

Relations Between the United States and Latin America: An Overview

Instructor: Dr. Mariana Teixeira Marques-Pujol

Contact information: mariana.pujol@ut-capitole.fr; maritmpujol@gmail.com

General Course Description:

The course is designed to introduce and examine U.S.-Latin American relations from an interdisciplinary perspective. By associating the discussion of scholarly articles in the fields of history, sociology, international relations and anthropology to the analysis of material from the media and the arts, this course will attempt to provide a multifaceted overview of inter-American exchanges since the 19th century and to highlight the contemporary outcomes of these relations.

Detailed Course Description:

The course is designed to combine the cultural and the academic perspectives to offer an all-round framework for the analysis of U.S.-Latin American relations from the 19th century up to now. We will rely on scholarly essays using different methodological and conceptual approaches, and explore their connections to films, newspaper articles, news reports and other materials with the aim of understanding how U.S.-Latin American relations are actively defined and redefined by the nations involved. This approach will allow us to investigate more specifically the ways in which North Americans and Latin Americans have envisaged these relations through the themes of displacement and work; culture and politics; racism and identities; stereotypes and anti-Americanism.

Objectives:

By the end of the semester, the students will have:

- Become familiar with the discussion on the “invention” of Latin America
- Been informed of the broad academic debates on the origins of the U.S.-Latin American relations
- Understood the multifaceted perspective of inter-American studies
- Developed critical reflection about what inter-American relations reveal about world history and historical processes
- Developed the ability to analyze cultural products in their relation to history and society
- Developed the ability to think critically about scholarly essays, the quality of their arguments, and their contributions to the broader field of U.S.-Latin American relations
- Enhanced thinking skills that reflect an ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information while improving creative thinking and inquiry
- Developed a sense of intercultural competence and the ability to analyze transnational phenomena
- Practiced speaking skills mainly through their participation in roundtable discussions

Course Schedule:

Class & date	Content
Week 1 Course Introduction: "America"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Course objectives ○ The "invention" of "Latin America" – a Latin American identity? ○ What does it mean to analyze a cultural product? <p>Bibliography for this class: Todorov (1995), Chapter 8, "Fictions and Truths" Gobat (2013), "The Invention of Latin America"</p>
Week 2 Origins of the U.S.- Latin America relations	<u>Contents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A bit of history: "Encountering Latin America" ○ Looking at U.S.-Latin American relations from the point of view of International Relations
Week 3 Displacement and Work (I)	<u>Contents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Braceros Program and its consequences ○ Latino writers and displacement: "Fieldwork" ○ Discuss BBC video "Life in the Shadow of US-Mexico Border Wall"
Week 4 Displacement and Work (II)	<u>Contents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Documenting undocumented stories ○ Discuss "Between Borders: American Migrant Crisis" (NYT documentary by Brent Renaud and Craig Renaud) ○ "How U.S. Policy Turned the Sonoran Desert Into a Graveyard for Migrants". James Verini for <i>The New York Times</i> (Aug. 18, 2020)
Week 5 Culture and Politics (I)	<u>Contents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The U.S. and the Cuba Revolution ○ U.S. intervention and the Operation Condor
Week 6 Culture and Politics (II)	<u>Contents:</u> Evaluation 1: Roundtable discussions
Week 7 Racism and Identities (I)	<u>Contents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Race in in the U.S. and in Brazil ○ News report - BBC video "Crossing Brazil's racial and class divide"
Week 8 Racism and Identities (II)	<u>Contents:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fighting racial inequality ○ Do "Black Lives Matter" in Latin America?
Week 9 Stereotypes and anti-Americanism in Latin America	<u>Contents:</u> Forms of Anti-Americanism

Week 10 Wrap-Up session: what next?	<u>Contents:</u> What to expect from the United States? Discussion of the film "Bacurau"
---	--

Evaluation:

- 40% of the grade = Roundtable discussions (Week 6) OR Analysis of a cultural product
Depending on the size of the group. More details on the first day of class!
- 60% of your grade = Final essay
You will write a 1,500-word essay on a topic of your choice among **three options**. A correction grid will help you plan and write your essay.

Bibliography and references:

Andrews, George Reid. "Racial Inequality in Brazil and the United States, 1990-2010". In: *Journal of Social History*, Summer 2014, Vol. 47, No. 4, pp. 829-854.

Benjamin, Jules R. "Interpreting the U.S. Reaction to the Cuban Revolution, 1959-1960". In *Cuban Studies*, 1989, Vol. 19 (1989), pp.145-165.

Dabène, Olivier. (2017). *L'Amérique Latine. Idées Reçues sur un Continent Contrasté*. Paris : Le Cavalier Bleu.

_____ ; Louault, Frédéric. (2019). *Atlas de l'Amérique Latine*. Paris : Editions Autrement.

Daniel, G. Reginald. (2006). *Race and Multiraciality in Brazil and in the United States: Converging Paths?* University Park, PA: The Pennsylvania State University Press.

De León, Jason. (2015). *The Land of Open Graves. Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*. Oakland: University of California Press.

Doyle, Don H. (ed). (2017). *American Civil Wars: The United States, Latin America, Europe, and the Crisis of the 1860s*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.

Gandásegui, Marco A., et al. (2019). *Estados Unidos: y La Nueva Correlación De Fuerzas Internacional*. Edited by Marco A. Gandásegui, CLACSO. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvt6rkr4. Accessed 22 Aug. 2020.

Gobat, Michel. "The Invention of Latin America: A Transnational History of Anti-Imperialism, Democracy, and Race". In: *The American Historical Review*, December 2013, Vol. 118, No. 5, pp. 1345-1375.

Ibarra, Armando; Carlos, Alfredo; Torres, Rodolfo D. (2018). *The Latino Question. Politics, Labouring Classes and the Next Left*. London: Pluto Press.

Kelly, Patrick J. "The Cat's-Paw: Confederate Ambitions in Latin America". In: Doyle, Don H. (2017). *American Civil Wars. The United States, Latin America, Europe, and the Crisis of the 1860s*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

Lesser, Ian O. "What to Expect from the United States: A Look Ahead at US Foreign Policy". In: *Istituto Affari Internazionali* (IAI Papers, January 2020)

Long, Tom. (2015). *Latin America Confronts the United States. Asymmetry and Influence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Loza, Mireya. (2016). *Defiant Braceros: How Migrant Workers Fought for Racial, Sexual, and Political Freedom*. Oakland: University of California Press.

McPherson, Alan. (2007). "Anti-Americanism in Latin America and the Caribbean: 'False populism' or coming full circle?" In: *The Anti-American Century* [online]. Budapest: Central European University Press.

McSherry, J. Patrice. "Operation Condor: Clandestine Inter-American System". In: *Social Justice*, Winter 1999, Vol. 26, No. 4 (78), Shadows of State Terrorism: Impunity in Latin America (Winter 1999), pp. 144-174.

Mix, Miguel Rojas. (1992). *América Imaginaria*. Barcelona: Editorial Lumen.

Morais, Fernando. (2015). *The Last Soldiers of the Cold War. The Story of the Cuban Five*. London, New York: Verso.

Muñoz, Manuel. "Fieldwork". In: Freeman, John (ed.). (2017). *Tales of Two Americas*. New York/ Penguin, p. 59-68.

Obama, Barak (2011). Remarks by President Obama on Latin America in Santiago, Chile. March 21. <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/21/remarks-president-obama-latin-america-santiago-chile>. Accessed August 8, 2020.

Palma, José Gabriel. (2008). "Dependency". In: Palgrave Macmillan (eds) *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*. Palgrave Macmillan, London. https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-349-95121-5_204-2

Sachs, Jeffrey D. (2018) *A New Foreign Policy: Beyond American Exceptionalism*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Schultz, Lars. (1998). *Beneath the United States. A History of U.S. Policy Toward Latin America*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Skidmore, Thomas E. (2003). "Racial Mixture and Affirmative Action: The Cases of Brazil and the United States". In: *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 108, No 5 (December 2003), pp. 1391-1396.

_____. (1993). "Bi-Racial U.S.A. versus Multi-Racial Brazil: Is the Contrast Still Valid?" In: *Journal of Latin American Studies*, May 1993, Vol. 25, No 2' pp. 373-386.

Stam, R., & Shohat, E. (2012). "Brazil, the United States, and the Culture Wars." In: *Race in Translation: Culture Wars around the Postcolonial Atlantic* (pp. 175-208). NYU Press. Retrieved August 24, 2020, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt9qg69t.10>

Newspaper articles:

Carvalho, Bruno. "Latin America Is Ready for Its Black Lives Matter Reckoning". *The New York Times*, June 29, 2020. Available at [https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/29/opinion/latin-](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/29/opinion/latin-america-black-lives-matter.html)

[america-racism-police.html](#)

Lodoño, Ernesto. "In Latin America, Pence Aims to Soften 'America First' Message". *The New York Times*, August 16, 2017. Available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/16/world/americas/latin-america-pence-trump-relations-united-states.html>

Milman, Oliver. "US drives rainforest destruction by importing Amazon oil, study finds". *The Guardian*, 28/09/2016. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/28/amazon-crude-oil-us-imports-rainforest-destruction-study>

Verini, James. "How U.S. Policy Turned the Sonoran Desert Into a Graveyard for Migrants". *The New York Times*, Aug. 18, 2020. Available at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/18/magazine/border-crossing.html>

Videos and films:

NYT Documentaries – "Between Borders: American Migrant Crisis" (Brent Renaud and Craig Renaud) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxF0t-SMEXA>

BBC - "Crossing Brazil's racial and class divide" - <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-53484698> BBC - "Life in the Shadow of US-Mexico border Wall" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9Gd-axMMbM>

Loach, Ken. "11 September" - <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x415e>

Vik Muniz, "Waste Land" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwXECdttdaE>

Other resources:

Yale University Library – History of U.S. – Latin American Relations: Digital Archives <https://guides.library.yale.edu/c.php?g=296334&p=1976987>