

**CENTER FOR
LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN
& LATINO STUDIES**

**FALL 2019
Course Description Guide**



Machmer Hall 312

UMass-Amherst

clacls@umass.edu

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHRO 150 – Ancient Civilizations

Spire # 23861

Instructor: Eric Johnson

MoWe 11:15-12:05 + Discussion

Email: ericjohnson@anthro.umass.edu

Course Description: The emergence and character of the world's first civilizations: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, Shang China, the Olmec and Maya of Mesoamerica, and the Chavin of Peru. Topics include the Neolithic background to the rise of civilizations and theories on the rise and fall of civilizations.

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin American, Caribbean and/or Latinx content: At least 25%

COMMUNICATION

COMM 125 – Intro to Rhetoric and Performance Studies

Spire # 25367

Instructor: Claudio Moreira

MoWe 2:30-3:45

Email: cmoreira@comm.umass.edu

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the major ideas and concepts of rhetorical and performance studies and their contributions to social action. Students will be introduced to the thinkers and movements in rhetoric and performance most significant to how we understand ourselves: the ways we represent and remember our pasts, live our presents (presence), and imagine our futures. Theories of rhetoric and performance will be connected to each other and to our communication practices to examine how theories can be deployed as part of the art of living our lives. Assignments in this course will also connect theory and practice: students will be quizzed on readings to assess knowledge of concepts and theory and will complete out of class assignments that require practical applications of concepts/theories to community contexts. Students will also be expected to be able to engage in critical assessment: of the theories and their applications, as well as of their own (students') commitment to the work of education and personal growth.

Prerequisite: Open to Sophomores and Freshmen only. COMM 125 is one of five 100-level courses that can be used as prerequisites for applying to the COMM major.

Percentage of Latin American, Caribbean and/or Latinx content: 30%

COMM 494MI – Music, Culture and Communication

Spire # 25368

Instructor: Henry Geddes

TuTh 11:30-12:45

Email: geddes@comm.umass.edu

Course Description: This course takes the view that our experience of music is mediated by biology, society and culture. As such it tells us a lot about who we are in relation to our cultural and physical environment. Like other forms of communication, music can be studied in terms of its texts, institutions, and audiences. Unlike other forms of communication, music is best understood from an interdisciplinary perspective that deals with the physics of sound, human biology, and musicology. In addition to asking the question, "What does the music mean?" I urge you to ask: What is the chain of biological, physical, social, and cultural events that render music meaningful and popular? What sorts of networks and emotional affiliations make musical performance/consumption possible, whether it be a concert, film, public transport, shopping mall, Walkman, funeral, file sharing, etc.? How do the modes of listening vary across these fields? How do boundaries shift with the globalization of music, especially with the advent of digital distribution on the Internet?

Prerequisite: Open to Senior and Junior Communication majors only. This course was formerly numbered COMM 4970. If you have already taken COMM 4970 you cannot take this course. This course serves as an Integrative Experience (IE) requirement for BA-COMM majors.

Percentage of Latin American, Caribbean and/or Latinx content: 30-40%

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

COMPLIT 121 – International Short Story

Spire # 25625

Instructor: Staff TBD

TuTh 10:00-11:15

Email: [N/A](#)

Course Description: This class offers an introduction to the short story as a literary genre. It will cover a wide variety of texts, particularly -- but not exclusively -- from the Anglo and Latin American traditions from the 19th century until the present. All works will be read in translation. The main objective of the class is to teach students the analytical tools how to read, interpret, and discuss short stories. Further, it aims at improving critical writing skills and your awareness of the world. We will explore the cultural context and the power relations operative within each individual story, especially with reference to race, class, and gender. Russian, Czech, German, French, Italian, Spanish, English, American, and Latin-American stories from Romanticism to the present. Fantastic tales, character sketches, surprise endings; main types of the short story. **(Gen. Ed. AL)**

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin American, Caribbean and/or Latinx content: 50%

COMPLIT 231 – Comedy

Spire # 25676

Instructor: Staff TBD

TuTh 1:00-2:15

Email: [N/A](#)

Course Description: Our course begins with the premise that contemporary American comedy is informed by the histories of ethnic American groups -- African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and U.S. Latinos/Latinas -- along with issues of race, class, sexuality and citizenship. American comedians, independent filmmakers, feminists and transgendered comics deploy the language of comedy to invoke serious social matters in contemporary American life: racism, heterosexism, homophobia, class biases against the poor and the undocumented, misogyny, war and other burning issues of the day. We will thus consider that the ends of comedy are more than laughter. Comedy confronts political issues that are constitutive of and threatening to the U.S. body politic. **(Gen Ed AL)**

Prerequisite: N/A

Percent of Latin American, Caribbean and/or Latinx content: 25%

EDUCATION

EDUC 615S – Language & Literacy Policy and Planning

Spire # 26638

Instructor: Theresa Austin

Tu 4:00-6:30

Email: taustin@educ.umass.edu

Course Description: This is an introductory course in the field of language planning and policy which is situated in the broader field of sociology of language. Selected case studies will provide a basis for critically examining issues such as: ideology and language planning efface, language education policies, literacy movements, and language shift and death.

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin American, Caribbean and/or Latinx content: At least 25%

EDUC 677 – Foundations of Bilingual, ESL and Multicultural Education

Spire # 73479

Instructor: Laura Valdiviezo

Tu 7:00-9:30

Email: lav@educ.umass.edu

Course Description: This seminar examines the political, philosophical, and pedagogical foundations of multicultural education through various approaches to knowledge construction and production that shape from education institutions to teaching culturally and linguistically diverse student populations. The course presents perspectives on issues of access and provision of high quality public education particularly for students in underserved communities (Latinos in the U.S./Indigenous peoples in the Americas). Through the analysis of sociocultural and sociopolitical variables such race, ethnicity, language, gender and social class the course addresses issues of inequality in structures, policies, and practices in schools in the United States and globally.

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin American, Caribbean and/or Latinx content: 50%

EDUC 734 - Understanding Research in Language, Literature & Culture

Spire # 26558

Instructor: Theresa Austin

We 4:00-6:30

Email: taustin@educ.umass.edu

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to apprentice new doctoral students to the ways in which researchers interested in the intersection between the fields of language, literacy and culture approach the activity of conducting, reading and writing research.

Prerequisite: This course is intended for new doctoral students in the LLC program.

Percentage of Latin American, Caribbean and/or Latinx content: 25%

ENGLISH

ENGLISH 300-04 – Junior Year Writing: Caribbean Family Sagas

Spire # 27056

Instructor: Rachel Mordecai

MoWe 2:30-3:45

Email: mordecai@english.umass.edu

Course Description: This seminar will read Caribbean family-saga novels in relation to questions of belonging among contemporary Caribbean people, and the formation of Caribbean nation-states. Students will work on developing the skills and strategies that support strong academic writing in English-lit classrooms. They will also think carefully about how families are constituted; what it means to represent a nation through the story of a family; how “private” decisions about reproduction become tied to national futures; how multi-generational stories map time onto space; and the power of naming, mis-naming, nick-naming, and refusing to name. Authors we may read include: Erna Brodber, Patrick Chamoiseau, Dionne Brand, Julia Alvarez, Rosario Ferre, Maryse Condé, and others. Assignments will include formal and informal papers, some of which will go through the draft-and-revision process; other possible assignments include in-class presentations and online reader-response postings.

Prerequisite: The course is intended for English majors; however, interested students from other disciplines should contact Prof. Mordecai for permission to enroll.

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

HISTORY

HIST 120 – Latin America: The Colonial Period

Spire # 28538

Instructor: Heidi Scott

TuTh 1:25-2:15 + Discussion

Email: hvscott@history.umass.edu

Course Description: This course surveys the history of colonial Latin America, examining the encounters between Europeans, the Indigenous peoples of the Americas, and African peoples over the course of three centuries. The class explores the reciprocal effects of this contact. What impact did the conquest have on the peoples, cultures, environments, and demography of the Americas? What were the characteristics of the societies, cultures, and environments that emerged from this ongoing process of contact, conflict, and colonialism? We examine, among other themes, experiences and portrayals of conquest, the formation of colonial communities, the role of the Catholic Church, the formation of racialized caste systems, everyday life in colonial society, and the collapse of empire in the early nineteenth century. Opposing viewpoints and historiographical debates set the tone for at least some lectures and discussions. We make frequent use of textual and visual primary source materials throughout the semester. Assignments for the course include a midterm exam, an assignment based on the analysis of historical sources, a book review, and active participation. **(Gen.Ed. HS, DG)**

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

HIST 121 – Modern Latin America

Spire # 28477

Instructor: Joel Wolfe

MoWe 1:25-2:15 + Discussion

Email: jwolfe@history.umass.edu

Course Description: Discussions of Latin America usually fall back upon facile generalizations that emphasize recent changes to explain “current events.” This course will examine in detail the creation of modern Latin America. We will concentrate on the struggles over land and labor, the creation of nation-states, and the conflicts within those states over issues of citizenship and social justice. The course will also address the contentious role the United States has played in the region. The class fulfills general education requirements in history (HS) and global diversity (DG).

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

HIST 220 – Capitalism and Alternatives in Latin America

Spire # 28600

Course Instructor: Kevin Young

TuTh 10:00-10:50 + Discussion

Email: kayoung@umass.edu

Course Description: Why have poverty and inequality proven so persistent in modern Latin American history? What strategies have people proposed to deal with these problems, and with what consequences? In attempting to answer these questions, we will survey the major periods in Latin American and Caribbean economic development, focusing on the last 150 years: the liberal export era of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the “import substitution” or state-led industrialization efforts of the mid-twentieth century, experimentation with radical alternatives to capitalism in Cuba and elsewhere, the neoliberal reforms of the 1980s and after, and recent attempts to forge alternatives to neoliberalism. Key recurring issues will include natural resource extraction, agricultural systems, industrialization, control of the workplace, environmental impacts, the role of the state in the economy, foreign intervention, attempts at regional cooperation, and the relationship of democracy to the economy. We will pay close attention to the relationship between economic policies and political power, social movements, and the non-human environment. The economy and its features – ownership structures, labor systems, wealth, poverty, inequality, unemployment, gender and ethnic hierarchies, environmental degradation, etc. – are not natural: they are determined to a great extent by human actions and conflicts. We will investigate how differing human visions and interests have shaped economic conditions, social relationships, and the environment.

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

HIST 359 – Modern Brazil

Spire # 28505

Instructor: Joel Wolfe

MoWe 2:30-3:45

Email: jwolfe@history.umass.edu

Course Description: In addition to being Latin America’s largest and most economically powerful nation, Brazil boasts a history that is quite distinct from the histories of its Spanish American neighbors. This lecture and discussion course will examine Brazil’s history from its peaceful independence declaration in 1822 to its present struggles to maintain a democratic society in the aftermath of a twenty-one-year military dictatorship. We will pay close attention to Brazil’s legacy as the world’s largest slave-holding society in the nineteenth century, its struggles to conquer its huge territory, and the interaction of those factors in shaping its national identity.

Prerequisite: Open to Seniors, Juniors & Sophomores only.

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLISCI 245 – Government & Politics in the English Speaking Caribbean

Spire # 31801

Course Instructor: Carlene Edie

TuTh 2:30-3:45

Email: cjedie@polsci.umass.edu

Course Description: Focus on the English-speaking Caribbean, formerly the British West Indies: Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Grenada. Analysis of the political institutions, processes and movements which give expression to the forces at work in these societies, especially those of class, ethnicity, and relations of production. Regional economic integration and political federation examined: the utility or otherwise of CARICOM, failure of West Indies federation, etc.

Prerequisite: This course is open only to Political Science majors at first. Course will be open to non-majors after initial ramping of Registration period. It is also recommended that you have taken POLISCI 111.

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

POLISCI 343 – Government & Politics in East Africa

Spire # 31839

Course Instructor: Carlene Edie

TuTh 11:30-12:45

Email: cjedie@polsci.umass.edu

Course Description: Comparative analysis of the politics of change in Tanzania and Kenya. Economic dependency and underdevelopment; decolonization and liberation; ideology and practice; democratization and economic liberalization. Emphasis on interaction between domestic and external politics.

Prerequisite: This course is open only to Political Science majors at first. Course will be open to non-majors after initial ramping of Registration period. Upper-division standing requirement, and needed to have taken POLISCI 111. Otherwise, consent of instructor is needed.

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

POLISCI 392AP – Activism, Participation & Protest

Spire # 32009

Course Instructor: Sonia Alvarez

TuTh 4:00-5:15

Email: soniaa@polsci.umass.edu

Course Description: Drawing on varied theoretical approaches from a range of disciplines—including not only several subfields in Political Science, but also Sociology, Anthropology, Feminist Studies, Geography, African Diaspora Studies, History, Cultural Studies, and more, this course examines historical and contemporary modalities of political activism, participation, and protest. Through the comparative analysis of select case studies, principally from Latin America and the U.S, we will explore the dynamic development of feminisms, anti-racist/Black mobilizations, and contemporary anti-austerity and pro-democracy protests.

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 50+%

POLISCI 397BZ – Race and Gender Politics in the Americas: Brazil in Comparative Perspective

Spire # 35148

Course Instructor: Sonia Alvarez

TuTh 1:00-2:15

Email: soniaa@polsci.umass.edu

Course Description: Race and gender politics are deeply imbricated, constituting core dimensions of power, political subjectivities, and resistant identities. Race intersects with gender, along other vectors of power, determining individuals' and communities' rights, livelihoods, and life chances, restricting their access to cultural, political, monetary, and libidinal/sexual capital, and buttressing or undermining shifting strategies of domination and resistance. By considering the case of Brazil—which is quintessentially raced, gendered and sexualized in both the popular and scholarly imaginations (think soccer, carnival, racialized sex tourism, eroticized “mulatas,” etc.)—in comparison to other racial-gender-sexual formations in the Americas, this seminar will explore the historical, political, and cultural construction of gender and race, with particular emphasis on the experiences of Afro-descendant women. We will assess comparatively how hegemonic race and gender discourses and policies come into being and how they are challenged by anti-racist and Black feminist and queer/trans activism, both nationally and internationally. An on-going concern of the seminar will be to theorize the ways that race and gender play into current ultra-Right politics in Brazil as well as elsewhere in the Americas and the world.

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 80+%

PORTUGUESE

PORTUG 301 – Conversational Portuguese II

Spire # 32152

Course Instructor: Luiz Amaral

MoWeFr 1:00-2:15

Email: amaral@umass.edu

Course Description: Discussions based on varied topics of current interest and from modern Portuguese writers, to develop speaking ability in Portuguese. Conversations focus on everyday life situations. Use of current newspapers, magazines, articles and pamphlets dealing with social and cultural issues.

Prerequisite: PORTUG 240 or equivalent

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 50%

PORTUG 316 – Brazil

Spire # 32150

Course Instructor: Luiz Amaral

TuTh 1:00-2:15

Email: amaral@umass.edu

Course Description: This course presents some current topics in Brazilian culture and civilization through the lyrics of well-known Brazilian songwriters. The course also has a significant language component to help students improve their written and oral abilities in Portuguese. We start by studying the “MPB de protesto” from the 60's and 70's in opposition to the Military Government (Caetano Veloso, Chico Buarque, Geraldo Vandré, Milton Nascimento, Gilberto Gil, Raul Seixas, Ivan Lins, Elis Regina). We then move into the 80's and 90's Rock and Roll era when songwriters discuss some serious social issues in a society that was trying to learn how to live in a democracy (Cazuza, Legião Urbana, Titãs, Paralamas do Sucesso). Finally, we listen to some of the best 21st century Brazilian Hip-Hop artists to understand why poverty, police brutality, racism and gender discrimination still play a significant role in Brazilian society (MV Bill, Racionais MC's, Gabriel o Pensador, Amanda NegraSim, Emicida, Sara Donato).

Prerequisite: PORTUG 240 or permission from instructor

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

SPANISH

SPAN 301 – Conversational Spanish I

(01-LEC) Spire # 33216

Course Instructor: Margara Russotto

TuTh 1:00-2:15

Email: margheri@spanport.umass.edu

(02-LEC) Spire # 33240

Course Instructor: Carole Cloutier

MoWeFr 11:15-12:05

Email: cloutier@spanport.umass.edu

(03-LEC) Spire # 34138

Course Instructor: Tal Goldfajn

TuTh 1:00-2:15

Email: tgoldfajn@umass.edu

Course Description: Advanced conversational course designed for students who want to improve their communicative abilities in Spanish. A variety of cultural texts will be the base for classroom activities. These activities are designed to improve your conversational skills and your practical knowledge about Hispanic culture and language. You will participate in a variety of communicative activities such as dialogues, conversations, interviews, film reviews, group discussions and oral presentations. **Taught in Spanish.**

Prerequisite: Grade C or higher in Spanish 240 or with the permission of the instructor

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 99%

SPAN 310 – Advanced Language through Culture

Spire # 33237

Course Instructor: David Rodriguez Solas

TuTh 4:00-5:15

Email: dsolas@umass.edu

Course Description: An advanced Spanish course that introduces students to academic writing through the study of Latin American or Spanish cultural production. **Taught in Spanish.**

Prerequisite: N/A

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

SPAN 322 – Introduction to Spanish-American Literature I

Spire # 33144

Course Instructor: Emma Rivera-Rábago

MoWeFr 11:15-12:05

Email: rivera@spanport.umass.edu

Course Description: Introduction to the literature of Spanish America from the beginnings to the end of the romantic Period. Emphasis on literary currents and their relations to history and culture of the period. Representative poetry, narrative, and drama. **COURSE TAUGHT IN SPANISH.**

Prerequisite: Spanish 311 OR consent from instructor

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

SPAN 323-01 – Introduction to Spanish-American Literature II

Spire # 33145

Course Instructor: Emma Rivera-Rábago

TuTh 10:00-11:15

Email: rivera@spanport.umass.edu

Course Description: Introduction to the literature of Spanish America from the end of the Romantic period to the present. Emphasis on literary currents and their relation to history and culture of the period. Representative poetry, narrative, drama. **COURSE TAUGHT IN SPANISH.**

Prerequisite: Spanish 311 OR consent of instructor.

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

SPAN 323-02 – Introduction to Spanish American Literature II

Spire # 33146

Course Instructor: Emma Rivera-Rábago

TuTh 11:30-12:45

Email: rivera@spanport.umass.edu

Course Description: Introduction to the literature of Spanish America from the end of the Romantic period to the present. Emphasis on literary currents and their relation to history and culture of the period. Representative poetry, narrative, drama. **COURSE TAUGHT IN SPANISH.**

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Prerequisite: Spanish 311 OR consent of instructor.

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

SPAN 397MC Special Topics – Introduction to Latin American “Minicuento”

Spire # 35210

Course Instructor: Margara Russotto

TuTh 4:00-5:15

Email: margheri@spanport.umass.edu

Course Description: Introducción al género literario más conciso, difícil e iconoclasta de todos. Revisión de una tradición antigua, recreada y renovada por los escritores latinoamericanos mediante recursos extremos, tales como la perfección formal, el humor y la sátira social. Estudio de autores fundamentales (Monterroso, Shua, Campobello, Cortázar, Sequera, entre otros). Se requiere participación activa y consistente de los estudiantes: presentaciones orales, informes de lectura, reseñas, examen midterm y un ensayo final. **Course taught in Spanish.**

Prerequisite: Grade C or higher in Spanish 240 or with the permission of the instructor

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 99%

SPAN 417 – Culture and Civilizations of Spanish America

Spire # 33141

Course Instructor: Luís Marentes

MoWe 2:30-3:45

Email: marentes@spanport.umass.edu

Course Description: We will study the historical development of Latin American culture and civilization as a hybrid phenomenon, paying particular attention to the relationship between indigenous groups and others. We will consider the way in which “Indian” and “indigenous” are categories that emerged with the encounter between Americans and Europeans, and how their meaning has changed with time, as they have been appropriated by different factions and groups. To approach this topic, we will read primary and secondary sources in Spanish and English. Throughout the semester students will write brief texts responding to the readings and linking them to current events. Students will also write a final paper and follow Latin American news on a regular basis. **(Gen.Ed. AL, G)**

Prerequisite: SPAN 311, 354 or consent of instructor.

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 100%

SPAN 597LT – Literary and Cultural Theory in the Luso-Hispanic World

Spire # 33224

Course Instructor: Regina Galasso

We 4:00-6:30

Email: rgalasso@umass.edu

Course Description: This seminar will study theoretical tools for analysis of literary and cultural production in the Luso-Hispanic world. It will provide students with the theoretical tools necessary to understand the key concepts and issues in literary and cultural studies. It will provide an overview of current trends in cultural and literary theory applied to Luso-Hispanic studies and will encourage students' independent critical thinking. This seminar furthermore seeks to offer an overview of the research conducted by the faculty of the Spanish and Portuguese Program, who selected collectively the materials and will be in charge of teaching specific sessions during the semester. In addition, we will have guest speakers from other departments at UMASS, the Colleges, and beyond who will present on their current research. Class is conducted in English.

Prerequisite: This is a graduate course. It is also open to advanced undergraduates. Undergraduates need approval from the instructor prior to enrolling in the course.

Percentage of Latin Am and/or Latinx Content: 70%