

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Major Proseminar I
LACS 2001
Spring 2008

Professor: Sergio Quesada, Ph.D.

Class time: Tues. and Thurs. 11:00-12:15, 264 Baldwin Hall (Department of Anthropology) Jackson St.

Office hours: 1:00 – 2:00 Thursday at LACSI, and by appointment.

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Course description:

This course is an introduction to some of the more vital issues related to Latin America and the Caribbean Studies major for the next semester (Fall 2008), which is an introductory course of Latin America & Caribbean topics, and allows students to be exposed to a variety of faculty members who do research in Latin America here at UGA. From this disclosure to Latin America from different perspectives, students will then have a better idea of the classes they might want to take in the future and with which professors they would like to carry out subsequent research. This semester you will explore issues related to biological anthropology, communication and culture, ecological anthropology, education and counseling, language as a business, history, linguistics, and political science and society.

The class will meet on Thursdays and Tuesdays from 11:00-12:15. The format will vary, but in general, on Thursdays you will have a lecture by one of our invited faculty, and on Tuesdays we will have a follow-up discussion. Readings for each lecture will be available at least a week in advance on WebCt.

Evaluation:

There will be four parts to your grade:

1. Attendance and participation are essential and will be counted as 20% of your grade. To effectively participate, you must be present and you must be prepared for class; in other words, you must have read, listened or watched the materials assigned for that week's session. For each lecture, you will be responsible for bringing to the following discussion at least one discussion question or topic in writing to hand in at the beginning of class.
2. Overviews: You will be responsible for writing two overviews of sessions. This means that on a certain day, you will take especially careful notes on the lecture and discussion and organize them into an overview of the class that can be distributed. These will be uploaded onto WebCt for the rest of the class to make reference to.
3. Reaction paper: You are required to write one "reaction paper" where you will have the opportunity to respond more in-depth to the issues raised by the lecture and discussion. Make reference to the discussion, articulate your response, document your sources, and hand it in by the next session.

4. Research paper: Finally, you will be responsible for writing an 8-10 page research paper on some topic inspired by one of the sessions. You will write it in consultation with one of the fourteen faculty members who will also grade the paper.

Summary of evaluation:

Attendance and Participation	25%
Two overviews	25%
One 3-5 page reaction paper	10%
An 8-10 page research paper and oral presentation	40%

*All Academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty."
All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.*

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class y the instructor may be necessary.

Course schedule:

January 8 Orientation Session: Sergio Quesada

January 10 Cultural Issues in Latin American: Sergio Quesada

January 15 Nutrition Among Latino Population: Silvia Giraudo

January 22 Anthropology and Landscape GPS in Panama: Julie Velasquez Runk

January 29 Movie: Americano as Apple Pie. The Latino Experience in America.

February 5 Elementary Education in Latin America (Mexico): Martha Alleksaht-Snider

February 12 Religion and Venezuelan Society: David Smilde

February 19 "K-12 Educational Issues of Latinos in Georgia" : Paul Matthews

February 26 Music and Culture in the Southern Cone of Latin America: Milton Masciadri

- March 4 Evolution of the Electoral System in Mexico: Clemente Quiñones
- March 10-14: Spring Break
- March 18 Ethnobotanical Gardens and Medical Plants in Latin America (Argentina): James Affolter
- March 25 Death Path in illegal immigration: Death Path in illegal immigration
John Chamblee
- April 1st Language and Culture: The Portuguese experience: Amelia Hutchinson
- April 8 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: su importancia como figura cultural hoy en día: Dana Bultman
- April 15 Ecological Anthropology (Ecuador and Peru): Robert Rhodes
- April 22 Comparative Government in Latin America: Howard Wiarda

FACULTY ROSTER

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