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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
IRLS357 Latin American Peoples and Cultures
Credit Hours:  3
Length of Course:  8 Weeks

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Instructor Information

Instructor:

Biography:

Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.
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Course Description (Catalog)

Latin America is comprised of dozens of countries, and despite several common languages, each country possesses its own set of unique cultural aspects. Latin America is a complex mixture of Native American, European, North American, African and even Asian influences, spanning two continents and several thousand years of collective history.

Course Scope

This course will combine on-line readings with diverse media; the student will explore Latin American culture through pictures, music and art as well as the more traditional reading and writing assignments. Students will participate in Discussion Forum Activities relating to each week’s theme, write short papers on the two of the weekly topics, and finally a longer paper on the work of Latin American literature of their choice. Topics include stereotypes of Latin America, identifying the many different groups and religions of the region, cultural changes through time, the impact of urbanization and globalization on culture and traditional family roles, as well as salient artists of the area.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Analyze the broad structures and processes giving shape to Latin American societies.

CO-2: Describe the diverse peoples, cultures and religions found in Latin America.

CO-3: Explain how urbanization and modern family arrangements contrast with traditional family patterns.
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CO-4: Analyze major themes in Latin American art and literature.

CO-5: Evaluate the impact of globalization on politics and culture.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks

- Various resources from the APUS Library are used. Please visit http://apus.libguides.com/er.php to locate the course eReserve

- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:
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**Discussion Forums – 40 percent**

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

**Midterm Assignment- 20 percent**

The midterm assignment consists of a research paper responding to the question in the assignment section.

**Outline Assignment – 10 percent**

The components of this assignment include a proposed thesis, topic outline of the and preliminary list of references in Turabian format.

**Analytical Essay Assignment – 30 percent**

The Latin America writer and work of literature you chose in Week 4 will be the main topic for the 5-7 page analytic research essay due Week 8, which should explore how the literature reflects Latin American culture, incorporating concepts learned in the course. If possible, use examples from or draw parallels to class readings. Consult and incorporate at least one literary review of the book, citing your sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outline Assignment</td>
<td>10 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums</td>
<td>40 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Essay Assignment</td>
<td>30 percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100 percent</td>
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</table>
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# 8 – Week Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Course Objective(s)</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>CO-1</td>
<td>Readings in Resources, Plagiarism Guidelines, etc... Resurgent voices in Latin America: Indigenous Peoples, Political Mobilization, and Religious Change chapters 1-3 available in the online library (ebrary) (pages 1-64)</td>
<td>Week One Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Section</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
| 3    | Religion| CO-2  | Resurgent voices in Latin America: Indigenous Peoples, Political Mobilization, and Religious Change chapters 4, 5 & 8 available in the on-line library (ebrary)  
A Concise History of Liberation Theology  
http://www.landreform.org/boff2.htm  
God as Comrade  
Latin America: Evangelical Christianity moves the masses - A report from Venezuela (approx 9 pages)  
http://religion.info/english/articles/article_121.shtml  
U-tube: Mexico’s indigenous minority converting to Islam  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5PpD9JqCsc |
| 4    | Indigen | CO-2, | Indigenous Identity at the Margin: |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CO-3</th>
<th>Gender Roles</th>
<th>Machismo, Ortiz, F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://www.fernando-a-ortiz.net/files/Machismo.pdf">http://www.fernando-a-ortiz.net/files/Machismo.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deconstructing Machismo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/lassa2000/deoliveira.pdf">http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/lassa2000/deoliveira.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Diffusion of Gender Quotas in Latin America and Beyond (available through the on-line library) Introduction, Ch. 1, Ch 11, and others as needed for researching your forum post for this week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>Reading/Assignment</th>
<th>Forum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Traditio nal and Modern Music</td>
<td>CO-4</td>
<td>Overview of Latin American Music <a href="http://www.scaruffi.com/history/latin.html">http://www.scaruffi.com/history/latin.html</a> &lt;br&gt;The Latin Beat: The Rhythms and Rotts of Latin Music From Bossa Nova to Salsa and Beyond by Ed Morales (available through the online library) Ch. 1</td>
<td>Week Six Forum Outline assignment due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Final Assignment</td>
<td>CO-1</td>
<td>Independent Research for Final paper.</td>
<td>Week Eight Forum Final Assignment Due</td>
</tr>
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**Policies**

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.
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Drop/Withdrawal Policy
Plagiarism Policy
Extension Process and Policy
Disability Accommodations

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.
See http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm. All written submissions should be submitted in Times New Roman 12pt font with 1” margins, typewritten in double-spaced format. Graduate-level work is expected to be free of grammar, usage, and style errors.

Late Assignments
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette
Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
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- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-) , :), 😊

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#### Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors’ publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.


The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:
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- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

Selected Bibliography