

HIST 483/583
Spring 2019

Intellectuals and Ideas in Modern Latin America

Instructor: Carlos Aguirre
Office and phone number: 333 McKenzie Hall; 346-5905
E-mail address: caguirre@uoregon.edu
Instructor's web site: <http://uoregon.edu/~caguirre/home.html>
Office hours: Thursdays, 10-12 am, and by appointment

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* each class meeting and participate in class discussions.
- Midterm exam: 30%
- Final exam: 40%
- Two short papers: 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).

B) Graduate students:

- Paper abstract and annotated bibliography: 20%. Students will choose a topic for their final papers and will submit an abstract and an *annotated bibliography* due on week 5 (Minimum length: 3 pages).
- Two short papers: 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 20-page research paper on a topic related to the course. These papers will be due on Friday, June 14, 2019.

What you can expect to learn in this course

- A basic knowledge of the history of Latin America between 1850 and 2000, including major social processes and events such as modernization, urbanization, revolutions, military dictatorships, and nationalist ideas and practices.
- An understanding of the changing role that intellectuals play in social, cultural, and political processes.
- A survey of key ideas and cultural trends in twentieth-century Latin America, including indigenismo, Marxism, revolutionary ideologies, nationalism, and others.
- The role of ideas, imaginaries, and cultural symbols in the shaping of national and other forms of identity.
- The relationship between Latin American intellectuals and global cultural and political trends (the “cultural Cold War,” the making of “markets for ideas,” economic globalization, and others).

Required Readings

The following books are available for purchase at UO bookstore:

Jorge Coronado, *The Andes Imagined. Indigenismo, Society, and Modernity* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009).

Jean Franco, *The Decline and Fall of the Lettered City* (Harvard University Press, 2002).

Alberto Flores Galindo, *In Search of an Inca. Identity and Utopia in the Andes* (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

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

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1

04/01 Introduction to the course

04/03 What is an intellectual? Positions and debates. Discussion

Readings:

Edwards Said, *Representations of the Intellectual* (Vintage Books, 1996), pp. 3-23.

Michael Baud, "History, Morality, and Politics: Latin American Intellectuals in a Global Context," *International Review of Social History*, 48, 2003, pp. 55-78.

Week 2

04/08 Letrados: The Colonial Foundations of Latin American Intellectuals

Reading: Ángel Rama, *The Lettered City* (Duke University Press, 1996), pp. 16-49.

04/10 José Martí: The making of a revolutionary intellectual

Readings:

José Martí, "Our America."

José Martí, "Letter to the Editor."

Lillian Guerra, *The Myth of José Martí* (University of North Carolina Press, 2005), pp. 1-45.

Week 3

04/15 Indigenismo / (FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE)

Reading: Jorge Coronado, *The Andes Imagined. Indigenismo, Society, and Modernity* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009), all.

04/17 "The first Latin American Marxist": José Carlos Mariátegui and his time

Harry E. Vanden and Marc Becker, "Amauta: An Introduction to the Life and Works of José Carlos Mariátegui," in *José Carlos Mariátegui. An Anthology* (Monthly Review Press, 2011), 11-55.

José Carlos Mariátegui, "Selected texts."

Week 4

04/22 Intellectuals and the Mexican Revolution / Guest lecture by Prof. Pedro García-Caro

Readings:

Alan Knight, "The Ideology of the Mexican Revolution," *Estudios Interdisciplinarios de América Latina y el Caribe*, Vol. 8, No. 1, 1997.

Alexander Dawson, "The Indian and the Nation," in *Indian and Nation in Revolutionary Mexico* (University of Arizona Press, 2004), pp. 3-33.

04/24 Intellectuals and Power in Post-Revolutionary Mexico

Readings:

Deborah Cohn, "The Mexican Intelligentsia, 1950—1968: Cosmopolitanism, National Identity, and the State," *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, 21, 1, winter 2005.

Yvon Grenier, "Octavio Paz and the Changing Role of Intellectuals in Mexico," *Discourse*, 23, 2, spring 2001.

Week 5

04/29 Latin American Intellectuals and the Cold War

05/01 Latin American Intellectuals in the Era of the Cuban Revolution

Reading: Jean Franco, *The Decline and Fall of the Lettered City* (Harvard University Press, 2002), all

Week 6

05/06 Midterm exam

05/08 New Literary Paths: the Latin American "Literary Boom," between marketing and politics

Readings:

John King, "The Boom of the Latin American novel," in Efrain Kristal, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Latin American Novel* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 59-80.

Diana Sorensen, "Toward a Transnational Republic of Letters," from *A Turbulent Decade Remembered. Scenes from the Latin American Sixties* (Stanford University Press, 2007), pp. 106-142.

Week 7

05/13 Latin American public/global intellectuals (I): Mario Vargas Llosa

Readings:

Maarten Van Delden and Yvon Grenier, "The Private and the Public," from *Gunshots at the Fiesta. Literature and Politics in Latin America* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2009), pp. 194-214.

Mario Vargas Llosa, "Literature is Fire."

Mario Vargas Llosa, "Politics and Literature."

05/15 Latin American public/global intellectuals (II): Carlos Fuentes / SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE

Readings:

Adam David Morton, "The Social Function of Carlos Fuentes," *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 22, 1, 2003, pp. 27-51.

Van Delden and Grenier, "Literature and the Political Apprenticeship of Carlos Fuentes," from *Gunshots at the Fiesta. Literature and Politics in Latin America* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2009), pp. 137-158.

Carlos Fuentes, "A Writer from Mexico."

Week 8

05/20 Women and the public sphere: female intellectuals in Latin America

Readings:

Nicola Miller, "Recasting the Role of the Intellectual," *Feminist Review*, 79, 2005, pp. 134-149.

John Beverley, "What Happens When the Subaltern Speaks," from *The Rigoberta Menchú Controversy* (University of Minnesota Press, 2001), pp. 219-236.

05/22 Nicolás Guillén and Afro-Antillean Intellectuals / Guest lecture by Prof. Lanie Millar

Readings:

Vera M. Kutzinski, "Re-Reading Nicolás Guillén," *Callaloo*, No. 31, 1987.

Aníbal González Pérez, "Ballad of the Two Poets: Nicolás Guillén and Luis Palés Matos," *Callaloo*, No. 31, 1987.

Week 9

05/27 No class – Memorial Day

05/29 Intellectuals and Utopia in the Andes

Reading:

Alberto Flores Galindo, *In Search of an Inca Identity and Utopia in the Andes* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), all.

Week 10

06/03 Are all Intellectuals Gone? Public Intellectuals in the 21st century

Readings:

Frank Furedi, "Dumbing Down," from *Where Have all the Intellectuals Gone?* (Continuum, 2004), pp. 72-91.

Mabel Moraña, "Rethinking Intellectuals in Latin America: Questions and Problems," from *Rethinking Intellectuals in Latin America* (Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2010), pp. 10-26.

06/05 Graduate Student presentations / Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Monday, June 10, 14:45-16:45
Graduate Papers Due: Friday, June 14, 12 noon

SAMPLE ONLY