

HISTORY 340G
The Minority Experience in Latin America

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Winthrop 110

Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:05 - 11:20

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 2:30 - 4:00 or by appointment

Latin America, contrary to popular belief, has a diverse racial and ethnic population. Although biological and cultural mixing has created seemingly new cultures, many continue to feel as if they were "others," and somehow not part of dominant Latin American society.

The Minority Experience in Latin America will analyze the complex societies of Latin America by examining the African, Asian and Jewish experiences in the region. By concentrating on four distinctly different countries, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Argentina, students will study the historical role of these groups on the development of Latin America. Furthermore, the complex process of accommodation, integration and acculturation will be examined from a historical perspective.

The course will begin with an overview of key concepts such as minority, ethnicity, and race from a Latin American perspective. We will also discuss the concept of "ethnic history" and how it differs from other types of historical analysis. We will then proceed to examine each of the three different groups within a national perspective so that we may closely analyze how ethnic and racial groups affect and relate to national interests and historical change.

Although this is not an introductory seminar, no prior knowledge of Latin America, or its languages, is assumed. Students who are able to speak or read Portuguese, Spanish, or any other Latin American language should inform me immediately. Race, culture, ethnicity and religion will be examined from theoretical, economic, social, political and policy perspectives. We will use different types of documents in order to examine these topics including monographs, films, videos, oral histories and photographs.

Since interaction is crucial to the learning process, and since this is a seminar, classes will be generally student-led. Seminar participation will be worth 20% of the final grade. Students will be expected to participate in all discussions and keep up with the weekly reading assignments, which will average about 200 pages per week. Two five page analytical papers will be due and the average of these papers will be worth 40 per cent of the final grade. A final research paper will be worth 40%.

Required Readings: All available at the Connecticut College Bookstore. Readings packet available from Dr. Lesser.

- 1) Richard Graham, ed. The Idea of Race in Latin America, 1870-1940 (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990) [RG]
- 2) Moacyr Scliar, The Centaur in the Garden
- 3) Nicolás Guillén, ¡Patria o Muerte!: The Great Zoo and other poems. [NG]
- 5) Readings Packet [RP]
- 6) Anani Dzidzienyo and Lourdes Casal, The Position of Blacks in Brazilian and Cuban Society.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, READINGS AND EVALUATIONS:

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|-----------------|-------|--|
| JAN | 21 | Introduction |
| | 23 | What is Race, What is Ethnicity?
READ: Pierre L. van den Berghe, "Introduction" from <u>Race and Racism.</u>
[RP] |
| | 28 | What is a Minority?
READ: Rex, John. "Race and Ethnicity in Sociological Theory"; from <u>and Ethnicity.</u> [RP]
READ: Yinger, J. Milton. "Intersecting Strands in the theorisation of race and ethnic relations." [RP] |
| <u>Race</u> | 30 | Historical Theories of Race and Ethnicity I
READ: Stone, John. "Race relations without races?" and "Minority and Power." from <u>Racial Conflict in Contemporary Society.</u> [RP] |
| <u>Groups</u> | FEB 4 | Historical Theories of Race and Ethnicity II
READ: Van den Berghe, Pierre L. "Ethnicity and Other Bases of Sociality" and "The Dynamics of Ethnicity." from <u>The Ethnic Phenomenon.</u> [RP]
READ: Ianni, Octavio. "Race and Class in Latin America." from <u>in Race and Ethnic Relations.</u> Richmond, Anthony H. ed. Oxford, Pergamon, 1972. [RP] |
| <u>Readings</u> | 6 | Race and Ethnicity in Latin American and Caribbean History
READ: Jeff Lesser, "Are African-Americans African or American? Brazilian Immigration Policy in the 1920's." <u>Review of Latin American Studies</u> [RP] |

READ: Wally Look Lai, "Chinese Indentured Labor: Migrations to the British West Indies in the 19th Century. Amerasia 15:2 (1989), 117-138.

BRAZIL-----BRAZIL-----BRAZIL-----

- FEB. 11 **A Brazilian Perspective on Race**
 READ: Gilberto Freyre "Brazilian Melting Pot" [RP]
 READ: Esther R. Largman and Robert M. Levine, "Jews in the Tropics," The Americas [RP]
 VIDEO: Robert Levine, The Faces of Slavery
- 13 **The Idea of Race in Brazil**
 READ: Skidmore, Thomas E. "Racial Ideas and Social Policy in Brazil, 1870-1940." [RG]
 READ: Van den Berghe, Pierre L. "Brazil" Ch. 3 in Race and Racism: A Comparative Perspective. [RP]
 BEGIN READING: Moacyr Scliar, The Centaur in the Garden
- 18 **African Experience in Brazil**
 READ: Mahomman G. Baquaqua, "Recollections of a Slave's Life" [RP]
 READ: Author unknown "Who shall be a slave and why?" [RP]
 READ:Saunders, John. "Class, Color, and Prejudice: A Brazilian Counterpoint." from Racial Tensions and National Identity. [RP]
- 20 **Minority Experience in Brazil**
 READ: Jeff Lesser, "Continuity and Change in an Immigrant Community: The Jews of São Paulo, " Luso-Brazilian Review [RP]
 READ: Anani Didizienyo, "The Position of Blacks in Brazilian Society." From A. Dzidzienyo and L. Casal, The Position of Blacks in Brazilian and Cuban Society, pp. 2-10.
- 25 **Library Research in History**
 Have Moacyr Scliar, The Centaur in the Garden finished.
- 27 **The racial definition of ethnicity II**
 READ: Jeff Lesser, Exodus to the Land of the Future: Brazil and the Jewish Question, 1900-1945, chapter 7 "The Pope, The Dictator and The Refugees who never came."

Mexico-----Mexico-----Mexico-----

- MAR 3 **Who is the Other in a bi-racial society? - Old Views**
 READ: Van den Berghe, Pierre L. Mexico. Ch. 2 in Race and Racism [RP]

- 5 **Who is the Other in a bi-racial society? - New Views**
 READ: Knight, Alan. "Racism, Revolution and *Indigenismo*: Mexico, 1910-1940 [RG]

SPRING BREAK -- SPRING BREAK --SPRING BREAK --

- MAR 24 **Coolies or Chinese???**
 READ: Evelyn Hu DeHart, "Coolies, Shopkeepers, Pioneers: The Chinese of Mexico and Peru." Amerasia 15:2 (1989), 91-116.

Cuba-----Cuba-----Cuba-----

- MAR 26 **The Colonial Experience**
 READ: Stanley M. Hordes, "The Inquisition as Economic and Political Agent: The Campaign of the Mexican Holy Office Against the Crypto-Jews in the Mid-Seventeenth Century." The Americas. [RP]

- 30 **FILM: El Otro Francisco**
 Begin reading Nicolás Guillén, ¡Patria o Muerte!

- APR 2 **FILM: El Otro Francisco**

- 7 **Revolution and Minority Society I**
 READ: Lourdes Casal, Race Relations in Contemporary Cuba. From A. Dzidzienyo and L. Casal, The Position of Blacks in Brazilian and Cuban Society, pp. 11-25.

- 9 **Revolution and Minority Society II**
 VIDEO: Hotel Cuba
 Finish reading Nicolás Guillén, ¡Patria o Muerte!

Argentina-----Argentina-----Argentina-----

- 14 **Gobernar es poplar, to govern is to populate**
 READ: Aline Helg, "Race in Argentina and Cuba, 1880-1930" (RG)

- 16 **A European Other: Jewish Argentina**
 READ: Victor A. Mirelman, "Attitudes Towards Jews in Argentina" and "The Semana Tragica of 1919 and the Jews of Argentina." Jewish Social Studies. [RP]
 VIDEO: Mark Freeman, The Yidishe Gauchos

- 121 **Afro-Argentina**

READ: G. Reid Andrews. "Race versus class association: the Afro-Argentines of Buenos Aires, 1850-1900" Journal of Latin American Studies [RP]

April	23	Class Presentations
	28	Class Presentations
	30	Class Presentations
MAY	2	Class Presentations
	7	Class Presentations