

HIS 213
A History of Religion in Latin America
Spring, 1999

Instructor: Mike LaRosa

Office: Clough 311
Hours: MWF 8-10 am
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Description:

This course will examine the history of religion and religiosity in Latin America. We will begin with an analysis of pre-Columbian religious history and study the imposition of Christianity with the arrival of the Spaniards and Portuguese. Syncretic identity, politics and religion, liberation theology and the recent growth of evangelical Protestantism in Latin America will be some of the major themes addressed in the course.

Books:

There are five books available for purchase in the college bookstore:

Boff and Boff. *Introducing Liberation Theology*.
Carpentier, Alejo. *The Harp and the Shadow*.
Castillo, Ana ed. *Goddess of the Americas: la diosa de las Americas. Writings on the Virgin of Guadalupe*.
García Márquez, Gabriel. *Of Love and Other Demons*.
Lesser, Jeffrey. *Welcoming the Undesirables: Brazil and the Jewish Question*.

Methodology:

Students are expected to participate actively and on a regular basis in this course. LaRosa will lecture on each Monday and Wednesday and Friday will be dedicated to student-led discussion and/or debate centered on the readings or lecture.

Grading and Attendance:

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis; attendance will be a factor in determining final grades for this course. Requirements for this course include

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| 1. An in-class presentation: | 33 percent |
| 2. A critical review of two of the assigned texts: | 33 percent |
| 3. A final exam: | 33 percent |

Outline of lectures, readings and exams.

Week 1: Wednesday 13 Jan.

Introduction to course.

Reading: Carpentier

Week 2: Monday 18 Jan.

Iberian history from 711-1492.

No class on Monday, Martin Luther King Jr., holiday.

Reading: Finish Carpentier.

Week 3: Monday 25 Jan.

Aztec religiosity.

Reading: Castillo. Read Gonzalez-Crussi, R. Rodriguez, J. Rodriguez, Alarcón, Pinkola Estés, Anzaldúa, Moraga, Castillo, Ferré, Mora.

Week 4: Monday 1 Feb.

Inca religion.

Reading: Cobo and Silverblatt--(from "Peru Reader")

Week 5: Monday 8 Feb.

The Christian conquest of America.

-Castillo, "Writings on the Virgin of Guadalupe"

Film: "The Mission."

Week 6: Monday 15 Feb.

Colonial Latin America's religious identity: the *retablo* as altar, magic and identity in the Andes.

Guest lecturer: Mr. Nicario Jiménez Quispe.

Week 7: Monday 22 Feb.

Colonial Latin American (continued)

Reading: García Márquez (entire text)

Week 8: Monday 1 March

Religion and political independence--the role of Fr. Miguel Hidalgo.

Week 9: Monday 8 March

No class spring break.

Reading: Finish Castillo

Week 10: Monday 15 March

Religious conflict in 19th century Latin America--with special reference to Colombia and

Week 11: Monday 23 March

Modernization, urbanization and immigration. Brazil and the "Jewish Question"

Reading: Lesser (entire text)

Week 12: Monday 30 March

Vatican II, Father Camilo Torres and Medellín, 1968.

No class on Friday--Easter Recess

Week 13: Monday 5 April

Liberation Theology.

Reading: Boff and Boff.

No class on Friday, Easter break

Week 14: Monday 12 April.

El Salvador and Nicaragua: Oscar Romero and Ernesto Cardenal.

Reading: Sermons of Archbishop Romero from *Voice of the Voiceless* (hand-out)

Film: "Romero"

Week 15: Monday 20 April

Brazilian Umbanda.

Reading: Brown and Desmangles (hand-out).

Week 16: Monday 27 April

Protestantism in Latin America.

Reading: Stoll or Bastian (hand-out).

nb: Final exam for this course will be held during the regularly scheduled exam time.