**Latin America**

This is an introductory course exploring intersecting histories, ideas, and social, political and cultural structures in Latin America. We will focus on the workings of Latin American cultures as shaped by race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, place, and religion. Throughout this course we will ask: Where is Latin America and what is Latin America? Over the semester, we will ask critical questions of a wide variety of materials: essays, television, poems, photographs, films, music, visual art, historical documents and legal texts. Students will be exposed to and experiment with a wide range of current interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological approaches with particular attention to research approaches to the study of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and other categories of difference.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION (10 pts)** Students must attend all lectures and participate in class discussion. This requires that students read and/or view the assigned material ahead of time and come to class with reactions, comments, questions, etc.

**Short Essay (30 points)**

**4 WRITING RESPONSES (40pts)-A total of 4 writing responses each worth 10 points each.**

**Final Essay Reflection (20pts)**

**What is the Category “Latin America”**

**Week** 1: Introduction

-August 28 Introduction

-August 30 Introduction

**Week 2**: Ideas of Latin America: Where and What is Latin America

-September 4 No classes

-September 6: Read: Chasteen, John Charles. 2016. “[**Welcome to Latin America**](https://anth3520prls3210latinamerica.commons.gc.cuny.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/22738/files/2022/08/Chasteen-2016-Chapter-1-pw.pdf)” Password needed to open. Ask professor for password. in Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America, 4thedition, 1-16.

-Tom Holloway, ["Latin America: What's in a Name?"](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fucdavis.academia.edu%2FTomHolloway%2FPapers%2F126375%2FLatin-America--What-s-in-a-Name&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFrqEzclDOafAAdCktSaXo5Y9ZU7kQDbpQ) in *A Companion to Latin American History* (Waltham, MA: Wiley/Blackwell, 2008)

-Mapping-Explore Indigenous Map of Mexico and Central America https://asu.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=aafcc14d856043db9d836178caaa7c3a

<https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/1492/index.html>

**Week 3**: History, Memory, and Entanglements of 1492

-September 11: *Readings:*Columbus, Christopher. “[A Letter Concerning Recently Discovered Islands](https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text1/columbusletter.pdf)”

[Requerimiento](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text7/requirement.pdf)

September 13: In class debate The People vs Columbus

**Week 4** Shifting Narratives of “Discovery” and “Conquest”

September 18: *Throughline* podcast episode: “Tenochtitlan: A Retelling of the Conquest” (53 mins.; listen at: https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1043792004)

Mundy, Barbara E. "Mapping the Aztec capital: The 1524 Nuremberg map of Tenochtitlan, its sources and meanings." *Imago Mundi* 50, no. 1 (1998): 11-33.

September 20: Documentary (24 mins.) *Columbus Didn't Discover Us*, 1985. Concord Media; Available at: https://vimeo.com/ondemand/columbusdidntdiscoverus

**Week 5** Founding National Narratives of Colonialism and Mixture: Malinche and Paragacu

September 25: No class

September 27: Tate, Julee. "La Malinche: The shifting legacy of a transcultural icon." *The Latin Americanist* 61, no. 1 (2017): 81-92.

Amado, Janaína. "Mythic Origins: Caramuru and the Founding of Brazil." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 80, no. 4 (2000): 783-811.

**Week 6**: Concepts of Race and Nation

October 2: Colonial Castas Paintings http:// notevenpast.org/casta-paintings/; Writing Response Due

October 4: Wade, P. (2008). [**Race in Latin America**](https://doi-org.brooklyn.ezproxy.cuny.edu/10.1002/9781444301328.ch9) Library item. Off-campus login required to access. In A Companion to Latin American Anthropology, D. Poole (Ed.). Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 177-192.

Marisol de la Cadena, “Reconstructing Race: Racism, Culture and Mestizaje in Latin America” in NACLA Volume 34:6 (2001); <https://nacla.org/article/reconstructing-race-racism-culture-and-mestizaje-latin-america>

**Week 7** Memory and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

October 9: No class

October 11: Activities using: <https://www.slavevoyages.org>; Read: <https://www.slavevoyages.org/voyage/essays#interpretation/overview-trans-atlantic-slave-trade/introduction/0/en/>

Assunção, Matthias Röhrig. "Street Capoeira and the Memorialization of Slavery in Rio de Janeiro." *Luso-Brazilian Review* 59, no. 1 (2022): 143-180.

Video Excerpts from *Escrava Isaura* and *Lado a Lado*

**Week 8** Imagining raza in Cuba

October 16: Jose Marti, "My Race" [Mi raza], 1893,

<https://library.brown.edu/create/modernlatinamerica/chapters/chapter-4-cuba/primary-documents-w-accompanying-discussion-questions/documenet-9-my-race-from-patria-1893-jose-marti/>

Arrizón, Alicia. "Race-ing performativity through transculturation, taste and the mulata body." *Theatre Research International* 27, no. 2 (2002): 136-152.

October 18 Hybrid: Blackness in Latin America film on Cuba (PBS);

**Week 9** Racial Democracy and Brazil

October 23: Gilberto Freyre, “The Meeting of Races in Portuguese America,” 1956 https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1956/02/brazilian-melting-pot-the-meeting-of-races-in-portuguese-america/640382/

October 25: Video: Brazil: A Racial Paradise? From Blackness in Latin America; Writing Response Due

**Week 10** Beauty

October 30: Jarrín, Alvaro. "Towards a biopolitics of beauty: Eugenics, aesthetic hierarchies and plastic surgery in Brazil." *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* 24, no. 4 (2015): 535-552.

Rahier, J.M. (2014). [**Blackness, the Racial-Spatial Order at Work, and Beauty Contest Politics: Señoras, Mujeres, Blanqueamiento, and the Negra Permitida**](https://doi-org.brooklyn.ezproxy.cuny.edu/10.1057/9781137272720_7). Library item. Off-campus login required to access. In: [**Blackness in the Andes: Ethnographic Vignettes of Cultural Politics in the Time of Multiculturalism**](https://link-springer-com.brooklyn.ezproxy.cuny.edu/book/10.1057/9781137272720). Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 121-146.

**November 1 Hybrid: Documentary:** [**The Beauty Factory (2013)**](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjItvWShsj5AhWABLkGHRE5DXo4ChAWegQIBhAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Ftubitv.com%2Fmovies%2F289626%2Fbeauty-factory&usg=AOvVaw1dyw1j95iv2nAtc1bu6l32) – Venezuela

**Week 11** Labor, Gender, and Race

* November 6: Santana Pinho, P. D. (2015). [**The Dirty Body that Cleans: Representations of Domestic Workers in Brazilian Common Sense**](https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A428183211/CWI?u=cuny_broo39667&sid=bookmark-CWI&xid=9ba6c5b9). Library item. Off-campus login required to access. Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism, 13(1), 103+.
* Gillam, Reighan. "The help, unscripted: constructing the black revolutionary domestic in Afro-Brazilian media." *Feminist Media Studies* 16, no. 6 (2016): 1043-1056.

November 8 Hybrid: Short Essay Due

**Week 12** Telenovelas and Identity

November 13: Read: Porto, Mauro. "Telenovelas and representations of national identity in Brazil." *Media, Culture & Society* 33, no. 1 (2011): 53-69.

Guaraná, Bruno. "Taís Araújo: The black Helena against Brazil's whitening television." *Black Camera* 10, no. 1 (2018): 42-66.

November 15: Watch: selections of telenovelas; Writing Response Due

**Week 13** Sports

November 20: Archetti, Eduardo. 1999. “[**Introduction: Frameworks and Perspectives**](https://anth3520prls3210latinamerica.commons.gc.cuny.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/22738/files/2022/08/Archetti-Eduardo-Prologue-Introduction-pw.pdf)” Password needed to open. Ask professor for password. in Masculinities: Football, Polo, and Tango in Argentina.New York: Berg Publishers.

“Why Doesn’t Argentina Have More Black Players in the World Cup” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/made-by-history/2022/12/08/why-doesnt-argentina-have-more-black-players-world-cup/>

November 22: No class

November 27: Cleuci Oliveira, “Is Neymar Black? Brazil and the Painful Relativity of Race.” New York Times, June 30, 2018 <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/30/opinion/is-neymar-black-brazil-and-the-painful-relativity-of-race.html>

“Brazil’s iconic soccer shirt was a symbol of Bolsonaro” <https://www.npr.org/2022/11/24/1138956878/brazil-world-cup-brazilian-yellow-soccer>

**Week 14** Social Movements and Politics

November 29: “Indigenous Defenders” <https://nacla.org/indigenous-defenders-crosshairs>; Writing Response Due

December 4: “Black Feminist Tide” <https://nacla.org/black-feminist-tide>

“How Mexican Feminists Became Enemies of the State” https://nacla.org/mexican-feminists-enemies-state

Week 15 December 6 Hybrid: Class Reflections

Week 16 Class Recaps

Finals Week: Final Reflection Essay