

Global Studies Programme  
FLACSO Argentina

**Syllabus "Culture and Identity in Latin America"**  
**Thursdays, August 15 th to November 28 th**  
**5.30-7.30 pm**

**Instructors**

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**Presentation**

This course studies a set of influential social and political ideas written by Latin American intellectuals since its independence from Spain and Portugal in the early 19th century until today. Our analysis of these ideas will be centered on: (1) Their formulation of issues of national and regional identity, with particular emphasis on race relations; (2) Their influence in the world at large. The goals of the course are to familiarize students with the way in which intellectuals in the Global South position themselves in relation to dominant ideas coming from the dominant "West". Problems associated with the degree of originality of these ideas, and their "application" and "adaptation" to other realities and ideal models will be specially considered. At the end of the course, students will be able to understand the driving forces that led to the main debates on social and political issues in Modern Latin America.

**Class requirements**

Final Paper (80% of final grade):

- You will have to write a **8-12 page long, double-spaced, Times New Roman font or similar** review essay based on one or three key books or at least 3 articles about topics and authors covered in the class on **the history of Latin American ideas (not on economic, social, political processes and/or policies)**. For instance, a paper could be on the influence of José C. Mariategui's ideas among Latin American intellectuals (but not on the rise and fall of guerrilla movements in Peru in the 1970s); on Eva Peron's ideas on gender relations, (not on her biography); or on Ernesto Laclau's theory on populism, (not on how classical populism developed in Latin America in the 1940s).
- **The bibliography should include at least one significant book on the subject (one book could be replaced by four academic articles). Assigned readings for the class can be included as part of the bibliography.**
- **Upload the final version of your paper in the Final Submission folder by December 21st, noontime.**

Class Participation (20% of final grade):

Students are required to read the bibliography for each session and to actively participate in class.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. Students must attend 80% of the classes.

**Schedule [Note: there might be minor adjustments to the bibliography at the beginning of the semester]**

**19th Century**

**1. August 15. Introduction. The Construction of a Postcolonial Order**

- Chasteen, John Charles, *Born in blood and Fire: A concise History of Latin America*, W. W. Norton & Company, 2016.
- Skim Skidmore and Smith, *Modern Latin America*, Sixth Edition, Oxford U. Press, 2005, ch. 1-2 for a general overview of Latin American history. Please refer to this survey text for historical contextualization in the coming weeks. Also, for a deeper overview of the region's history, check Thomas Holloway, *A Companion to Latin American History*, Blackwell, 2011.
- Bolivar, Simón, "The Letter of Jamaica", (1815).
- Sarmiento, Domingo Faustino, and Kathleen Ross. *Facundo Civilization and Barbarism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003, 1-16, 29-71.
- Ramos, Julio. *Divergent Modernities: Culture and Politics in Nineteenth-Century Latin America*. Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 2001., ch. 1.

**2. August 22. Anti Imperialism**

- Sanders, James, *The Vanguard of the Atlantic World*, Duke University Press Books, Year: 2014, chapter 5.
- José Martí, "Our America" [1892] available [here](#).
- José Martí, "My Race"[1893] available [here](#).
- José Martí, "The Truth About the United States" available [here](#).
- Rodó, *Ariel* [Prologue, I, II]

## **20th Century**

### **3. August 29. Indigenismo in Mexico and Peru**

- Mariátegui, José C., "The Problem of Race in Latin America", in Mariátegui, José C. *An Anthology*, Monthly Review Press, 2011.
- Mariátegui, José C. *Seven Interpretive Essays On Peruvian Reality*, ch. 2-3. Available [here](#).
- Knight, Alan. "Race, Racism and Indigenismo (Mexico 1910-1940). In Graham, Richard, Thomas E. Skidmore, Aline Helg, and Alan Knight. *The Idea of Race in Latin America, 1870-1940*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990.
- Vasconcelos, José, *The Cosmic Race*, Johns Hopkins U. Press, 1997 (selection).

### **4. September 5. Identity "Essayism"**

- Miggiolaro Chaguri, M. "Essayism and Sociology in Brazil: Notes on Colonization, Slavery and Nation." *The American Sociologist* (2019).
- Gilberto Freyre, *The Masters and the Slaves* (selection)
- Borges, Jorge L. "The Argentine Writer and Tradition", in Yates, Donald, ed., *Labyrinths*, 1964.
- Ortiz, Fernando. *Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar*, Duke U. Press, 1995 (selection).

### **5. September 12. Theories on Populism**

- Panizza, Francisco, "Introduction". In Panizza, Francisco, ed. *Populism and the Mirror of Democracy*, Verso, 2005, 1-31.
- Finchelstein, Federico, "Returning Populism to History". In *Constellations* Volume 21, Number 4, 2014.
- Laclau, Ernesto, "Populism. What's in a Name?" In Panizza, Francisco, ed. *Populism and the Mirror of Democracy*, 32-49.

### **6. September 19. Race, racism, legacy of slavery and Negritude**

- Césaire, Aime, *Discourse on colonialism*, Monthly Review Press, 2011
- Fanon, Frantz, *The wretched of the earth*, Grove, 1963, chap 1
- Padmore, George, *Life and Struggles of Negro Toilers*, R.I.L.U, 1931. Chap 2
- Williams, Eric, *Capitalism and Slavery*, The University of North Carolina Press, 1994.

### **7. September 26. Latin American Marxism and the Cuban Revolution**

- Lowy, Michael, *Marxism in Latin America from 1909 to the Present An Anthology*, Humanities Press, 1992, Introduction.
- Ernesto, Guevara, Fidel Castro, *Socialism and Man in Cuba*, Pathfinder Press, 2009 (selection).
- Childs, Matt D. 1995. "A Historical Critique of the Emergence and Evolution of Ernesto Che Guevara's 'Foco' Theory". *Journal of Latin American Studies*. 27, no. 3: 593-624.

### **8. October 3. Economic Structuralism and Dependency Theory**

- Love, Joseph L. 1994. "Economic ideas and ideologies in Latin America since 1930" in: Bethell, Leslie (ed.): *The Cambridge History of Latin America, Vol. VI, Latin America since 1930. Economy, Society and Politics*, Part I, Cambridge University, 393-46.
- Raewyn Connell, *Southern theory: the global dynamics of knowledge in social science*, Routledge, 2020, chap 7.
- Cardoso, Fernando H. and Enzo Faletto, *Dependency and Development*.

### **9. October 10. Cultural Dependency Theory**

- Galeano, Eduardo: *Open Veins of Latin America. Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*, Monthly Review Press, 1997 (Foreword by Isabel Allende, Introduction, Part III)
- Mercader, Sofía: "Towards a Global Intellectual History of an Unequal World Popularising Dependency Theory in Latin America: Hour of the Furnaces and Open Veins of Latin America Revisited", *Global Intellectual History*, April 2022
- Dorfman, Ariel and Armand Mattelart, *How To Read the Donald Duck. Imperialist Ideology in the Disney Comic* (trans. by David Kunzle). Pluto Press [1971] 2019 (Preface, Intros, Chapters I-III).

## **October 17 - Spring break**

### **10. October 24. Liberation Theology, Liberation Philosophy and Pedagogy of the Oppressed**

- Freire, Paulo, *Pedagogy of the oppressed*, Continuum, 2000, chap 2.
- Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics, and Salvation*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1988, Intros, ch. 9-13, Conclusion.
- Dussel, Enrique " Philosophy in Latin America in the Twentieth Century: Problems and Current" in Enrique Mendieta, *Latin American Philosophy. Currents, issues, debates*, Indiana University Press, 2003.

## Contemporary Debates

### **11. October 31. Human Rights Violations and Transitional Justice in the Southern Cone: The Singularity of the Argentinian Case. The Transition in Argentina (Lucía Quaretti).**

#### **Main contents:**

- Elaborating on Human Rights Violations? Different mechanisms of transitional justice enforced in the Southern Cone.
- The Argentinian transition: CONADEP, Juntas Trial and the significant role of the human rights movement.

#### **Bibliography:**

- Collins, C. (2012). "The end of Impunity? Late justice? and Post- transitional Prosecutions in Latin America" in Clark, Granville and Palmer (eds.) *Critical Perspectives in Transitional Justice*. Intersentia Press.
- Crenzel, E. (2017). "Revisiting the origins of Argentina's military junta trial: political, moral and legal dilemmas of a transitional justice strategy". *Canadian Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Studies*. 42:2, pp. 144-164.
- Vegh Weis, V. (2023). "Exploring the World's First Successful Truth Commission: Argentina's CONADEP and the Role of Victims in Truth-Seeking". *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, Volume 15, Issue 1, February. pp- 100-117
- Barros, M. (2013). "Political discourse theory in the study of resistance movements: an alternative account of the human rights movement in Argentina. *Revista Sul-Americana de Ciência Política*. Universidade Federal de Pelotas, pp. 80-99

### **12. November 7. Justice, Memory and Truth in the Post-Transition Stage in Argentina (Lucía Quaretti).**

#### **Main contents:**

- The new stage of trials for crimes against humanity and the changes they brought: incorporation of international human rights law, extension of criminal responsibilities, and recognition of sexual abuse as a crime against humanity.

- Struggles around memory and justice concerning the recent past: confrontation and political identity within a polarized society.

### **Bibliography:**

- Balardini, L. (2017). "Human Rights Trials in Argentina. A long struggle for criminal accountability" in *Coup d' etat judgments in the world and Turkey internacional*. Hukuncular Dernegi, pp.210-225.
- Jelin, E. (2012). "Sexual Abuse as Crime against Humanity and the Right to privacy". *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*. 21; ; 6-2012. Routledge Journals, Taylor & Francis Ltd, pp.343-350.
- Balé , C and Guille, G. (2024). "Memory policies and uses of the past during kirchnerist governments in Argentina (2003-2015)" in Berber Bevernage (ed) *Claiming the People´s past: populist politics of History in the twenty-first century*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 49-65
- Salvi, V. (2018). "Once Victors, Now Victims: How do the Argentine Military remember thei `recent past?'" *Observing Memories 2* (12). European Observatory on Memories, pp. 4-11.
- Crenzel E. (2020). "Four cases under examination: Human Rights and Justice in Argentina under the Macri Administration". *Modern Languages Open, Liverpool University Press, 4-8, 1-13*.

### **13. November 14. Theories of *Buen Vivir*, Plurinationalism, and Socialism of the 21st Century**

- Falletti, Tulia and Parrado Emilio (eds.) *Latin America Since the Left Turn (Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism)*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018 (Introduction).
- García Linera, Alvaro, "Speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 20th Meeting of the São Paulo Forum", CLACSO, 2014 [[here](#)].
- García Linera, Alvaro, *Plebeian Power: Collective Action and Indigenous, Working-Class and Popular Identities in Bolivia*. Brill Academic Pub, 2014 (Introduction by Pablo Stefanoni, Ch 1).

### **14. November 21. Postcolonial and decolonial theory**

- Mignolo,Walter; Walsh Catherine, *On Decoloniality, , 2018*, Duke University Press (Chapters 6-7).
- Quijano, Aníbal, *Aníbal Quijano: Foundational Essays on the Coloniality of Power*, Duke University Press, (chapter 3 and 5).2024

### **15. November 28. A Critical Appraisal of the Ideas of the "New New Left"**

- Martínez Novo, Carmen: *Undoing Multiculturalism: Resource Extraction and Indigenous Rights in Ecuador*, 2021, University of Pittsburgh Press (Introduction, Ch1, Conclusion).

- Svampa, Maristella. *Neo-extractivism in Latin America. Socio-environmental Conflicts, the Territorial Turn, and New Political Narratives*, Cambridge University Press, 2019 (Introduction, Ch1, Conclusion).