HIS 3942
Crime and Criminality in the Americas
Fall 2019
Tuesday (10:40-11:30am) & Thursday (10:40-12:35pm)
McCarty Hall A 2186 (Tues) and Williamson Hall 0202 (Thurs)

Dr. Heather Vrana
Office: 364 Grinter Hall
Email: hvrana@ufl.edu
Office hours: Tues. 12:00-2pm, Thurs. 12:45-2pm, and by appointment

Graduate Assistant: Heather Gonyeau
Office hours: By appointment
Email: hgonyeau@ufl.edu
Location: Smathers Latin America Collection Reading Room

The History Practicum – Introduction and Objectives of the Course

This course is designed to help students develop fundamental skills in critical reading, analytical thinking, historical research, and argumentative writing, all of which are needed to succeed in the major and which will serve students well in their future endeavors, no matter what profession or occupation they pursue after graduation.

These practical skills emphasize three areas: a) critical reading b) research and evidence and c) editing and peer assessment.

Our material will center on crime and criminality. Netflix’s hit series Narcos depicts a lush world of intrigue, lies, sex, and—of course—drugs. Its worldwide success owes to an audience already captivated by Latin American crime. In fact, images of Central American maras covered in ornate tattoos and the high-profile arrests of “crime bosses” have all but defined how some American publics have envisioned “bad immigrants” since the late 1990s. Meanwhile, deportations, violence within prisons, and overwhelming impunity generate ongoing human rights crises in the region. How do these seemingly distinct observations connect?

This class examines the complex histories of crime, criminality, and incarceration in Latin America through a variety of texts and approaches, including fiction, history, political theory, memoir, and case study. We will read texts from cities, the countryside, plantations, bedrooms, convents, and gambling houses; texts invoking race, gender, sex, and class; texts about travel, translation, slavery, labor, and the rise of modern prison systems in the Americas.

Course Goals
- come to understand how the very ideas of “crime” and “the criminal” were formed and changed over time;
- practice the basics of historical research and writing, including
  o evaluating primary and secondary sources
- devising research questions
- identifying and avoiding plagiarism
- conducting library-based and online research
- analytical writing
- providing peer editing and feedback
- better understand some available careers in history

**Attendance Policy and Expectations**

Attendance is mandatory. You are permitted to miss two classes in the semester without penalty. After that, every missed class meeting will result in the lowering of your grade by 1/3 (i.e., a B becomes a B-, a C+ becomes a C, and so on…). Additionally, you must arrive to class on time. Late arrivals are disruptive and conspicuous. Like any and all classes at university, the assumption is that you are here to learn from the material, the professor, and your classmates; disagreement and lively debate are to be expected—please be mindful of the effect of your actions and words on others.

**Format**

This class meets from 10:40-11:30am on Tuesdays and from 10:40am-12:35pm on Thursdays. All reading for the week is due on Tuesday and we will work with it all week. Tuesdays will comprise lecture on crime and criminality in Latin America and Thursdays will comprise ½ lecture and ½ historiography/methodology. At times, this structure may change to accommodate lively discussion or lecture material on “off days.”

You are responsible for participating actively in all of these components. This is crucial to the success of the course and your success in the course.

**Readings**

As this is a 3000-level class, you can expect to read around 70-90 pages per week, usually a combination of primary and secondary sources (including scholarly articles and book chapters). As you well know, not all reading is created equal and some texts will be harder than others, though they appear shorter at first glance.

*Required*

Many of our readings will be primary sources that are available as PDFs on Canvas. You will also purchase four books for this class.

**Texts to buy:**


Joao Biehl, *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013. [Be sure to get the 2013 edition that is Updated with a New Afterword]

*Suggested*
Skidmore and Smith’s *Modern Latin America* may be helpful in providing good background information that will help you if you are confused about context. You can obtain this book from the library and from a number of booksellers for a low cost. You may also find Ricardo D. Salvatore and Carlos Aguirre, *The Birth of the Penitentiary in Latin America: Essays on Criminology, Prison Reform, and Social Control, 1830-1940* helpful.

**Assignments and Grading:**

| Attendance and Participation | Your participation in class is crucial to our and your success. You will have two absences this semester without penalty. I will take attendance every class period and you are responsible for monitoring how it will affect your grade. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx) | 200 points (20% course grade) |
| Tests | Twice in the semester, you will take a test on the material covered in readings and discussion. These tests will be taken in class and will be relatively short. They are worth up to 50 points each (total 100 points). | 100 points (10% course grade) |
| Short Assignments | 1. Objects – 20 points  
2. Plagiarism & Evidence – 20 points  
3. Discuss a paragraph – 20 points  
4. Schools of History – 30 points  
5. Google v. Worldcat v. UF Databases – 20 points  
6. Peer editing – 20 points  
7. Topic to Question to Thesis to Essay – 40 points  
8. Uses for/of History – 30 points | 200 points (20% course grade) |
| Reflection Paper | Drawing from your readings, lectures, and class discussions, you will discuss the changing meaning of “justice” across the 19-21st centuries in Latin America. Your paper must include theoretical, secondary, and primary sources. You may use assigned readings. Your paper should be about 1500 words in length. | 200 points (20% course grade) |
| Final Paper/Project | Think of this assignment as a portfolio. Beginning with your object and composing a research question, title, 200-word abstract, annotated bibliography, thesis, and paper outline. Your project will be focused around the object that you chose, but also engage theories of crime and criminality, secondary materials, and original primary source research. What you research and the format you choose is, largely, up to you. You will be discussing your progress throughout the course with your classmates and me. | 300 points (30% course grade) |

There will be many opportunities during the semester to attend relevant events for extra credit.
Note: You are eligible to earn extra credit points only if you have completed all assignments. Extra credit may not be completing in lieu of assignments.

How to calculate your grade: You will earn points for each assignment, which will add up to a possible 1000 points across the semester. At any point, you can calculate your own grade by dividing the number of points you have earned by the number of points you could have earned and multiplying by 100.

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For information regarding current UF policies for assigning grade points, see: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Honor Code
UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Cell phones, tardiness, class conduct
We may disagree at times, but together we will learn to respectfully discuss topics that are important to us. Please treat one another with generosity.

Cell phone usage during class is distracting, as are online shopping and developing your online presence. In our class, please enjoy 50-100 minutes of distraction-free thinking. Please refrain from computer use that is not directly related to the class. Should you choose to succumb to distraction, you will forfeit points earned for attending class on that day.

Accessibility and accommodations
Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565 or www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.
Course Evaluations
Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

[Note: I may update the syllabus if necessary through the course of the semester. If changes are made, the updated syllabus will be announced in class and on the course Canvas site.]
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1—Crime and Criminality: Introduction (August 20 & 22)
Tuesday: Welcome and Class Policies
Thursday: Lecture on the History of Crime; discussion of the readings below; “Objects” activity introduced


Documents

Supplementary readings:

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Week 2—Indigeneity, Sex, and the Law in Spanish Colonies (August 27 & 29)
Tuesday: Lecture on Spanish law in the colonies
Thursday: Finish lecture; discussion of the selected court cases from Colonial Lives
Due (on Thursday): Short Assignment: Objects

Documents
- Excerpts, Laws of Burgos Concerning the Treatment of Indians (1512-13)
- Excerpts, New Laws (1542)
- Read three cases from the selections below in Colonial Lives: Documents on Latin American History, 1550-1850, ed. Richard Boyer and Geoffrey Spurling
  - “The Indians of Tejupan Want to Raise Silk on Their Own (Oaxaca, Mexico, 1543)”
  - “The Telling of Tales: A Spanish Priest and His Maya Prisoners (Yucatan, 1573-90)”
  - “Directorio Para Confesores: Lords Who Hold Temporal Government Over Vassals” (Mexico, 1585)”
  - “Affairs of the Courtroom: Fernando de Medina Confesses to Killing His Wife (Charcas, 1595)”
  - “The Spiritual and Physical Ecstasies of a Sixteenth-Century Beata: Marina de San Miguel Confesses Before the Mexican Inquisition (Mexico, 1598)”
“On Her Deathbed, Maria de la Candelaria Accuses Michaela de Molina of Casting Spells (Guatemala, 1696)”

Secondary readings
- Donnelly and Norton, Preface, pp. xi-xiii and Chapter 1, pp. 3-18

Supplementary readings:

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Week 3—Property and Person/hood (September 3 & 5)
Tuesday: Lecture on Slavery in Spanish Colonies
Thursday: Finish lecture; discussion of different types of evidence, possibilities thereof
Due (on Thursday): Short Assignment: Plagiarism & Evidence

Documents
- Escaped slave ads from Jamaica and elsewhere in the Caribbean
- Joaquim Nabuco, "We Are Seeking Our Country's Highest Interests": An Abolitionist Analyzes Slavery and Calls for a Break with the Past (1883)

Secondary readings
- Donnelly and Norton, Chapter 4: Using Sources, pp. 65-81
- Rampolla, Chapter 6: Plagiarism, pp. 104-111 and Chapter 7: Quoting and Documenting Sources, 112-155 [NB. Use this text as a reference]
- Brian Connolly and Marisa Fuentes, “Introduction: From Archives of Slavery to Liberated Futures?” History of the Present 6, no. 2 (Fall 2016): 105-116

Supplementary readings:

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Week 4—Criminality in Nation-Building (September 10 & 12)
Tuesday: Lecture on Juan Manuel de Rosas and post-independence Argentina;
Thursday: Finish lecture; discussion of law and nation-building; discussion of capital punishment from Foucault to Salvatore readings

Secondary readings
- Donnelly and Norton, Chapter 2: Changing Approaches to History, pp. 19-50 and Chapter 3: Creating Historical Knowledge, pp. 53-65
Supplementary readings:
Dain Borges, “Healing and Mischief: Witchcraft in Brazilian Law and Literature, 1890-1922” in CPLA

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**Week 5—Positivism and Prisons (September 17 & 19)**
Tuesday: Lecture on 19th-century prisons and prison reform
Thursday: Finish lecture; discussion of readings;
Due (on Thursday): Short Assignment: Discuss a paragraph

Secondary readings
- Donna J. Guy, “Girls in Prison: The Role of the Buenos Aires Casa Correccional de Mujeres as an Institution for Child Rescue, 1890-1940” in CPLA
- Pablo Piccato, “Cuidado con los Rateros: The Making of Criminals in Modern Mexico City,” in CPLA
- Carlos Aguirre, “Disputed Views of Incarceration in Lima, 1890-1930: The Prisoners’ Agenda for Prison Reform,” in CPLA

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**Week 6—Borderlands, Frontiers, and Outlaws (September 24 & 26)**
Tuesday: Test 1
Thursday: Lecture on U.S./Mexico borderlands and outlaws; discussion on TLAJM

Documents

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**Week 7—Sex Crimes and Culture Wars (October 1 & 3)**
Tuesday: Lecture on histories of gender and sexuality (especially sex and public health policing)
Thursday: Finish lecture(s); discussion of schools of history

Secondary readings
- Donnelly and Norton, Chapter 7: The power of history, pp. 117-136 and Chapter 8: Histories from another perspective, pp. 137-152
- Kristin Ruggiero, “Passion, Perversity, and the Pace of Justice in Argentina at the Turn of the Last Century,” in CPLA
Supplementary reading:

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**Week 8—Incarceration and Medical Experimentation in Guatemala (October 8 & 10)**

Tuesday: Lecture on histories of medical experimentation, asylums, and incarceration
Thursday: Finish lecture; discussion of letters; discussion of research ethics in the humanities and social sciences

Due (on Thursday): Short Assignment: Schools of History

Documents
- Browse Letters and other materials from John C. Cutler at the National Archives website, here: <https://www.archives.gov/research/health/cdc-cutler-records>

Secondary readings

Supplementary readings:

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**Week 9—Zoot Suit Riots: Latinos and War-Time Los Angeles (October 15 & 17)**

Thursday: Finish film; discussion of film and documents

Documents
- Documents from the Sleepy Lagoon Trials, 1942-43
  [http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf3b69n8z8/](http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf3b69n8z8/)
- Photographs from the “Zoot Suit Riots”

Secondary readings
- Donnelly and Norton, Chapter 9: Popular history, pp. 153-170
- Rampolla, Chapter 2: Working with Sources, pp. 8-25 [NB. Use this text as a reference]

Supplementary reading:
**Week 10—Criminalization of Political Dissent (October 29 & 31)**
Tuesday: Lecture on Operation Condor and Political Violence in the Southern Cone
Thursday: Finish lecture(s); discuss National Security Archive sources and uses of other sources
Due (on Thursday): Short Assignment: Google v. Worldcat v. UF Databases

**Documents**
- Operation Condor, National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 514, [https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB514/](https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB514/)
- Operation Condor, National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 416, [https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB416/](https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB416/)
- Brazil Conspired with U.S. to Overthrow Allende, National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 282, [https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB282/index.htm](https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB282/index.htm)
- BRAZIL: TORTURE TECHNIQUES REVEALED IN DECLASSIFIED U.S. DOCUMENTS, National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 478, [https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB478/](https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB478/)

**Secondary readings**
- Ben Cowan, “‘Why Hasn’t This Teacher Been Shot?’ Moral-Sexual Panic, the Repressive Right, and Brazil’s National Security State,” *HAHR* 92, no. 3 (August 2012): 403-436.

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**Week 11—Whither Reform? (October 22 & 24)**
Tuesday: Discussion of *Vita* (read Part 1 and 2 for Tuesday)
Thursday: Test 2; Discussion of *Vita* (read Part 3, 5, and 6 for Thursday)

**Secondary Readings**
- Joao Biehl, *Vita: Life in a Zone of Social Abandonment* [NB. This is a longer reading—consider starting ahead of time…]

  **Supplementary reading:**

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**Week 12—Human Rights, Truth, and Reconciliation (November 5 & 7)**
Tuesday: Lecture on Guatemalan civil war and Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs)
Thursday: Finish lecture; begin discussion of “justice”

**Documents**
- Recovering of Historical Memory Project, “Surviving,” in *The Guatemala Reader*
- Helen Mack, “What is Reconciliation,” in *The Guatemala Reader*

**Secondary readings**

**Supplementary readings:**

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**Week 13—Justice (November 12 & 14)**
Tuesday: Lecture on Chile and political violence
Thursday: Finish lecture; ongoing discussion of justice and “Death and the Maiden” play
Due (on Thursday): Reflection Paper on Meaning of Justice

**Documents**
• Ariel Dorfman, “Death and the Maiden”– C

**Supplementary readings:**

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**Week 14—Drug Wars and Counterrevolution (November 19 & 21)**
Tuesday: Lecture on Colombia, the FARC, and the international cocaine trade
Thursday: Finish lecture; discussion of peer editing process; check-in on Final Portfolio
Due (on Thursday): Short Assignment: Peer Editing

**Documents**
• Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) and Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN), “Starting Points for the FARC and ELN” (1965 and 1964/1993)
• Los Extraditables, “We Prefer a Grave in Colombia to a Cell in the United States” (1989)
• Diego Viáfara Salinas, “A Medic’s Life within a Cocaine-Fueled Paramilitary Organization” (1989)

**Secondary readings**

**Supplementary reading:**

Oscar Martínez, *History of Violence*
Week 15—Final Paper Workshop (November 26)
Tuesday: Final Paper Workshop
Due (on Tuesday): Short Assignment: Topic to Question to Thesis to Essay Reflection Paper

Secondary Readings
• Rampolla, Chapter 3: Approaching Typical Assignments in History, pp. 26-51 and Chapter 4: Following Conventions of Writing in History, pp. 52-82 [NB. Use this text as a reference.]

Week 16—Presentations & Wrap-Up (December 3)
Tuesday: Discussion of Hay chapter; final presentations
Due (on Tuesday): Short Assignment: Uses for/of History

Secondary Readings
• Donnelly and Norton, Part IV: History Today, pp. 171-190 and Conclusion, pp. 191-194
• Rampolla, Chapter 5: Writing a Research Paper, pp. 83-103 [NB. Use this text as a reference]
• Douglas Hay, “Law and Society in Comparative Perspective” in CPLA

Final Paper will be due by email at the time announced by the university as the end of the class’s final exam period.