

**SYLLABUS****Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies**

LACS 101 / TuTh 10am – 11:40am, Oxford Science Building 415

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Office Hours: Pierce 215, TuTh 9-10, W 3-4, and by appointment

**Description**

This course provides a multidisciplinary approach to major historical and current issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its goal is to provide an introduction to the major socio-cultural areas of the region, to the economic and ideological features of its engagement with globalization, to different disciplinary styles in Latin American scholarship, to relevant political and policy debates—from ethnicity to economic development—and to social, academic, and policy themes that Oxford students can pursue in the region.

The requirements for a successful course are your full attendance and active participation in class and two exams. The course combines the instructor's lectures, the discussion of a very varied body of scholarship on an array of topics and countries, and the analysis of cinema and other artistic production. The exam prompts require a thorough study of the readings, lectures, films, and any other material discussed in class.

After completing this course, students will be ready to pursue advanced courses on Latin America and the Caribbean, will have a comparative perspective to study the United States and other regions of the world, and will be able to engage in debates on the history, the culture, and the politics of globalization.

**Grading**

Class attendance and participation	50%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

**Grade Scale**

A = 94-100	A- = 90-93	B+ = 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82	C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76	C- = 70-72	D+ = 67-69	D = 63-66	F = 0-62	

**Absences:** Only one unexcused absence is permitted. After that, one point per absence will be discounted from the final grade.

**Honor code:** Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will automatically result in an F grade.

**Laptops are not allowed in class, except on specifically indicated occasions.  
Smartphones are not allowed in class under any circumstance.**

**Office hours:** Students are expected to attend office hours within the first three weeks of class. Failure to do this will affect their class attendance and participation grade.

**Accessibility and Accommodations:** Students must contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) to receive a letter outlining specific academic accommodations and should discuss them with their professor as early in the semester as possible. OAS contact information: (770) 784-4690 [oas\\_oxford@emory.edu](mailto:oas_oxford@emory.edu) / <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/access/students/index.html>

## **Bibliography**

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### ***Books (available at the campus bookstore)***

- John Charles Chasteen, *Born in Blood & Fire: A Concise History of Latin America* (New York: Norton & Company, 2016)
- Felipe Arocena and Kirk S. Bowman, *Lessons from Latin America: Innovations in Politics, Culture, and Development* (Canada: University of Toronto Press, 2014).
- Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1988)

### ***Articles and book chapters (available on Canvas)***

- Jose C. Moya, "Latin America: The Limitations and Meaning of a Historical Category," in *The Oxford Handbook of Latin American History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), 1–24.
- Robert M Levine and John J Crocitti, *The Brazil Reader: History, Culture, Politics* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2002), "What color are you? – Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics" (1976) and Jefferson Fish, "Mixed Blood," p. 386-394
- Eduardo Archetti, *Masculinities: Football, Polo, and the Tango in Argentina* (Oxford; New York: Berg, 1999), Chapter Two, "Male hybrids in the world of football," 46-76.
- Beatriz Alcubierre Moya and Rodrigo Bazán Bonfil, "José Vasconcelos' Classical Readings for Children and the Making of Childhood in Post-Revolutionary Mexico," *Bookbird* 55, no. 1 (2017): 14–23.
- Edward Eric Telles and René Flores, "Not Just Color: Whiteness, Nation, and Status in Latin America," *The Hispanic American Historical Review* -- 93, no. 3 (2013)
- Carol A. Hess, "Walt Disney's Saludos Amigos: Hollywood and the Propaganda of Authenticity," in Josh Kun (Editor), *The Tide Was Always High. The Music of Latin America in Los Angeles* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2017).
- Elizabeth Schwall, "'Cultures in the Body': Dance and Anthropology in Revolutionary Cuba," *History of Anthropology Newsletter* (blog), December 14, 2017, <http://histanthro.org/cultures-in-the-body/>.
- Marguerite Feitlowitz, *A Lexicon of Terror: Argentina and the Legacies of Torture* (New York; Oxford University Press, 2011), Chapter 2, "Night and fog," p. 73-102.

- Pierre Sean Brotherton, *Revolutionary Medicine: Health and the Body in Post-Soviet Cuba* (Durham: Duke UP, 2012), Ch. 1 “The biopolitics of health,” p. 15-34.
- Rob Baggott and George Lambie, “‘Enticing Case Study’ or ‘Celebrated Anomaly’? Policy Learning from the Cuban Health System,” *The International Journal of Health Planning and Management*, September 6, 2017.
- Edward W. Campion and Stephen Morrissey, “A Different Model — Medical Care in Cuba,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 368, no. 4 (January 24, 2013): 297–99.
- Mauro Castelló González et al., “International Medical Collaboration: Lessons from Cuba,” *Children (Basel, Switzerland)* 3, no. 4 (October 18, 2016)
- Conner Gorry, “Latin American Medical School Class of 2015: Exclusive with Cuban-Trained US Graduates,” *MEDICC Review (Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba)* 17, no. 3 (July 2015): 7–11.
- Cristina Mora, “Cross-Field Effects and Ethnic Classification: The Institutionalization of Hispanic Panethnicity, 1965 to 1990,” *American Sociological Review* 79, no. 2 (April 1, 2014): 183–210.
- Angela Stuesse, *Scratching out a Living: Latinos, Race, and Work in the Deep South* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016), Chapters 1 “Southern fried” and 5 “Pecking order.”
- Roberto G. Gonzales, *Lives in Limbo: Undocumented and Coming of Age in America* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2016), Chapter 2 “Undocumented young adults in Los Angeles” and Chapter 7 “College-goers”
- Wendy Hunter and Natasha Borges Sugiyama, “Transforming Subjects into Citizens: Insights from Brazil’s Bolsa Família,” *Perspectives on Politics* 12, no. 4 (2014): 829–45.

## Filmography

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The Library will screen the following movies and loan DVD copies. The movies can be watched through paid Internet media providers (some of them indicated below). It is the student’s responsibility to watch the films on time.

- *Cidade de Deus* [City of God], Fernando Meirelles (Brazil, 2002) / Amazon Video, YouTube, Google Play, iTunes, Vudu, Netflix Streaming
- *Nostalgia de la luz* [Nostalgia for the light], Patricio Guzmán (Chile 2010) / Amazon Video, Netflix DVD
- *Y tu mamá también* [And your mother too], Alfonso Cuarón (Mexico 2001) / Amazon Video, iTunes, Netflix Streaming
- *Habana blues* [Havana Blues], Benito Zambrano (Cuba, 2005) / iTunes, Netflix DVD

## Schedule of classes

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### Introduction

- 1 / Jan-18 Th / Introduction
- 2 / Jan-23 Tu / Moya, “Latin America: The Limitations and Meaning...”
- 3 / Jan-25 Th / Chasteen, Ch. 2 “Encounter” + Ch. 3 “Colonial crucible”
- 4 / Jan-30 Tu / Chasteen, Ch. 4 “Independence” + Ch. 5 “Postcolonial blues”

### **Ethnicities**

- 5 / Feb-1 Th / Arocena & Bowman: "The awakening of indigenous culture in Bolivia"  
6 / Feb-6 Tu / Arocena & Bowman: "Brazil: where were the blacks?" + *Brazil Reader*  
7 / Feb-8 Th / Film discussion: *City of God* Screening Tu Feb 6  
8 / Feb-13 Tu / Archetti, "Male hybrids" + Arocena & Bowman: "Global lessons from the Beautiful Game"  
9 / Feb-15 Th / Alcubierre & Bazán, "José Vasconcelos' classical readings"  
10 / Feb-20 Tu / Telles & Flores, "Not just color"

### **Modernities**

- 11 / Feb-22 Th / Chasteen, Ch. 6: "Progress" + Ch. 7: "Neocolonialism"  
12 / Feb-27 Tu / Chasteen, Ch. 8: "Nationalism" + Hess, "Walt Disney's Saludos Amigos"  
13 / Mar-1 Th / Review session  
14 / Mar-6 Tu / **Midterm exam**  
15 / Mar-8 Th / Music, tradition, and modernity in Latin America

### *SPRING BREAK*

- 16 / Mar-20 Tu / Chasteen, Ch. 9: "Revolution" + Schwall, "Cultures in the body"  
17 / Mar-22 Th / Chasteen, Ch. 10: "Reaction"  
18 / Mar-27 Tu / Feitlowitz, "Night and Fog"  
19 / Mar-29 Th / Film discussion: *Nostalgia for the Light* Screening Tu Mar 27  
20 / Apr-3 Tu / Chasteen, Ch. 11: "Neoliberalism and beyond..." + Film discussion: *Y tu mamá también* Screening Sun 1 Apr  
21 / Apr-5 Th / Kincaid, *A Small Place*  
22 / Apr-10 Tu / Dossier: five readings on the Cuban health system  
23 / Apr-12 Th / Film discussion: *Habana blues* Screening Apr 10 Tu

### **Latin Americans in the United States**

- 24 / Apr-17 Tu / Mora, "Cross-field effects and ethnic classification"  
25 / Apr-19 Th / Stuesse, *Scratching Out a Living* + Gonzales, *Lives in limbo*

### **Conclusion**

- 26 / Apr-24 Tu / Hunter & Borges, "Transforming subjects" + Arocena & Bowman: "Gender and representation"  
27 / Apr-26 Th / Conclusion + Review session

### **Final Exam date: TBA**