

**History 158R - Spring 2010**  
**History of Religion in Latin America**  
**Prof. Sarah Cline**

Office: HSSB 4251  
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This upper-division survey course examines some of the major issues in the history of religion in Latin America from 1500 to the present. Although the structure and function of the Roman Catholic Church as an institution is an important component of the course, the social, economic, intellectual, political, and cultural aspects of religion, including non-Catholic tradition are integral to the course.

**Texts and other materials:**

**Required**

- Lee M. Penyak and Walter J. Petry, eds. *Religion in Latin America: A Documentary History* (RLADH). [Documents reader]
- Lee M. Penyak and Walter J. Petry, eds. *Religion and Society in Latin America* (RSLA) Orbis Books 2009 [Anthology]
- Materials on course website:  
[http://www.history.ucsb.edu/courses/course.php?course\\_id=1324](http://www.history.ucsb.edu/courses/course.php?course_id=1324)
- \*DVD “The Mission” (April 21, HSSB 4020)
- Video “Miracles are not enough” (in class)
- \*DVD “Romero” (May 12, HSSB 4020)
- DVD “Precarious Peace” (in class)

**Optional: Available from Netflix**

DVD “The crime of Padre Amaro” (Mexico)  
DVD “I, the worst of all” (Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz)  
DVD “Camila”  
DVD “Roses in December” (Documentary on El Salvador martyr, Jean Donovan)  
\*DVD “La Santa Muerte” \* May 26 HSSB 4020

\*Shown on selected Wednesday evenings in HSSB 4020. Start time TBA by a poll of students (choices; 6 p.m., 6:30, 7:00)

**Course requirements:**

- Class attendance and participation
- Check your umail account frequently for course messages
- Cultural enrichment                      15%                      May 20
- Project/Paper                                40%                      June 1
- Final examination                         35%                      June 9, 12-3 p.m.
- Class participation/quizzes            10%

### History 158R – Tentative Schedule of Topics & Readings

- Come to class prepared by reading material in advance and be prepared to discuss it.
- If you know in advance that you cannot attend the screening of a particular film, let me know ASAP.
- The final week of the term is deliberately left unscheduled. We will discuss what activities would be optimal for the course's conclusion.

#### Week 1.

**March 30. Introduction – regions, periodization, themes of the course**

**April 1.** Indigenous religious traditions and Iberian Catholicism

**Reading:** Documents reader (RLADH) section I; Iberian Catholicism; Anthology (RSLA) chap. 1 L. Penyak and W. Petry “The Right to Appropriate, the Duty to Evangelize”

#### Week 2.

**April 6. European-Indigenous contact, conquest and religion in Spanish America**

**Reading:** Documents book section II; Anthology chap.2 J. Schwaller “Friars’ Accounts of the Native Peoples of the Americas”

**April 8. Indians, religious conversion, early church organization**

**Reading:** Documents book, section III, docs. 16-29; Anthology chapter 3. D. Tavárez and J. Chuchiak “Conversion and the Spiritual Conquest”.

#### Week 3.

**April 13. The Established Church**

**Reading:** Documents book, section III, docs. 30-34; section IV; Anthology chap. 5. K. Melvin “Priests and Nuns in Colonial Ibero-America”, Chap. 6. J. Holler, “The Holy Office of the Inquisition and Women”.

**Suggested DVD** “I, the worst of all” (Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz)

**April 15.** “Popular religion”

**Reading:** Documents book section V; Catholicism and slavery (RLADH section VI, RSLA 4). Wm. B. Taylor, “The Virgin of Guadalupe in New Spain”

**Recommended reading:** Martin Nesvig, ed. *Local Religion in Colonial Mexico*

#### Week 4.

**April 20. Jesuits and Franciscans in fringe areas – California, Paraguay, Brazil**

**Reading:** (RLADH section III, documents 35-40)

**Required DVD:** “The Mission” (April 21 in HSSB 4020, early evening TBA)

**April 22. Catholic Church in the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

**Reading:** RLADH section IX; RLADH Section X; RSLA 7 -“Church-Sponsored Education in Latin America”, 8 “Anticlericalism in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Centuries”; RLADH section XI; RSLA 9 “‘Not to be Called Christian’: Protestant Perceptions of Catholicism in Nineteenth-Century Latin America”

**Suggested DVD:** “Camila”

#### Week 5.

**April 27. The Modern Era.**

**Movie:** “Miracles are not enough” (in class)

**April 29. Protestantism**

**Reading:** Anthology 10 “Like a Mighty Rushing Wind: The Growth of Protestantism in Contemporary Latin America” 11, “Charismatic Competitors”;  
Documents reader XIII

**Week 6.**

**May 4. Vatican II and Liberation Theology**

**Reading:** Documentary history, sections XV, XVI;

**May 6 Religion and Politics**

**Reading:** RLADH sections XVII, XVIII); RSLA 13 “The Catholic Church and Social Revolutionaries”; Daniel H. Levine, “Religion and Politics, Politics and Religion”

**Week 7.**

**May 11 Religion and politics = Central America**

**Reading:** Documents XVI,

**Required Movie:** “Precarious Peace” (in class)

**Required Movie:** “Romero” Shown May 12, HSSB 4020 early evening

**May 13 Religion and politics – Chile, Argentina, Cuba**

**Required reading:** Documentary history XIX, 131, 135; XX 136, 140

**Recommended reading:** Anthony Gill, *Rendering Unto Caesar*, chaps. 4-6

**Suggested DVD:** “The Official Story”

**Week 8.**

**Monday May 17, 12 p.m. HSSB 4020 or 4041 Optional lecture, Jennifer S. Hughes**

(Religious Studies, UC Riverside) Attendance and write up on lecture can be your cultural project

**May 18 Religion and Politics – Mexico**

**Reading:** Adrian A. Bantjes, “Burning Saints, Molding Minds: Iconoclasm, Civic Ritual, and the Failed Cultural Revolution”;

**May 20 Religion and Migration – Transnational Indigenous Protestantism**

**Reading:** Dr. Mary I. O’Connor, “Globalization, Migration, and Religious Change: The Social and Cultural Effects of Mixteco Religious Conversion”

**May 20 Cultural enrichment paper due at the beginning of class**

**Week 9**

**May 25 Umbanda, Santeria, New Age Religions**

<http://www.der.org/films/incidents-of-travel.html>

**May 27 Popular saints religion**

**Reading:** “La santa muerte” <http://articles.latimes.com/2009/dec/07/local/la-me-muerte7-2009dec07>; Sam Quinones, “Jesus Malverde”

**Suggested DVD:** “La Santa Muerte” (shown May 26 HSSB 4020)

**June 1 Papers and Project due at the beginning of class**

**Week 10**

**June 1 TBA**

**June 3 TBA**

### Written Assignments:

#### I. Cultural enrichment 15% 1-2 pages. Due by May 20 in class.

**Choice 1. Film:** View a film that features Latin American religion and write 1-2 page (250-500 word) assessment of how the film relates to Latin American religion and culture. Choose from films from the pre-approved list **or** receive approval in advance for a film not on the list.

**Choice 2. Lecture or cultural event:** Attend a lecture or cultural event with relevant history of religion content. Visiting scholars or faculty at UCSB often give public lectures on Latin American topics. There are on- and off-campus live dance performances, concerts, plays, or other events (e.g. celebrations of El día de la raza, October 12, Day of the Dead, Nov. 2). Check the schedule for Arts & Lectures, the Multicultural Center, and events advertised in local media. I will regularly send the Latin American and Iberian Studies compilation of events, *Noticias* to the class list. Write a 1-2 page (250-500 word) report on the event.

**Choice 3. Art museum:** Visit an art gallery showing Latin American and/or Iberian art. Write a 1-2 page description (250-500 words) of one or more pieces of art in an exhibit discussing how the art illuminates aspects of Latin American religious history and culture.

**Choice 4. Historical site:** Visit a colonial-era historical site and write a 1-2 page (250-500 word) description of its significance to Latin American history. (Possible sites: a California mission; SB Presidio chapel).

#### II. Final paper or project. Proposal to be submitted by May 6. Project due June 1.

##### Option 1. Term paper. Proposal to be submitted by May 6. Paper due June 1.

You may write a traditional term paper 6-9 pages, double-spaced, 12 point type, 1 inch margins dealing with some aspect of Latin American religion. You must use at least two documents from the required documentary history text, Lee M. Penyak and Walter J. Petry, eds. *Religion in Latin America: A Documentary History* (RLADH).

**Option 2. Creative project.** This option can take a variety of forms: an art project (painting, sculpture, collage, performance), video, board game, video game, or ??? Your proposal must be specific about the form the project will take and a brief explanation of its purpose. If your final project is primarily visual or interactive, you need to write a full explanation of what you are trying to convey.

##### Student services:

Students are encouraged to utilize the Campus Learning Assistance Services [www.clas.ucsb.edu](http://www.clas.ucsb.edu) which runs workshops on strategies for time management and studying as well individualized tutoring for students wishing to improve their writing skills.