

## **Latin American Political Thought**

LPOL 3043 A – Fall 2012

New School/Eugene Lang College

Meets: Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10 – 11:40 am, at 65 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 500

### **Instructor: Joshua Simon**

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Office: 6 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 714

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-4pm or by appointment.

This course surveys the history of political thought in Latin America, from the colonial period to the present. Through selections from important texts in translation, we will explore debates surrounding the Spanish conquest, the independence movements, state-building, constitutional design, neo-liberalism, indigenous rights, and pan-Latin Americanism. Centrally, we will ask what, if any, are the distinctive problems confronted by political theorists in Latin America and how these problems have shaped Latin American contributions to scholasticism, republicanism, liberalism, Marxism, post-modernism and other European intellectual traditions. Some background in political theory or Latin American history is recommended. Both readings and class discussion will be in English.

Grades will be based on class participation, a 1-2 page reading response, an in-class midterm exam, and a 7-10 page take-home final essay.

All readings will be available to download in pdf format from the course's Blackboard page.

Attendance is required at every class meeting. If an emergency or inescapable obligation will force you to miss class, please send me an email explaining the situation as far ahead of time as possible. University policy obligates me to alert the administration if you miss two consecutive classes, to lower your grade by one letter for four absences, and to fail you for more than four absences, unless some extenuating circumstance, such as illness or family emergency, can explain your attendance record. Late arrival at class is disruptive and disrespectful. Again, if some emergency or inescapable obligation will force you to arrive late or leave class early, please email me ahead of time. I will do everything I can to accommodate any disability or adverse circumstance and keep all conversations in this connection in strict confidence.

No academic dishonesty will be tolerated under any circumstances. I will report any plagiarism, cheating, or fraud directly to the University administration. If at any point you are unsure about whether or how to cite a source, please send me an email or drop by my office hours.

I recommend that you avail yourselves of as many of the resources provided by the University as you find useful. The University Writing Center provides workshops and tutoring that can help you with academic writing, oral presentations, time management, and ESL support. Find out more at: <http://www.newschool.edu/writingcenter/>. The Library also offers a range of useful services, including workshops on research methods and information technology.

## **CLASS AND READING SCHEDULE:**

### **Monday, August 27**

Introduction to the Course

### **Wednesday, August 29**

José Martí, "Our America"

Reading Response Due – print out and bring to class.

### **Monday, September 3**

No Class – Labor Day

### **Wednesday, September 5**

Francisco de Vitoria, "On the American Indians"

### **Monday, September 10**

Bartolomé de las Casas, selections from "In Defense of the Indians"

### **Wednesday, September 12**

Juana Inés de la Cruz, "Response to Sister Philotea"

### **Monday, September 17**

No Class – Rosh Hashanah

### **Wednesday, September 19**

Juan Pablo Viscardo: "Letter to Spanish Americans"

José María Morelos: "Sentiments of the Nation"

Documents describing the rebellion of Tupac Amaru

### **Monday, September 24**

Declaration of Independence of Venezuela

Declaration of Independence of Argentina

Declaration of Independence of Mexico

### **Wednesday, September 26**

No Class – Yom Kippur

### **Monday, October 1**

Simón Bolívar, "The Jamaica Letter"

Simón Bolívar, "Discourse at Angostura"

Simón Bolívar, "Proposal for a Congress at Panama"

### **Wednesday, October 3**

Andrés Bello, "Prologue to Grammar of the Spanish Language"

Andrés Bello, "On the Aims of Education and the Means of Promoting it"

Andrés Bello, selections from "Principles of International Law"

**Monday, October 8**

José María Luis Mora, selections from “On Ecclesiastical Wealth”  
Lucas Alamán, selections from “History of Mexico”  
Editors of *El Tiempo*, “A Conservative Profession of Faith”  
Document offering Crown to Maximilian  
Benito Juárez, “The Triumph of the Republic”

**Wednesday, October 10**

Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, selections from “Facundo”

**Monday, October 15**

José Martí, “Our Ideas”  
José Martí, “My Race”  
José Martí, “The Truth About the United States”

**Wednesday, October 17**

Midterm Exam – In Class

**Monday, October 22**

José Enrique Rodó, selections from *Ariel*

**Wednesday, October 24**

José Vasconcelos, “The Cosmic Race”

**Monday, October 29**

Octavio Paz, selections from *The Labyrinth of Solitude*

**Wednesday, October 31**

José Carlos Mariátegui, selections from *Seven Interpretive Essays on Peruvian Reality*

**Monday, November 5**

Ernesto Guevara, “Guerilla Warfare: A Method”  
Ernesto Guevara, “Socialism and Man in Cuba”  
Ernesto Guevara, “Political Sovereignty and Economic Independence”

**Wednesday, November 7**

Gustavo Gutiérrez, “Toward a Theology of Liberation”

**Monday, November 12**

Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Enzo Falletto, selections from *Dependency and Development in Latin America*

**Wednesday, November 14**

Hernando de Soto, selections from *The Mystery of Capital*

**Monday, November 19**

Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Roberto Unger, “The Market Turn Without Neoliberalism”

**Tuesday, November 20 (Note: Replaces Wednesday, November 21)**  
Roberto Mangabeira Unger, *Democracy Realized*, Chapter 2

**Monday, November 26**  
Enrique Dussel, *Philosophy of Liberation*, Chapter 1 and Appendix.

**Wednesday, November 28**  
Paulo Friere, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Chapters 1-2.

**Monday, December 3**  
Subcommandante Marcos, “Sixth Declaration of the Selva Lacandona”

**Wednesday, December 5**  
Rigoberta Menchu, selections from *I, Rigoberta Menchu*

**Monday, December 10**  
Hugo Chávez Frías, selections from *Understanding the Venezuelan Revolution*

**Wednesday, December 12**  
Review Session – final paper topics distributed.

**Monday, December 17**  
Final Paper Due – print out and bring to class.