

3065	REL 6387	6	W 11-E2	AND 19	RELIGIONS OF LATIN AMERICA
9743	ANG 6930	8	W 11-E2		RELIGIONS OF LATIN AMERICA
7124	LAS 6938	8	W 11-E2		RELIGIONS OF LATIN AMERICA

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RELIGIONS OF LATIN AMERICA / SPRING 2011

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URL: www.robinmwright.com; for course, website:

www.LAmeRel.com

OFFICE HOURS: W periods 8-10 (before class).

Objectives of the Course:

Before all else, we are bound by the geographical and thematic limitations of this course. This is an introduction to ***the Religions of Latin America***, but Latin America has historical roots in North America as well as Central and South America. "Border areas" have undergone radical changes during the history of colonization of the Americas in their international legal status, and today, what was once a trickle of migrants through dangerous borderlands has become an extraordinarily high number of Latinos from nearly all countries in what is now known as "Latin America", migrating across the international borders, bringing with them their own cultures and religious symbols, seeking to re-create, adapt, transform those cultures and religions in the context of the US. Such contemporary processes are necessary to consider carefully in studying "Latin American Religions" because the flow of migration goes both ways: Latin Americans exporting their cultures and religions to other countries and vice versa, the introduction of new religions into Latin America, and their survival (or not) in the new contexts.

In this course, then, we shall be studying the following religions in both their historical and contemporary contexts:

- 1) **Indigenous religious traditions** in the *longue duree*: from earliest manifestations of religious traditions; pre-colonial indigenous documents; diaries from earliest contacts; indigenous 'slavery', warfare and religious specialists in native societies. Transformations of religion during the Conquest, reformulations throughout colonial history, and revitalizations in contemporary contexts. Religious and Political Movements of resistance amongst indigenous peoples of Central and South America throughout colonial times. Formation of "Native Christians". Recent Case Studies of Wari' conversion/deconversion; Baniwa prophetism, evangelicalism, and revitalization of religious traditions.
- 2) **Afro-Latino Religions** and cults: early religious manifestations of religions of African diaspora; Candomble, Umbanda, Tambor de Mina, Santeria, Obeah, Voudun, and others. "Core" and variations; comparative, historical and contemporary study;
- 3) **The Catholic Church: (a) colonial encounters –domination, extirpation of idols, utopian experiments; (b) postconciliar Roman Catholicism and its relations to popular struggles; (c) Renovação Católica Cristã; (d) transnational Catholicism .**
- 4) **The proliferation of Protestant churches: fundamentalist evangelical missions, new Pentecostal and neo-pentecostal churches**; examples: Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, Seventh Day Adventists, New Tribes Missions, El Verbo Church, El Shaddai, and others. Transnational Protestantism.
- 5) **Religious Diversity and change -"New Religious Movements":** (a) 'plant spirit shamanism' (Peru), ayahuasca movements in the Amazon (Daime, UDV, "Little Boat"), transnationalization of ayahuasca to Europe, the US, Japan. Circulation of information in different circles; repression and resistance (b) religions of the East: Soka Gakkai, Messianic Church, (c) Proliferation of Mormon Church.
- 6) The 'A-religious' and the 'un-named' religious.

Required or recommended texts:

The following are the required and recommended texts we will be using for the course. In addition, the Professor will be preparing a packet of key articles that will supplement these readings. During the semester, each article will be placed on the course website for students to read/download, and keep in order.

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	Title: VITAL ENEMIES		Author: FERNANDO SANTOS GRANERO	
Text No. 1	ISBN: 9780292718883	Publisher: TEXAS		Copyright:
	Cover: paperback book	Edition: 1ST		This text is recommended
		—		
	Title: RELIGIONS OF MESOAMERICA		Author: DAVID CARRASCO	
Text No. 2	ISBN: 1577660064	Publisher: WAVELAND		Copyright:
	Cover: paperback book	Edition: NEWEST		This text is required
		—		
	Title: CONVERSION OF A CONTINENT		Author: TIMOTHY STEIGENGA & EDWARD CLEARY	
Text No. 3	ISBN: 9780813542010	Publisher: RUTGERS		Copyright:
	Cover: paperback book	Edition: 2007		This text is required
		—		
	Title: SEARCHING FOR AFRICA IN BRAZIL. POWER AND TRADITION IN CANDOMBLE		Author: STEFANIA CAPONE	
Text No. 4	ISBN:	Publisher: DUKE		Copyright:
	Cover: paperback book	Edition: 2010		This text is required
		—		
	Title: HANS STADEN'S TRUE HISTORY		Author: HANS STADEN	
Text No. 5	ISBN: 9780822342311	Publisher: DUKE		Copyright:
	Cover: paperback book	Edition: 2009		This text is recommended
		—		
	Title: STRANGE ENEMIES		Author: APARECIDA VILACA	
Text No. 6	ISBN: 9780822345732	Publisher: DUKE		Copyright:

	Cover: paperback book	Edition: 2010	This text is required
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	AYAHUASCA, RITUAL		
Text No. 7	Title: AND RELIGION IN BRAZIL	Author: BEATRIZ LABATE AND EDWARD MACRAE	
	ISBN: 9781845536794	Publisher: EQUINOX	Copyright:
	Cover: paperback book	Edition: 2010	This text is required
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	Title: NATIVE CHRISTIANS	Author: ROBIN WRIGHT AND APARECIDA VILACA	
Text No. 8	ISBN:	Publisher: ASHGATE	Copyright:
	Cover: hardback book	Edition: 2009	This text is optional
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	Title: LEGACIES OF LIBERATION	Author: JOHN BURDICK	
Text No. 9	ISBN:	Publisher: ASHGATE	Copyright:
	Cover: paperback book	Edition: 2003	This text is required
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	LATIN AMERICAN		
	Title: RELIGIONS: HISTORIES AND DOCUMENTS IN CONTEXT	Author: 7) VASQUEZ, MANUEL AND ANNA L. PETERSON	
Text No. 10		NEW YORK	
	ISBN:	Publisher: UNIVERSITY PRESS	Copyright:
	Cover: paperback book	Edition: 2008	This text is required

FILMS (REQUIRED WATCHING AND REFLECTION PAPERS):

1. "The Mission" Robert DeNiro & Jeremy Irons, 2002;
2. "At Play in the Fields of the Lord", Hector Barbenco, 1991;
3. "The Other Conquest" Carrasco, 2007;
4. "Popol Vuh", 2006;
5. "Yakwa. Banquet of Spirits", Valadao, 2002;
6. "The Trees Have a Mother" Auzenne & Galeano, 2008;
7. "Holy spirits of the Rain Forest", Saffirio, 2006;

8. "Precarious Peace: God and Guatemala";
 9. Maya Deren, "Divine Horsemen..."
 10. (second film by Kogi Indians; sequel to "Message to the Younger Brothers")
 11. "Wine of the Spirits", and various short clips on ayahuasca religions.
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GRADING:

1. **Attendance.** You are expected to attend and participate in all seminars. Absences are allowed only if they are justified with a note from a doctor, therapist, or athletics director, or other reasonable excuse. You are still responsible for reading the material for the seminar in which you will be absent. 5% OF FINAL GRADE;
2. **Class Participation. Class Readings will be distributed at the beginning of each month of the semester.** Please do the assigned readings BEFORE coming to class and come prepared to participate actively in overall class discussions. Your active participation in the class is important. Students who do not complete the readings for each class and who do not participate will receive a failing grade on this item. In Addition, you will be tested at the end of each unit on the content of that unit, through an in-class written exam covering the principal ideas, concepts, and ethnographic material studied. 15% OF FINAL GRADE;
3. **Research Paper. One major research paper, 20 pages in length** is expected from each student, to be presented in written form at the end of the semester. **Abstracts of 150 words maximum** must be presented to the Professor by the fourth week of the semester. Paper topics should be discussed with the Professor during his office hours, on class-days, two hours before class.. ABSTRACT: 5%; FINAL PAPER: 45%

4. **Film Reviews.** Three minor “reaction papers” on any three of the films in the selected list above. Prompt questions distributed on day of showing. Papers 3-5 pp., double-spaced, Courier New , font 12. Total value: 30%.
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COURSE RULES:

1. **Plagiarism or cheating:** Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Please keep in mind that plagiarism does not consist only in copying verbatim someone else's material and presenting it as if it were yours. It also includes taking ideas (even paraphrased!) from an author without according him/her proper recognition (through a footnote, for instance). Other forms of cheating (particularly downloading material from the Internet and presenting as if it were yours) will also be subject to the same action. See <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honestybrochure.htm><http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm> for more information on UF policies.
2. **Incompletes are strongly discouraged** and will be given only when students who have finished most of the reading assignments satisfactorily cannot complete the final paper requirement due to unforeseen events. If this is the case, students must arrange for the incomplete **before** the end of the semester.
3. Students engaging in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave the classroom. Please turn phones and pagers off during class.
4. **Students with Disabilities.** Students requesting classroom accommodation or special consideration 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 or special consideration.

READINGS for January: (efforts will be made to put copies of all readings on course website; by the same token, students are encouraged to locate copies for themselves and inform professor of success or not in locating copies)

01/05: Presentation of Syllabus; discussion of course requisites; project for creation of course URL; organization of course tasks;

01/12: "Introducing Religions in Latin America", in Peterson & Vazquez, pp. 3-20;
"Religion in Latin America", spec. issue Of *Hemisphere*, vol. 19, Spr. 2010.

01/19: Indigenous Religious Traditions: Popol Vuh; Huarochiri; Codices; Watunna; "Yurupary" traditions; Guarani prophetism;

01/26: Tales of Captivity: Hans Staden's True History (2008 ed.);

02/02: "Christian Missions in the Americas"; "Christianities in South America";
"Christian Renewalisms": all in Atlas of the World's Religions, 2nd ed., N. Smarth & F. Denny, eds.;

[12/28/2010. TO BE CONTINUED]

