



Belkis Ayón, *La cena* (The Supper), 1991. Collograph. Collection of the Belkis Ayón Estate.

### **Afro-Latin America**

African and African Diaspora Studies 372G

HIS 350L, LAS 366

Spring 2019

Instructor: Dr. Mónica A. Jiménez

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the historical experiences of people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean (often called “Afro-Latin America”). The guiding questions of this course are: What is Afro-Latin America? Where is it? How can we write the histories of African descended peoples in the region we call “Latin America”? Can the histories of Africans and their descendants be contained within the confines of “nation”?

Topics we will explore include: the particularities of slavery in the Americas, the Haitian Revolution and its impact on articulations of race and nation in the region, debates on “racial democracy,” as well as, the relationship between gender, race, and empire.

This course carries the Global Cultures, Writing and Independent Inquiry flags.

### **Learning Goals**

The course has a three-fold objective:

- 1) To deepen our understanding of the diverse histories of Africans and their descendants in the region.
- 2) To continually probe the ongoing tension between national and transnational processes that is embedded in much of this scholarship.
- 3) To explore alternative frameworks that might enhance our understanding of the histories of people of African descent in the region.

Students will gain a sense of historical processes of change over time, and a broad methodology for assessing how events and experiences influence the choices people make, what they believe is possible, and how these inform human activity today. Through this engagement students will strengthen analytical and critical thinking skills, while also developing and deepening their reading comprehension and writing skills.

### **Grade Breakdown**

Active Class Participation	20%
2 Response Papers – (15% each)	30%
RESEARCH PROJECTS	50%
• Consultation and planning (10%)	
• Paper (25%)	
• Presentations (15%)	

### **Expectations and Assignments:**

**ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVE CLASS PARTICIPATION (20%): The success of this course requires your consistent presence in class as well as your contribution to class discussion.**

Each student is expected to attend class, participate in discussions, and complete all reading and writing assignments by the deadlines indicated in this syllabus or any written addenda. Class discussions are an important component and students will be graded on their participation, contributions to discussions and engagement with their peers.

The first three absences do not affect your grade. The fourth unexcused absence and every one thereafter will deduct 2 points (out of the 20 possible) from the attendance grade in the class. **You are responsible for keeping track of your absences.**

**Cell phone use will not be tolerated in class.** Please keep your cellphone silenced and in your pocket or bag. If you are texting in class, I will ask you to leave and you will be counted absent for that day.

**RESPONSE PAPERS (30%):** Students are required to turn in two thoughtful 3-page reading responses to the weekly readings.

Reading responses should be turned in via Canvas by 3:30 pm on Thursday of the week they are due. Students will have rotating due dates so that only 15 students will turn in papers on any particular week. I will assign you due dates for your individual response papers.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS – (50%)

- Consultation and annotated bibliography (10%)
- Paper (25%)
- Presentations (15%)

Students will write a 10-page research paper, **using primary sources** and centered on a topic of your choice. Your final paper will entail a three-step process: 1) A consultation with the professor on your potential paper topic and sources, 2) An abstract with an annotated bibliography, and 3) a 5-7 minute in class presentation at the conclusion of the semester.

**Final papers are due via Canvas on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> by Midnight.**

EXTRA CREDIT: There will be two opportunities to earn extra credit this semester:

- 1) Attend the filming of season 7 of Blackacademics Television on February 19 at 6:30 pm,  
or
- 2) Attend the Black Studies @ 50: 1968/1969 conference on March 15.

To earn credit you must turn in a two-page review of the event you chose to attend. These are due any time before the last day of the semester. Reviews should be turned in via Canvas.

Required Books:

- Alejandro de la Fuente and George Andrews, eds. *Afro Latin American Studies: An Introduction*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018). **Available electronically via UT library.**
- M. NourbeSe Philip, *Zong!* (Weslayan: Wesleyan University Press, 2008). **Available electronically via UT library.**
- George Reid Andrews, *Afro Latin America, 1800-2000*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004). **Available electronically via UT library.**
- George Reid Andrews, *Afro-Latin America: Black Lives, 1600-2000* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2016). **Available electronically via UT library**
- Lara Putnam, *Radical Moves: Caribbean Migrants and the Politics of Race in the Jazz Age* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 2014). **Available electronically via UT library.**
- Miriam Jiménez Román and Juan Flores, eds. *The Afro-Latin@ reader: History and Culture in the United States* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010). **Available electronically via UT library.**

All other readings will be available on Canvas.

Course Schedule**Week One**

**January 22** Introduction and Course Overview.

**January 24**, Discussion – What and Where is Afro-Latin America?

De la Fuente and Andrews, “The Making of a Field: Afro-Latin American Studies” in *Afro-Latin American Studies*.

**Week Two****January 29**, Legacies of Slavery

Saidiya Hartman, *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*, 1-18; 49-100.

**January 31**, Slavery in Latin America

Roquinaldo Ferrieria and Tatiana Seijas, “The Slave Trade to Latin America: A Historiographical Assessment” in *Afro-Latin American Studies*.

**Week Three****February 5**, Slave Mathematics: The case of the Zong

M. NourbeSe Philip, *Zong!*

This is a book of poetry, please read through the entire book focusing in particular on pgs. 183-212.

**February 7**, In the Wake of Slavery

Christina Sharpe, “Black Studies in the Wake”

**Week Four****February 12**, Haiti and the Haitian Revolution

Laurent Dubois, “The Haitian Revolution”

**February 14**, Haiti: The Birth of Racial Capitalism

Liliana Obregón, “Empire, Racial Capitalism and International Law: The Case of Manumitted Haiti and the Recognition Debt”

**Week Five****February 19**,

No Class – Individual Student Meetings

**Extra Credit Opportunity:** Attend *Blackacademics Television* Season 7 live recording, 6:30 pm at KLRU Studio 6A, Moody College of Communications.

**February 21**, Slave Revolts and Liberation Struggles

Andrews, *Afro Latin America, 1800-2000*. Chapters 2, “‘An Exterminating Bolt of Lightning:’ The Wars of Freedom, 1810-1890”

Peter Blanchard, “The Language of Liberation: Slave Voices in the Wars of Independence.”

**Week Six****February 26**, Afro-Latinos and the Nation

Andrews, *Afro Latin America, 1800-2000*, Chapter 3, “‘Our New Citizens, the Blacks:’ The Politics of Freedom, 1810-1890.”

**February 28**,

Andrews, *Afro-Latin America: Black Lives, 1600-2000*, Chapter 2, “On Counting and Not Counting”

**Week Seven****March 5,** Black Thought in FluxFrank A. Guridy and Juliet Hooker, "Currents in Afro-Latin American Political and Social Thought." In de la Fuente and Andrews, *Afro Latin American Studies***March 7,** Colonialism and Black Puerto Ricans

José I. Fusté, "Unsettling Citizenship/Circumventing Sovereignty: Reexamining the Quandaries of Contemporary Anti-colonialism in the United States through Black Puerto Rican Antiracist Thought."

**Week Eight****March 12,** Transnational Flows – Garvey, the UNIA, and People on the Move

Ronald Harpelle – "Crosscurrents in the Western Caribbean: Marcus Garvey and the UNIA in Central America."

**March 14,**

Video: "Marcus Garvey, Look for Me in the Whirlwind"

**March 15,****Extra Credit Opportunity** – Attend "Black Studies @ 50: 1968/1969" Conference**Week Nine – NO CLASS/SPRING BREAK****March 19****March 21****Week Ten****March 26,** Race, Empire and Migration in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century CaribbeanLara Putnam, *Radical Moves*, Introduction.**March 28**Lara Putnam, *Radical Moves*, Chapter 1: "Migrants' Routes, Ties, and Role in Empire, 1850s–1920s"**Week Eleven****April 2,** Afro- Mexico

Laura A. Lewis, "Blacks, Black Indians, Afromexicans: The Dynamics of Race, Nation, and Identity in a Mexican Moreno Community."

**April 4**

Bobby Vaughn, "Afro-Mexico: Blacks, Indígenas, Politics, and the Greater Diaspora"

**Week Twelve****April 9,** The Persistence of Anti-Blackness in Latin America: Brazil

Jaime Amparo Alves, "From Necropolis to Blackpolis: Necropolitical Governance and Black Spatial Praxis in São Paulo, Brazil"

Christen Smith, "Battling Anti-Black Genocide in Brazil," NACLA Report on the Americas, 49:1 (2017).

Sérgio Ramalho, "Who Killed Marielle Franco? An Ex-Rio de Janeiro Cop With Ties To Organized Crime, Say Six Witnesses In Police Report."

### **April 11, No Class**

Attend Institute for Historical Studies conference: "Genealogies of Freedom."

### **Week Thirteen**

**April 16,** The Persistence of Anti-Blackness in Latin America: Hispañola

Ana-Maurine Lara, "A Smarting Wound: Afro-Dominicanidad and the Fight against Ultrationalism in the Dominican Republic."

### **April 18,**

Video: *Si bondye vle, Yuli/God Willing, Yuli*

### **Week Fourteen**

**April 23,** Afro Latinos in the United States

Jesse Hoffnang-Garskoff, "The Migrations of Arturo Schomburg: On Being *Antillano*, Negro, and Puerto Rican in New York, 1891-1938."

### **April 25**

Several selections from *The Afro Latin@ Reader*:

- Aida Lambert: "We are black too: experiences of a Honduran Garifuna."
- Maria Rosario Jackson: "Profile of an Afro-Latina: black, Mexican, both."
- Antonio Lopez: "Enrique Patterson: Black Cuban intellectual in Cuban Miami."
- Eduardo Bonilla-Silva: "Reflections about Race by a *Negrato Acomplejado*"

### **Week Fifteen**

**April 30, Final Presentations**

**May 2, Final Presentations**

### **Week Sixteen**

**May 7, Final Presentations**

**May 9, Final Presentations and Wrap Up**

**May 20 – Final Papers Due via Canvas by Midnight**