course will focus on the classical Caribbean dictators in the first half of the 20th century and their reflection in the literature, comparing the historical reality with the magic representation in the work of Garcia Marquez. The course will scrutinize the most important revolutions in the continent: the Mexican, Cuban and Bolivian revolutions and the geopolitics of USA in the Americas. Weekly lectures related to the assigned reading will focus on specific periods, topics and regions. After each lecture, we will review the material, connecting specific details from the readings with the more theoretical aspects provided in my lecture. The course has a website where the PowerPoint presentations will be posted. Students are encouraged to post their questions, comments and suggestions on the web after their readings. Students will be given a study guide for each lecture, which will be the basis for the exams. Our perspective on Latin America will be enhanced by a selection of few films related to the topics.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.361.170. NI DE AQUI NI DE ALLA: Introduction to Latino Studies. 3 Credits.

Through readings and discussion of texts, viewing of films and performance art, this course studies varied histories of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban and other Latin American peoples in the U.S. Students will develop a general understanding of major issues facing Latinos/as in the 21st century as well as gain an understanding of the impact Latino culture has on US society and politics.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.361.207. Afro-Latin American Biography. 3 Credits.

In this course, we will examine biographical accounts of men and women of African descent in Latin America and in the broader Black Atlantic. These individuals include conquistadors and slaves, saints and sinners, revolutionaries and ordinary people. In their life stories, we will not only examine questions of race, gender, and religiosity that were central to the construction of identity in the early modern Atlantic world, but also the nature of the sources that allow us to tell their stories.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.361.331. Drug wars, violence and illicit lifeworlds in Latin America. 3 Credits.

Drawing on ethnographic and historical sources, this course will introduce anthropology as an invitation for students to re-conceptualize and deepen their understanding of the so-called "War on Drugs" as a cultural, social and political formation in Latin America.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.361.335. Colombia at War. 3 Credits.

The history of Colombia comes down to a tale of armed conflicts, protracted and renewed civil wars, coups, ethnic cleansing riots, narco wars, besides the struggles for independence from Spanish colonial rule and extractive capitalist exploitation. We will study the literary, journalistic, and historical record about warring and uncivil Colombia through fiction from Gabriel García Márquez (The General in his Labyrinth and News of a Kidnapping), Fernando Vallejo (The Virgin of the Assassins), and Juan Gabriel Vázquez (The Sound of Things Falling and The Secret History of Costaguana). We will also delve into the current peace process and disarming of the FARCS and the perils and promises that the absorption of the former combatants and recalcitrant holdovers pose to the skeptical and hopeful citizens and various political factions.

Area: Humanities

AS.361.336. Hugo Chávez, Fidel Castro, and Bolivar's Venezuela. 3 Credits.

Are the current extreme hard times in Venezuela's Bolivarian Republic irreversible? Is there a ballpark somewhere for Thomas Jefferson and Simón Bolívar to hold a debate match about democracy, achieved emancipations, republican values and the lure of dictatorship? The course welcomes serious and sharply political dialogue about ideals of democratic republicanism in clash from the rise and apparent fall of Fidelismo and Chavismo in the Caribbean region to the agitations and alliances dictated by Trump's seizure of American politics.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.361.380. Brazil: Cinema, Popular Music, Counterculture and Politics from 1960-1990. 3 Credits.

We believe that understanding the second half of the 20th century is crucial to understand the challenges that Brazil faces in the 21st Century. This course investigates the cultural, intellectual, social and political history of Brazil from mid-1950s to the 1990s. We begin with an overview of the legacy of Getúlio Vargas (1930-45) and the construction of Brasília (1961), examining the formation of ideas about Brazilian identity, development and modernization of the country. We then examine the dictatorship (1964-1985), its economic and social project, the place of human rights and its impact on Brazilian society, paying attention to how the people responded to an authoritarian regime through a counter revolutionary movement and through culture (Cinema Novo, MPB/ Brazilian popular music, Tropicália) in a fight for democracy. And, finally, we discuss the current issues that the country has dealt with such as democracy, development, corruption, social mobility, and sporting mega events, for example. The course is taught in English, but ONE extra credit will be given to students who wish to do the course work in Portuguese. Those wishing to do the course work in English for 3 credits should register for section 01. Those wishing to earn 4 credits by doing the course work in Portuguese should register for section 02. The sections will be taught simultaneously. Section 01: 3 credits Section 02: 4 credits (instructor's permission required)

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.361.501. Independent Study. 3 Credits.

Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.361.502. Independent Study. 0 - 3 Credits.

Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.361.510. Senior Thesis I. 3 Credits.

Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration > Online Forms.