



**REL 3381/LAS 3930: RELIGION IN LATIN AMERICA
Fall 2018**

Instructor: Christopher Lomelín

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Class Schedule: Tuesday, 8-9 (3:00-4:55) and Thursday, 9 (4:00-4:55)

Meeting Locations: Tuesday Matherly 0014, Thursday Matherly 0107

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursday, 1:00-3:00 and by appointment

Course Description

This course provides a broad survey of some of the main religious traditions in Latin America, including pre-colonial indigenous religions, Catholicism in its various forms, religions of the African diaspora, and Protestant and evangelical movements. We will use a variety of texts and methods to understand the diverse forms, practices, and belief systems of these religious traditions: historical surveys, primary source documents, film, and case studies. This course will

emphasize the distinctive cross-fertilization and hybrid forms of these religious traditions in Latin America. In addition, we will focus on the social and political roles religion plays in Latin America, especially the roles religion plays in the lives of those at the margins of society (i.e., the poor, women, indigenous people, and people of African descent) during times of social change.

Objectives

1. To become familiar with indigenous traditions in the context of pre-Colombian empires and civilizations
2. To understand the nature of contact between Old World European Christianity and New World indigenous religions, and how that contact shaped both European and American practices and world-views
3. To understand how the European slave trade shaped the development in the New World of practices and cosmologies from Africa
4. To identify and understand the various forms of Catholicism historically found throughout Latin America
5. Analyze why and how Protestantism has expanded rapidly in Latin America

Required Texts

Brusco, Elizabeth. *The Reformation of Machismo: Evangelical Conversion and Gender in Colombia*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1995.

Burns, Kathryn. *Colonial Habits: Convents and the Spiritual Economy of Cuzco, Peru*. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1999.

Carrasco, David. *Religions of Mesoamerica: Cosmopolitanism and Ceremonial Centers*. Long Grove: Waveland Press, 2013 (2nd Ed).

Murphy, Joseph M. *Santería: African Spirits in America*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993.

Vasquez A, Manuel and Anna Peterson (Eds.). *Latin American Religions: Histories in Context*. New York: NYU Press, 2008.

Readings marked with (*) will be uploaded to Canvas

Course Requirements

Reading Quizzes – (20%) Four in-class, closed book reading quizzes will be administered throughout the semester to encourage students to keep up with reading assignments. All quizzes will be based on course readings and will not be cumulative. Quizzes will be given on 9/11, 10/2, 10/16, and 11/15.

Midterm Exam – (30%) Students will take one written take home, open note midterm examination during the week of October 15 over the material covered in Units 1-3. Exams will be posted on Monday, October 15 and should be completed and submitted to Canvas by 11:59pm on Friday, October 19.

Final Exam – (35%) Students will take one written take home, open note final examination during the week of December 3 over the material covered in Unit 4-6. Exams will be posted on , December 3 and should be completed and submitted to Canvas by 11:59pm on Friday, December 10.

Attendance and Participation (15%) Attendance for this class is mandatory, and students are expected to arrive on time to class having read the assigned material. Students are also expected to participate in class discussion. Attendance will be taken during each class meeting.

Grading Scale: A: 100-94; A-: 93-90; B+: 89-87; B: 86-84; B-: 83-80; C+: 79-77; C: 76-74; C-: 73-70; D+: 69-67; D: 66-64; D-: 63-60; E: <60.

Policies and Rules

Attendance and Reading: Absence for reasons of illness, religious holiday, or official university business is excused. Please inform me as early as possible and provide appropriate documentation. All students are expected to arrive on time and be prepared to discuss the readings at every class meeting. You are allowed three unexcused absences. After the third unexcused absence your final grade will be reduced a full letter grade (A to B, A- to B-). Students with six or more unexcused absences will automatically fail the course.

Submitting Assignments: The Mid-term and Final exams will be submitted electronically via Canvas and screened for plagiarism through Turnitin.

Disruptions: Students should make every effort to avoid disruptive behavior, such as chronic tardiness or early departures. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited. You may not have a computer turned on in class unless you receive specific permission from the instructor. The instructor also reserves the right to ask any student engaging in disruptive behavior (e.g., whispering, reading a newspaper) to leave the class. Repeat violations of these rules will result in dismissal from the class.

Grade Appeals: Grades will not be discussed via email. If you have a question or complaint about your grade, please contact me within 48 hours of posting to schedule a meeting.

Communication Guidelines: Students are encouraged to contact the instructor via Canvas and email for questions, clarifications, requests and assistance, academic or otherwise. Please remember that your correspondences represent you and the way you regard your academic progress; all correspondences are to be written in a respectful, professional manner. Thus, written correspondences to the instructor or fellow classmates are official correspondences and should be approached with a degree of formality, not composed as you might structure text messages or chats. All emails must include a subject, polite greeting, direct and clear body, and a polite salutation; the instructor will request revision of correspondences that do not adhere to this format. Additionally, students will be advised to “SEE SYLLABUS” for questions that students can answer easily by looking in the syllabus (quiz dates, for example). During the week the instructor requests 24 hours to reply to student emails (48 hours on weekends). ***In emergency

situations that require immediate attention, please add 'URGENT' to the subject line of your message.***

Academic Honesty: All work submitted must be completed without unauthorized assistance, collaboration, or deliberate misrepresentations. Please keep in mind that plagiarism does not consist only in copying verbatim someone else's material and presenting it as if it were yours. It also includes taking ideas (even paraphrased!) from an author without according him/her proper recognition (through a footnote, for instance). Other forms of cheating (particularly downloading material from the Internet and presenting as if it were yours) will also be subject to the same action. **I operate under a zero tolerance policy and any instance of cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course**; in such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean. All UF students are expected to abide by the Student Conduct Code, which can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php>. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Student Rights and Responsibilities. These can be found at <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

Accommodations for Disabilities: Students who need classroom accommodations or other reasonable modifications to satisfy course criteria must register with the Disability Resource Center of the Dean of Students Office, who will work with you and the instructor to make appropriate arrangements. You can contact the Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565 or <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at the end of the semester. Evaluations can be found at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Summary results of these evaluations can be found at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Campus Resources

Writing Studio: If you want to improve your writing, the Writing Studio is a free service for current UF graduate and undergraduate students providing you with the opportunity to work one-on-one with a consultant to help you become a more effective writer. Appointments may be scheduled online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/for-students/schedule-an-appointment/>.

Health and Counseling: Health and counseling services are available for students in the event personal problems threaten to hinder academic performance. You can contact UF Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>; 352-392-1575, 301 Peabody Hall; Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1171; Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161; and the University Police Department: 352-392-1111. For assistance with professional development and resume writing, you can consult the Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 352-392-1601.

Course Schedule

Unit One: Precolonial Religion

August 23: Introduction to course, no readings

August 28: Introduction to Religion in Latin America; Introduction to Indigenous Religions
Readings: Vasquez & Peterson, *Latin American Religions*, 1-32

August 30: Carrasco, *Religions of Mesoamerica*, 11-74

September 4: Carrasco, *Religions of Mesoamerica*, 75-112; Iverson, “The Enduring Tolecs: History and Truth During the Aztec-to-Colonial Transition at Tula, Hidalgo”*

September 6: Carrasco, *Religions of Mesoamerica*, 113-146; Vasquez & Peterson, *Latin American Religions*, 33-44

September 11: Vasquez & Peterson, *Latin American Religions*, 44-49; Film, *Popol Vuh: The Creation Myth of the Maya* *****Reading Quiz #1*****

Unit Two: Colonial Encounters: Indigenous Religions and Catholicism

September 13: Vasquez & Peterson, *Latin American Religions*, 55-67; Burns, *Colonial Habits*, 1-14

September 18: Burns, *Colonial Habits*, 15-69

September 20: Burns, *Colonial Habits*, 70-100

September 25: Burns, *Colonial Habits*, 101-156

September 27: Burns, *Colonial Habits*, 157-185

October 2: Burns, *Colonial Habits*, 186-216 *****Reading Quiz #2*****

Unit Three: Popular Catholicism and Hybridity

October 4: Carrasco, *Religions of Mesoamerica*, 147-181

October 9: Chesnut, Excerpts from *Devoted to Death**, Bigliardi, “*La Santa Muerte* and Her Interventions in Human Affairs: a Theological Discussion”*

October 11: Vanderwood, “Criminals and Saints”*

*****Mid Term Prompt available on Canvas Monday, October 15*****

October 16: Espinosa, “Mexican Madonna”* *****Reading Quiz #3*****

Unit Four: African Religions in Latin America

October 18: Vasquez & Peterson, *Latin American Religions*, 89-99

*****Mid Term Due Friday, October 19 at 11:59pm*****

October 23: Murphy, *Santeria*, 1-48

October 25: Murphy, *Santeria*, 49-76

October 30: Murphy, *Santeria*, 77-113

November 1: Enger, “Umbanda and Africa”*, “Haitian Vodou,”* in *Creole Religions of the Caribbean*, 101- 130

Unit Five: Catholicism: Modernization and Reform

November 6: Vasquez & Peterson, *Latin American Religions*, 127-141; 202-238

November 8: Cleary, *The Rise of Charismatic Catholicism*: “Introduction”*

November 13: Peterson, *Martyrdom and the Politics of Religion*: “Progressive Catholicism in El Salvador”* Film, *Romero*

November 15: Peterson, “The Only Way I Can Walk”* *****Reading Quiz #4*****

Unit Six: Protestant Christianity and the Rise of Pentecostalism

November 20: Vasquez & Peterson, *Latin American Religions*, 159-168; Brusco, *The Reformation of Machismo*, 1-30

November 22: **Thanksgiving, No class**

November 27: Brusco, *The Reformation of Machismo*, 31-91

November 29: Brusco, *The Reformation of Machismo*, 92-146

*****Final Exam Prompt available on Canvas Monday, December 3*****

December 4: Brenneman, “Introduction” and ““Christian, Not Catholic”” in *Homies and Hermanos*

December 6: Reading Day

*****Final Exam due on Canvas Friday, December 10, 11:59pm*****