

HIST 407/507
Spring 2009

Seminar: Race in Modern Latin America

Instructor: Professor Carlos Aguirre
Office Hours: Tuesday, 8-10 am, Thursday, 10-11 am
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Description

In 1977, the authors of a book on inequality in Peru argued that "the problems of 'race' ... are of only peripheral significance in Spanish America." Today, very few analysts would agree with such statement. Recent scholarly trends, as well as current developments in the region, have combined to bring race, ethnicity, and related issues to the forefront of political as well as academic debates. The "problems of race" are far from insignificant, and any attempt to understand contemporary Latin America from a historical perspective should take into account the evolution of racial ideas and practices in the region. This seminar attempts to examine the social, cultural, and political constructions of race and ethnicity in modern Latin America and their connections with the processes of class, gender, and national formation in the region.

Requirements

Attendance, participation, and weekly discussion questions: 20%

Attendance is mandatory. More than one unjustified absence will automatically be penalized with one letter grade. Participation is evaluated on the basis of the student's engagement with the discussions in class and the quality of the weekly written reports. These reports should include: short summaries of at least three key arguments presented by the author(s) under review, and at least three stimulating questions for discussion in class.

Oral Presentation: 20%.

Every week, one or two students will be in charge of leading the discussion by offering a critical reading of the materials and presenting issues and themes to the rest of the class. These presentations will last about 10-15 minutes each. Students should avoid offering lengthy summaries of the readings and must focus, instead, on addressing theoretical, historiographical, comparative, and critical issues stemming out of the reading(s). A meeting with the instructor before the actual presentation is recommended, and an outline should be prepared for distribution in class.

Paper proposal (due on week 3): 10%.

This will consist of one page describing the topic of the paper, the research question that the student seeks to address, the sources to be used, and a tentative bibliography. Although late proposals will be accepted, they will not receive any credit.

Final research paper (12-15 pages for undergraduates, 15-20 for graduates): 50%.

Students will choose a topic related to the content of the course and use the best and up-to-date bibliography available on their topic. Except in special cases, students are expected to make use of *primary sources*. I will be available for consultation on paper topics and bibliographical assistance.

Readings: All books are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore, and will be placed on reserve at Knight Library. Articles and book chapters will be available through Blackboard.

Schedule of Sessions and Readings

Week 1: Introduction / Videos and discussion: “Race: The Floating Signifier” and “Mirrors of the Heart”

Week 2: Indians and the Nation-State in Nineteenth-Century Andean Societies

Required Reading:

Brooke Larson, *Trials of Nation Making. Liberalism, Race, and Ethnicity in the Andes, 1810-1910* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).

Week 3: Race, Nation, and Science **PAPER PROPOSALS DUE**

Required Reading:

Alejandra Bronfman, *Measures of Equality. Social Science, Citizenship, and Race in Cuba, 1902-1940* (University of North Carolina Press, 2004).

Week 4: Representations of Indians and the Making of Indigenismo in Spanish America

Required reading:

Rebecca Earle, *The Return of the Native. Indians and Myth-Making in Spanish-America, 1810-1930* (Duke University Press, 2007)

Week 5: Deconstructing Mestizaje

Required Readings:

Marisol De la Cadena, “Are Mestizos Hybrids? The Conceptual Politics of Andean Identities,” *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 37, 2005, 259-284.

Peter Wade, “Rethinking Mestizaje: Ideology and Lived Experience,” *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 37, 2005, 239-257.

Ana María Alonso, “Conforming Disconformity: ‘Mestizaje,’ Hybridity, and the Aesthetics of Mexican Nationalism,” *Cultural Anthropology*, Vol. 19, Issue 4, pp. 459–490, 2004.

Peter Wade, "Images of Latin American Mestizaje and the Politics of Comparison," *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 23, 3, 2004, 355-366.

Week 6: Brazil and the Myth of Racial Democracy

Required Readings:

France W. Twine, *Racism in a Racial Democracy. The Maintenance of White Supremacy in Brazil* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1998). (chapters 6 and 7)

Edward Tellez, *Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004) (introduction)

Leone Campos de Sousa and Paulo Nascimento, "Brazilian National Identity at a Crossroads: The Myth of Racial Democracy and the Development of Black Identity," *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, vol. 19, 3-4, 2008, 129-143.

Donna Goldstein, "Interracial" Sex and Racial Democracy in Brazil: Twin Concepts?," *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 101, No. 3, 1999), pp. 563-578.

Stanley R. Bailey, "Group Dominance and the Myth of Racial Democracy: Antiracism Attitudes in Brazil," *American Sociological Review*, 69, 2004, pp. 728-747.

Week 7: Race, Ethnicity, and Gender

Required readings:

Marisol de la Cadena, "'Women are more Indian': Ethnicity and Gender in a Community Near Cuzco," in Brooke Larson et. al. eds. *Ethnicity, Markets, and Migration in the Andes. At the Crossroads of History and Anthropology* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1995).

Helen Safa, "Challenging Mestizaje. A Gender Perspective on Indigenous and Afrodescendant Movements in Latin America," *Critique of Anthropology*, 25, 3, 2005, pp. 307-330.

Seligmann, Linda J. "To be in Between: The Cholas as Market Women," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 31:4, Oct. 1989, p. 694-721.

Radcliffe, Sarah, "Gender, Rights, and Race in Andean Nation-Building," *Entrecaminos*, Spring 2000.

Erin O'Connor, "Alternative Patriarchies," in *Gender, Indian, Nation. The Contradictions of Making Ecuador, 1830-1925* (University of Arizona Press, 2007, pp. 117-152.

Week 8: Indigenous Social Movements

Required Reading:

Marc Becker, *Indians and Leftists in the Making of Ecuador's Modern Indigenous Movements* (Duke University Press, 2008).

Weeks 9 and 10: No classes. Individual meetings will be scheduled.

FINAL PAPERS DUE: Wednesday, June 10, 5 pm.