

HIST 410/510
Winter 2014

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: Mondays, 10-11 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.
- Take-home midterm exam: 30%
- Final exam: 40%
- 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).

B) Graduate students:

- Bibliographical exercise: 20%. Students will choose a topic for their final papers and will prepare an *annotated bibliography* due on week 6 (Minimum length: 3 pages).

- 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, March 21, 2014.

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.

Required Readings

The following books are available for purchase at UO bookstore:

Angel Rama, *The Lettered City* (Duke University Press, 1996).

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 blackboard.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1

01/06 Introduction to the course: What is an intellectual? Positions and debates.

01/08 Discussion

Readings:

Gramsci, *The Intellectuals*.

Said, *The Public Role of Writers and Intellectuals*.

Baud, *History, Morality, and Politics*.

Franco, *Latin American Intellectuals and Collective Identity*.

Week 2

01/13 *Letrados*: The Colonial Foundations of Latin American Intellectuals

01/15 Intellectuals and state formation in 19th-century Spanish America.

Reading:

Rama, *The Lettered City* (all).

Week 3

01/20 No class. MLK day

01/22 José Martí: The making of a revolutionary intellectual (FIRST WRITTEN EXERCISE DUE)

Readings:

Guerra, *The Myth of José Martí*.

Martí, *Our America*.

Martí, *Letter to the Editor*.

Van Delden and Gremier, *José Martí and his Legacy*.

Week 4

01/27 "The first Latin American Marxist": José Carlos Mariátegui and his time

01/29 Mariátegui and *Mariateguismos*

Readings:

Basadre, *Introduction*.

Mariátegui, *Selected texts*.

Miller, *Mariátegui's Revolution in Modernity*.

Chairman Gonzalo, *Interview*.

Week 5

02/03 Intellectuals and Power in Post-Revolutionary Mexico

02/05 Midterm exam

Readings:

Camp, The Function of the Mexican Intellectual.

Camp, Serving the State.

Grenier, Octavio Paz.

Week 6

02/10 Redefining the Place of Intellectuals in Mexican Society (1968-2000)

02/12 Intellectuals, the Cold War, and the Revolutionary Projects

Readings:

Volpi, The End of Conspiracy.

Cohn, The Mexican Intelligentsia.

Franco, The Decline and Fall of the Lettered City.

Sorensen, The Cuban Revolution and Che Guevara.

Week 7

02/17 New Literary Paths: the Latin American "Literary Boom," between marketing and politics

02/19 Latin American public/global intellectuals (I): Mario Vargas Llosa

Herrero-Olaizola, Consuming Aesthetics.

Sorensen, Toward a Transnational Republic of Letters.

Van Delden and Grenier, The Private and the Public.

Vargas Llosa, Literature is Fire.

Vargas Llosa, Politics and Literature.

Week 8

02/24 Latin American public/global intellectuals (II): Carlos Fuentes / SECOND WRITTEN EXERCISE DUE

02/26 Women and the public sphere: female intellectuals in Latin America

Readings:

Morton, The Social Function of Carlos Fuentes.

Van Delden and Grenier, Literature and the Political Apprenticeship.

Miller, Recasting the Role of the Intellectual.

Beverley, What Happens When the Subaltern Speaks.

Week 9

03/03 Local and indigenous intellectuals.

03/05 Intellectuals and Utopia in the Andes

Reading:

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

Week 10

03/10 Graduate Student presentations / discussion of Flores Galindo's book

03/12 Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Wednesday, March 19, 10: 15-12:15

Graduate Papers Due: Friday, March 21, 12 noon