

LLS-4910-850: RACE AND ETHNICITY IN LATIN AMERICA

This course is a semester long discussion on *Mestizaje* or racial/ethnic mixing in Latin America. The premise informing the discussion is that race and ethnicity are social constructions---There are no actual races or ethnicities in the world. And yet, people and institutions function as they were real, which make them powerful weapons for oppression, social injury and rebellion. Most Latin Americans define themselves or are defined as *Mestizo* or mixed blood people. At times, they mean culturally mixed, meaning not totally Western or Indigenous. Other times, they are referring to their attributed racial make up. For this reason, national statistics should be taken with caution because the labeling of citizens is usually done by a census taker who might impose his views unto the individual in order to classify her/him. But the point remains, why does the state needs to classify its citizens according to race and ethnicity? Why do we need to define ourselves and others (sometimes beloved ones) according to race and ethnicity?

Race and ethnicity are powerful coordinates in the network of domination, for both the oppressors and the victims' contestation in the circuits through which power flows. Race and ethnicity are experienced in a different fashion depending on the individual's gender and sexuality. Hence this course incorporates gender and sexuality into the discussion.

The questions informing our journey through these complex issues are: How did Latin Americans construct and interpret racial, ethnic and gender identities and ideologies? And how these interpretations and ideologies have been used to formulate an idea of nation? In other words, we will learn about the different ways ethnicity and race have been defined in the Latin America studies (historiography) and the ideologies and practices associated with these categories. Our readings will be drawn mostly from all Latin American countries.

The course begins by dedicating two weeks to demographic, theoretical and conceptual discussions on race, ethnicity and the relationship between region and nation. Although the Colonial period is not our focus, we will often refer to it and will remain an important reference throughout the entire course. We will then examine race and ethnic patterns during the transitional years of the nineteenth century, especially through the lens of how different regions experienced their integration into the nation-state and the construction of new hierarchies. Finally we will look at the twentieth century and consider to what extent the once-dominant regional patterns of race and ethnic relations become subsumed to national or state-based forces, and how ethnicity and race have come "back" since the 1980s as important aspects of the region's history.

The course is premised on students' commitment to complete the weekly reading assignments, informed participation in class discussions, and two take home examinations. The assigned materials compress a series of case studies that will make the application of concepts and theory intriguing. (You should be happy to know that the only theoretical book used in this class is the thinnest).

Required Readings:

- Appelbaum, Nancy, Anne Macpherson and Karin Roseblatt (ed.) Race and Nation in Modern Latin America. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003
- Miller, M.G. Rise and Fall of the Cosmic Race. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2004
- Wade, Peter (a): Race and Ethnicity in Latin America. Illinois: Pluto, 1997
- Wade, Peter (b): Race and Sex in Latin America. New York: Pluto, 2009

These readings are available at the campus bookstore.

Learning Objectives:

- The student should develop a racial/ethnic map of Latin America
- The student should know the different mechanisms through which the State created races and ethnicities and how the communities redefined their ethnic and racial identities upon this basis.
- The student should understand the complex process of Nation formation from the viewpoint of race and ethnicity.
- The student should be able to identify flawed reasoning about race and ethnicity and should be able to explain why it is flawed.

Tentative Reading Schedule

Changes to this schedule and to the readings will be made at the instructor's discretion. Students are responsible for being apprised of any changes in the syllabus or course requirements even if they are not present at the time they are announced.

READING SCHEDULE**WEEK 1. Aug 26-Aug 31.****Concepts and Theories, I.**

Wade (a) Ch. 1 and

Wade (b) Ch 1

WEEK 2. Sept 2-Sept 7**Concepts and Theories,II**

Wade (a): Ch 2 *Blacks and Indians*

Wade (b): Ch 2 *Articulation of Race and Sex*

WEEK 3: Sept 9-Sept 14**The Colonial Period**

Wade (a) *Early Approaches*, Ch. 3

Wade (b): *Race and Sex in Colonial Latin America*, Ch.3

WEEK 4. Sept 16-Sept 21**Class, Sex and the Creation of "Flexible" Races**

Vasconcelos, Jose: *Mestizaje* [Based upon availability of source]

Miller: *The Cult of Mestizaje*, and Jose Vasconcelos' *About-Face on the Cosmic Race*, Ch.1.

The Political Economy of Race and Sex, Ch. 5

WEEK 5. Sept 23-Sept 28**Race and Nation**

Applebaum: *Introduction; Little Middle Ground*, Ch. 1; *Belonging to the Great Granadan Family*, Ch. 2; and *Searching for Latin America*, Ch.3.

WEEK 6. Sept 30-Oct 5**Race and Nation Formation, I**

Wade (b): *Making Nations through Race and Sex*, Ch. 4 and

Miller: *Caribbean Counterpoint*, Ch.2

Applebaum: *Imagining the Colonial Nation*, Ch. 4; *From Revolution to Involution*, Ch. 5

Applebaum: *From Mestizophilia to Biotypology*, Ch.7; Applebaum: *Interracial Courship in the Rio de Janeiro*, Ch. 6

WEEK 7. Oct 14-Oct 17

Mid-Term Critical Essay is due on: Oct 8

WEEK 8. Oct 21-Oct 26

Case Studies:

Miller, *Tango in Black and White*, Ch.3

Applebaum, *Race, Region, and Nation*, Ch. 8

WEEK 9. Nov 4-Nov 9

Miller, *Showcasing Mixed Race*, Ch.4

Applebaum, *Racializing Regional Difference*, Ch. 9

WEEK 10. Nov 11-Nov 16

Applebaum, *Afterword* (by Peter Wade)

WEEK 11. Nov 18-Nov 23

Social Movements

Wade (a) *Black and Indian Social Movements*, Ch.6

Wade (b) *Race, Sex and the Politics of identity and Citizenship*, Ch. 6

WEEK 12. Nov 29- Dec 7

Globalization

Wade (a): *Studying Race and Ethnicity in a Postmodern, and Reflitive World*, Ch. 7

Miller: *Globalization, Cyberhybridity and fifth world Mestizaje*, Epilogue

WEEK 13.

Final Critical Essay is due on Dec.11