

HIST 410/510
Winter 2010

Intellectuals and Ideas in Modern Latin America

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Office hours: Mondays, 10-12 am, Wednesdays, 11-12 am.

Course Description

What is an intellectual? What is the role that intellectuals play in society? What are the sources and nature of their prestige and power? What are their connections to existing or potential configurations of class, gender, race, and national identity? This course attempts to explore these issues by looking at Latin American intellectuals during the twentieth century. Although their ideas will be thoroughly discussed, our main focus will be the analysis of the roles of intellectuals in public debates and their function as depositaries of cultural and political capital, forgers of national and other forms of identity, and mediators between civil society and the state. This course is an attempt to understand the multifaceted and conflictive relationship between Latin American intellectuals and the communities they live in and think about.

Requirements

A) Undergraduate students:

- Participation: 10%. Regular attendance is expected. Students must complete the readings BEFORE class and participate in class discussions.
- Take-home midterm exam: 30%
- Final exam: 40%
- Two written exercises: 10% each. More information will be offered in class. Due dates are listed below. (Late assignments will be penalized with one letter grade per day).

B) Graduate students:

- Bibliographical exercise: 20%. Students will choose a topic for their final papers and will prepare an *annotated bibliography* due on week 6 (Minimum length: 3 pages).

- Two written exercises: 10% each. More information will be offered in class. Due dates are listed below. (Late assignments will be penalized with one letter grade per day).
- Round table presentation: 10%. More details will be offered in class.
- Final research paper: 50%. Graduate students will write a 15-20 page research paper on a topic related to the course. These papers will be due on Friday, March 19, 2010.

Required Readings

The following books are available for purchase at UO bookstore:

Angel Rama, *The Lettered City* (Duke University Press, 1996).

Jorge Coronado, *The Andes Imagined. Indigenismo, Society, and Modernity* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2009).

In addition, a number of articles and chapters will be available through blackboard.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week 1

01/05 Introduction to the course: What is an intellectual? Positions and debates.
01/07 NO CLASS.

Readings:

Gramsci, *The Intellectuals*.

Said, *The Public Role of Writers and Intellectuals*.

Baud, *History, Morality, and Politics*.

Franco, *Latin American Intellectuals and Collective Identity*.

Week 2

01/12 Discussion of 1st week readings. / *Letrados: The Colonial Foundations of Latin American Intellectuals*

01/14 *Intellectuals and state formation in 19th-century Spanish America*.

Reading:

Rama, *The Lettered City* (all).

Week 3

01/19 FIRST WRITTEN EXERCISE DUE / José Martí: The making of a revolutionary intellectual

01/21 Legacies of Martí in twentieth-century Cuba and Latin America

Readings:

Guerra, *The Myth of José Martí*.

Martí, *Our America*.

Martí, *Letter to the Editor*.

Van Delden and Gremier, *José Martí and His Legacy*.

Week 4

01/26 "The first Latin American Marxist": José Carlos Mariátegui and his time

01/28 Mariátegui and *Mariateguismos*

Readings:

Basadre, *Introduction*.

Mariátegui, *Selected texts*.

Miller, *Mariátegui's Revolution in Modernity*.

Chairman Gonzalo, *Interview*.

Week 5

02/02 *Intellectuals as Ventriloquists: Indigenismo in Mexico and Peru*

02/04 Discussion of Coronado's book

Reading:

Coronado, *The Andes Imagined* (all).

Week 6

02/09 Take-home midterm exam due / *Intellectuals and Power in Post-Revolutionary Mexico*

02/11 *Redefining the Place of Intellectuals in Mexican Society (1968-2000)*

Readings:

Camp, *The Function of the Mexican Intellectual*.

Camp, *Serving the State*.

Grenier, *Octavio Paz*.

Volpi, *The End of Conspiracy*.

Cohn, *The Mexican Intelligentsia*.

Week 7

02/16 Intellectuals, the Cold War, and the Revolutionary Projects

02/18 New Literary Paths: the Latin American "Literary Boom," Between Marketing and Politics

Reading

Franco, *The Decline and Fall of the Lettered City*.

Herrero-Olaizola, *Consuming Aesthetics*.

Sorensen, *The Cuban Revolution and Che Guevara*.

Sorensen, *Toward a Transnational Republic of Letters*.

Week 8

02/25 SECOND WRITTEN EXERCISE DUE / Latin American public/global intellectuals (I): Mario Vargas Llosa

02/27 Latin American public/global intellectuals (II): Carlos Fuentes

Readings:

Van Delden and Grenier, *The Private and the Public*.

Vargas Llosa, *Literature is Fire*.

Vargas Llosa, *Politics and Literature*.

Morton, *The Social Function of Carlos Fuentes*.

Van Delden and Grenier, *Literature and the Political Apprenticeship*.

Week 9

03/02 Women and the public sphere: female intellectuals in Latin America

03/04 Local and indigenous intellectuals. Discussion: The Rigoberta Menchú controversy

Readings:

Miller, *Recasting the Role of the Intellectual*.

Rappaport, *Between Sovereignty and Culture*.

Montejo, *Leadership and Maya Intellectuality*.

Beverly, *What Happens When the Subaltern Speaks*.

Week 10

03/09 Graduate Student Round Table

03/11 Final discussion / Review for Final Exam

Final Exam: Tuesday, March 16, 8:00-10:00 am.
Graduate Papers Due: Friday, March 19, 12 noon.