

University of Florida Fall 2017
Religion in Latin America
REL 3381/LAS 3930

Meeting Schedule: T4 (10:40-11:30), R4-5 (10:40-12:35pm)

Meeting Location: MAT 0018

Office Hours: TR 3 (9:35-10:25)

Contact Information: blumentk@ufl.edu

Final Exam Date: December 5th

I. REQUIRED TEXTS

Brusco, Elizabeth. *The Reformation of Machismo: Evangelical Conversion and Gender in Colombia*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1995.

Carrasco, David. *Religions of Mesoamerica: Cosmology and Ceremonial Centers*. Long Grove: Waveland Press, 2013 (2nd Ed).

Dean, Carolyn J. *Inka Bodies and the Body of Christ: Corpus Christi in Colonial Cuzco*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1999.

Murphy, Joseph. *Working the Spirit: Ceremonies of the African Diaspora*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1994

Vasquez A, Manuel and Anna Peterson (Eds.). *Latin American Religions: Histories in Context*. New York: NYU Press, 2008.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad survey of some of the main religious traditions in Latin America, including pre-colonial indigenous religions, Catholicism in its various forms, religions of the African diaspora, and Protestant and evangelical movements. We will use a variety of texts and methods to understand the diverse forms, practices, and belief systems of these religious traditions: historical surveys, primary source documents, film, and case studies. This course will emphasize the distinctive cross-fertilization and hybrid forms of these religious traditions in Latin America. In addition, we will focus on the social and political roles religion plays in Latin America, especially the roles religion plays in the lives of those at the margins of society (i.e., the poor, women, indigenous people, and people of African descent) during times of social change.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To become familiar with indigenous traditions in the context of pre-Colombian empires and

civilizations

2. To understand the nature of contact between Old World European Christianity and New World indigenous religions, and how that contact shaped both European and American practices and world-views
3. To understand how the European slave trade shaped the development in the New World of practices and cosmologies from Africa
4. To identify and understand the various forms of Catholicism historically found throughout Latin America
5. Analyze why and how Protestantism has expanded rapidly in Latin America

IV. REQUIREMENTS

Reading Quizzes – (25%)

Four in-class, closed book reading quizzes will be administered throughout the semester to encourage students to keep up with reading assignments. All quizzes will be based on course readings and will not be cumulative. Quizzes will be given on 9/7, 9/28, 10/17, and 11/16.

Midterm Exam – (30%)

Students will take one written take home, open note midterm examination during the week of October 16 over the material covered in Units 1-3. Exams will be distributed in class on Tuesday, October 16 and should be completed and submitted by 5pm on Friday, October 17 to the instructor's mailbox in 107 Anderson Hall.

Final Exam – (35%)

Students will take one written take home, open note final examination during the week of October 16 over the material covered in Unit 4-6. Exams will be distributed in class on Tuesday, December 5 and should be completed and submitted by 5pm on Friday, December 8 to the instructor's mailbox in 107 Anderson Hall.

Attendance and Participation (10%)

Attendance for this class is mandatory, and students are expected to arrive on time to class having read the assigned material. Students are also expected to participate in class discussion. Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. Please note: I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences, apart from extenuating and/or documented circumstances. Students may miss up to three classes without penalty. An excess of three absences will result in a grade deduction for this score.

V. POLICIES and RESOURCES

1. **Common Courtesy:** ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES must be turned off during class. Students who receive or make calls or text messages during class will be asked to leave. *You may not have a computer turned on in class unless you receive specific*

permission from the instructor. The instructor also reserves the right to ask any student engaging in disruptive behavior (e.g., chatting excessively, using electronic devices, reading a newspaper, etc.) to leave the class. Repeat violations of these rules will result in dismissal from the class.

- 2. Communication Guidelines.** Students are encouraged to contact the instructor via Canvas and email for questions, clarifications, requests and assistance, academic or otherwise. Please remember that your correspondences represent you and the way you regard your academic progress; all correspondences are to be written in a respectful, professional manner. As such, written correspondences to the instructor or fellow classmates are official correspondences and should be approached with a degree of formality, not composed as you might structure text messages or chats. All email correspondences must include a subject, polite greeting, direct and clear body, and a polite salutation; the instructor will request revision of correspondences that do not adhere to this format. Additionally, students will be advised to “SEE SYLLABUS” for correspondences with questions that students can answer easily by looking in the syllabus (quiz dates, for example). During the week the instructor requests 24 hours in which she will reply to student emails (48 hours on weekends). ***In emergency situations that require immediate attention, please add ‘URGENT’ to the subject line of your message.***

- 3. Academic Integrity:** On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. On the issue of plagiarism and cheating, I operate under a **zero tolerance policy**. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will automatically receive a grade of zero on the assignment in question and will fail the course. In addition, they will be reported to the appropriate university authorities. Please keep in mind that plagiarism does not consist only in copying verbatim someone else's material and presenting it as if it were yours. It also includes taking ideas (even paraphrased!) from an author without according him/her proper recognition (through a footnote, for instance). Other forms of cheating (particularly downloading material from the Internet and presenting as if it were yours) will also be subject to the same action. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm> & www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm for more information on UF policies.

- 4. Accommodations for Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. will only be accepted in extenuating circumstances, or in situations where the student can present proper, legitimate written documentation to justify the tardiness (i.e. sickness, family emergency, etc.).

- 5. Counseling Resources:** available on campus for students:
- a. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
 - b. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171
 - c. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
 - d. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601

6. Withdrawal dates: The last day to withdraw from this course is August 25. The last day to withdraw from this course with a 'W' and 25% refund is September 15. The last day to withdraw from this course with a 'W' and without a refund is November 20.

7. Grading Scale: A: 100-94; A-: 93-90; B+: 89-87; B: 86-84; B-: 83-80; C+: 79-77; C: 76-74; C-: 73-70; D+: 69-67; D: 66-64; D-: 63-60; F: <60.

VI. COURSE SCHEDULE
(Subject to change with notice)

Unit 1: Precolonial Religion

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| August 22 | Introduction to Class, No Readings |
| August 24 | Introduction to Religion in Latin America; Introduction to Indigenous Religions Readings: Vasquez & Peterson, <i>Latin American Religions</i> , 1-32 |
| August 29 | Carrasco, <i>Religions of Mesoamerica</i> , 11-74 |
| August 31 | Carrasco, <i>Religions of Mesoamerica</i> , 75-112 *Blumenthal, "Conquest of the Aztec" |
| September 5 | Carrasco, <i>Religions of Mesoamerica</i> , 113-146 Vasquez & Peterson, <i>Latin American Religions</i> , 33-44 |
| September 7 | Vasquez & Peterson, <i>Latin American Religions</i> , 44-49; ***Reading Quiz #1*** |

Unit 2: Colonial Encounters: Indigenous Religions and Catholicism

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| September 12 | Vasquez & Peterson, <i>Latin American Religions</i> , 55-67 Dean, <i>Inka Bodies</i> , 1-22 |
| September 14 | Dean, <i>Inka Bodies</i> , 23-62 |
| September 19 | Dean, <i>Inka Bodies</i> , 97-122 |

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| September 21 | Dean, <i>Inka Bodies</i> , 122-159 |
| September 26 | Dean, <i>Inka Bodies</i> , 160-199 |
| September 28 | Dean, <i>Inka Bodies</i> , 200-218; *Silverman, "Touring Ancient Times," 881-902; ***Reading Quiz #2*** |

Unit 3: African Religions in Latin America

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| October 3 | Vasquez & Peterson, <i>Latin American Religions</i> , 89-99 Murphy, <i>Santeria</i> , 1-38 |
| October 5 | Murphy, <i>Santeria</i> , 39-69 |
| October 10 | Murphy, <i>Santeria</i> , 70-103 |
| October 12 | *"Haitian Vodou," in <i>Creole Religions of the Caribbean</i> , 101-130* |
| October 17 | *"Rastafarianism," in <i>Creole Religions of the Caribbean</i> , 154-170 ***Reading Quiz #3*** Midterm exam distributed (due by 5pm on Friday 10/21 in 107 Anderson Hall) |

Unit 4: Catholicism: Modernization and Reform

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| October 19 | Vasquez & Peterson, <i>Latin American Religions</i> , 127-141; |
| October 24 | Vasquez & Peterson, <i>Latin American Religions</i> , 202-213-221 |
| October 26 | Film: Romero |
| October 31 | Film: Romero |

Unit 5: Protestant Christianity and the Rise of Pentecostalism

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| November 2 | Vasquez & Peterson, <i>Latin American Religions</i> , 159-168 |
| November 7 | Brusco, <i>The Reformation of Machismo</i> , Chapters 1-2 |
| November 9 | Brusco, <i>The Reformation of Machismo</i> , Chapters 3 |
| November 14 | Brusco, <i>The Reformation of Machismo</i> , Chapters 4-5 |
| November 16 | Brusco, <i>The Reformation of Machismo</i> , Chapters 6-7 ***Reading Quiz #4*** |
| November 21 | Brusco, <i>The Reformation of Machismo</i> , Chapters 8 |
| November 23 | Thanksgiving |

Unit 6: Folk Catholicism and Hybridity

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| November 28 | Carrasco, <i>Religions of Mesoamerica</i> , 159-181 |
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| November 30 | *Vanderwood, "Criminals and Saints" |
| November 5 | *Chesnut, "Santa Muerte" Final exam distributed (due by 5pm on Friday 12/8 in 107 Anderson Hall) |