

Afro-indigenous Peoples of Latin America

LAS 4935 Sec 0945

ANG 4930 Sec 4115

Spring 2011

T 4-5 Period (10:40 -12:35am), Little Hall room 237

R 5 Period (11:45 to 12:35am), Little Hall Room 237

Instructor: Santiago J. Ruiz, Ph.D

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Latin American peoples our close neighbors, and account for much of the immigration to the United States. Who the Afro-indigenous is? How do they live and why are they deciding to migrate and abandon their ancestral homelands? This course explores the histories, and struggles of the present day Indigenous and Afro-descendants peoples in Latin American from an interdisciplinary perspective. Key themes includes: issues of citizenship, public policies, human rights, migration, and cultural politics in the region. Different from most courses that focus on the history, political sciences of the language of the Spanish speaking world of Latin America, this course is oriented toward the Indigenous and Afrodescendent peoples, especially Afro-indigenous often non-Spanish speaking culture of the region. The course fulfills **Gordon Rule** writing requirement.

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Evaluation system

This will be a research oriented course. The work will be done as group projects with very close assistance from the course instructor. Each group will have a maximum of three members and will focus on a specific Afro-Indigenous people of Latin America. **First section:** Once the Afro-indigenous people are chosen, the research group will conduct a preliminary archival or bibliographic research on that specific people, primarily on the history, culture, language, demography and current struggles including: issues of citizenship, human rights, cultural politics, language policies, ancestral lands and territories. That will provide the data for the research proposal and bibliography (=20 points). **Second section:** The actual research will be conducted and preliminary result presented (25 points= **Exam 1**). **Third section:** Final paper will be submitted in two faces, first draft (=15 points) and final version (=20 points). Clear guidelines for both the preliminary research proposal and the final paper will be provided. The **second**

exam (10 points) will be based upon the material discussed in class, starting from the very first day of classes.

Grading system

Class attendance and participation	10 points	Jan 6- April 20
Research proposal and bibliography for group project	20 points	Jan 27
Presentation of preliminary research findings (exam1)	25 points	Feb 8 to Mar 3
Final Paper (first draft submission)	15 points	Mar 17
Final Paper (submission	20 points	Apr 7
Exam 2	10 points	Apr 21

Grades will be assigned as follows: 93-100%=A; 90-92%=A-; 87-89%=B+; 83-86%=B; 80-82%=B-; 77-79%=C+; 73-76%=C; 70-72%=C-; 67-69%=D+; 63-66%=D

Politics of the class

Class attendance and participation is critical. Five or more absences from class, including those well justified ones, will result in point deductions. Class participation will be evaluated based on your contributions and active participation in class discussions. The use of cellular phone in the classroom is not allowed. The use of cellular phones or any other devices that could result in class distraction is penalized.

Schedule of topics, readings, and presentations

WK1: Course Introduction. Course focus: Who are the Afro- Indigenous Peoples of Latin America. Evaluation system and some procedures.
(Jan 6)

Introduction to the course, guidelines, and course overview

WK2: Lecture: Afro-Indigenous Peoples of Latin America, an overview
(Jan 11- 13)

- Indigenous, Afro-descendants, and Afro-Indigenous Peoples of Latin America: Who they are, how many, and where they are. Defining the concept Afro-indigenous peoples. Some statistics.
- Organize research groups and define the research topics.
- Basic guidelines for research proposal

WK3: Afro-Indigenous Peoples and International Human Right Laws
(Jan 18-20)

- Early submission of group research projects proposal and bibliography (Jan 20)
- Readings:
- International Labor Organization: Convention #169 (original document)
- John Henriksen (2008) “Key Principles in Implementing ILO Convention 169
- Jose Martinez Cobo () “Study of Discrimination on Indigenous Peoples”

WK4: Review and Submission of Research Proposal

(Jan25-27)

Last review and final submission of research proposal

Final submission of the research proposal and bibliography for group project (=Exam1)

WK5: Film presentation and discussion

(Feb 1-3)

Film title: Wetback: The Undocumented Documentary. Arturo Perez Torres, Heather Haynes, Wetback, a quietly commanding documentary, follows in the footsteps of immigrants traveling from Nicaragua to the United States. On their journeys, they encounter gangs and vigilantes, as well as border patrol. But these immigrants navigate real-life nightmares with uncanny calm, grace, even humor. And director Arturo Perez Torres does all of us a favor by getting out of the way and allowing them to tell their stories.

Group 1: provide readings for the next week, readings related to their research topic.

WK6: Group Presentation: Preliminary findings

(Feb 8-10)

GROUP I: MISKITU PEOPLES OF HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA: History, Culture and Identity

Readings:

Readings will be assigned at least one week in advance and should be relevant to the material will be presented by the group.

WK7: Group Presentation on

(Feb 15-17)

GROUP II: GARIFUNA PEOPLES OF CENTRAL AMERICA: History, Culture and Language

WK8: Group Presentation

(Feb 22-24)

GROUP III: AFRO-PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE: History and Identity

WK 9: Group Presentation

(March 1-3)

GROUP IV: AFRO-BRAZILIAN PEOPLE: History, Culture, and Identity

WK10: Group Presentation

(Mar 8-10)

GROUP V: PEOPLES OF HAITI: History, Politics, and Current Issues

WK 11 to WK12: Work on the **first draft** of the paper and guest lecture

(March 15-24)

March 15: Lecture: Teaching and Learning with Social Media

March 22: Reviewing the application of the research method guidelines (Archival, online, and ethnographic)

March 22: **Submission of the first draft** of the paper

WK13 to WK14: Work on the final version of the paper

(Mar 29 – April 7)

March 29-31: Groups meet with instructor to review the first draft of the paper.

April 5: Work on the final paper

April 7: Deadline for the **submission of the final paper**

WK 15: Review for exam 2

April 12-14: Reviewing general content for the exam

WK 16: Final evaluation

April 21: Exam 2