

Latin American and Caribbean Studies Major Proseminar I
LACS 2001
Spring 2009

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.

E-mail: squesada@uga.edu

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 (Spring 2009), 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 25% 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 at least three lectures of the sessions. You may write it in consultation with one of the fourteen faculty members who may also grade the paper.

Summary of evaluation:

Attendance and Participation	25%
Two overviews (two pages each)	25%
One reaction paper (one page)	10%
One research paper (8-10 pages) 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 13 "Views on Mexico": Sergio Quesada
- January 20 History of Paraguay: Thom Whigham
- January 27 "Concepts of Race, Mestizaje, and Cultural Citizenship in Mexico": Mark Anderson
- February 3 "Páramo: Language Hegemony and Politics of Translation in Latin American Farmscape Transformation": Fausto Sarmiento
- February 10 "*Su Ciudad: The Citizens Institute on Rural Design* - empowering emerging Latino leaders to become more involved in community planning": Pratt Cassity
- February 17 Archeology of Mexico (Oaxaca): Steve Kowalewski
- February 24 "Latin American Cultural Studies: Violence and Testimony in Raúl Zurita's Poetry" : Scott Weintraub
- March 3 Research on Bolivia : Maria Ruth Martinez
- March 8- 13: Spring Break

- March 17 Agronomy and Culture in Central America: Wayne Parrott
- March 24 Brazil: Culture and Anthropology :Don Nelson
- March 31 "Latin American Immigration to Spain": Alicia Arribas
- April 7 "Cultural Responsive Parenting Classes for Mexican American Mothers Parenting Alone" : Maria Bermudez
- April 14 "Haitian culture, language, literature, and history": Daniel Desormeaux
- April 21 Study Abroad Choices: A Latin American Perspective: Julie Escobedo
- April 28 "Cuba: Before and After Revolution": Hilda Mata and Miguel Vicente

FACULTY ROSTER

[Mark Anderson](#)

[Alicia Arribas](#)

[Maria Bermudez](#)

[Pratt Cassity](#)

[Julie Escobedo](#)

[Steve Kowalewski](#)

[Maria Ruth Martinez](#)

[Hilda Mata](#)

[Don Nelson](#)

[Wayne Parrott](#)

[Sergio Quesada](#)

[Fausto Sarmiento](#)

[Miguel Vincente](#)

[Scott Weintraub](#)

[Thom Whigham](#)

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