

## LATH125 GS: Latin America and the Latinx World [DRAFT VERSION, December 2024]

This course is an entry to the field of Latin American Studies and Chicanx/Latinx Studies that highlights dialog across Third World Liberation movements throughout the Western Hemisphere. It is designed to explore the shared experiences that have shaped the region and to reveal the immense diversity within the two continents and numerous islands that comprise what is broadly designated as previously colonized peoples of the Americas. By surveying different types of scholarship (e.g. history, anthropology, cultural studies, political science, environmental studies, and journalism) as well as by exploring regional cultural production (e.g. film, music, and literature), students will be exposed to numerous ways to think about the interconnectivity of social movements throughout the region. The course makes a concerted effort to *center* the various ways that Latin American artists, political militants, writers, intellectuals, and everyday people think about and represent themselves. It turns the world upside down – as we say in LAS: “Our North is the South.” In other words, it emphasizes the flow of ideas from South to North to show Latin America’s avant-garde role in the global quest for racial, economic, reproductive, environmental, and gender-based justice.

Much of the course pays special attention to disrupting negative stereotypes of Latin America by exploring the origins and endurance of certain narratives and assumptions in media, entertainment, foreign policy, advertising, and academic institutions. Whereas a Eurocentric bias may view certain approaches to resolving Global South problems from the region itself as flawed and misguided due to being backwards, ill-informed, “wasteful,” or corrupt, counter-hegemonic thought and practice take on a life of their own regardless of how well they fit into the North’s standard. While the course draws from historical narratives it should assist students in developing a better understanding of the world today, especially at this moment of crisis in US global hegemony. In this way, many students will find parallels between the workings of US Empire abroad and their own experiences in its core. Students will benefit from developing a preparedness for a globalized world, one that has remained so for at least five hundred years and one in which the US is rapidly becoming more and more decentered.

While the course will cover much of Latin America in attempt to show South-North flows, with emphasis on pan-Africanism, Puerto Rican independence, Chicanismo, Black Power, American Indian Movement, and Third World feminism, this Global Seminar-specific version will have a strong focus on contemporary regional social movements. Prior to arriving to Buenos Aires, I will ask students read Juan Gonzalez’s *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*, a canonical text of Latino Studies that connects US foreign policy in the region to the arrival and experience of the Latin American diaspora in the United States. It will help ground them in geopolitical power dynamics and shared experiences amongst the diasporic populations. Once in Buenos Aires, students will read Raul Zibechi’s *Territories of Resistance: A Cartography of Latin American Social Movements*, which surveys the region’s most impactful contemporary social movements. They will also read Daniel Widener’s *Third Worlds Within*, which shows how antiracist social movement struggles in the United States are connected to and profoundly shaped by similar struggles abroad. A global history, the text uncovers what

connects seemingly disparate groups like Japanese American and Black communities in Southern California or American folk musicians and revolutionary movements in Asia. Students be able to situate both Latin America and Southern California in a global dialog around strategies and tactics for social change. Students will also read Veronica Gago's recently released *Feminist International: How To Change Everything*, widely considered the keynote text of the contemporary Latin American feminist wave. Gago, an Argentine intellectual who comes out of the *Ni una menos* movement against femicides and *Aborto libre y gratuita* movement for right to free abortion access, offers some of the guiding concepts for what has become the most relevant and potent continent-wide movement over the past decade.

Students will make one final group presentation of 20 minutes on a Latin American social movement of choice. They will identify the historical context leading to its formation, its core demands, and its primary obstacles. They will show how it has influenced, directly or indirectly, social justice movements in the United States. The presentation will be accompanied with a three-page reflection piece of their own relationship to the social movement they studied. The reflection encourages them to make use of the feminist concept of *positionality*, and is an exercise in a feminist pedagogical approach called *rooting and shifting* that is meant to build transversal politics around empathy.

The course will meet Monday and Wednesday from 10AM-1PM.

Weekly content breakdown below:

**Pre-course reading:**

Juan Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*, 2011

David Rock, *History of Argentina*,

**Week 1:**

**Monday:**

Walter Mignolo, Introduction, In *The Idea of Latin America*, 2005

Mike Davis, "Introduction," In *Plante of Slums*, 2005

Johnny Miller, "Unequal Scenes," 2018 <http://www.unequalscenes.com>

**Wednesday:**

Stewart Hall, The West and the Rest: Discourse and Power, In *Modernity: An Introduction to Modern Societies*, 185-225 (skim pp. 189-197)

George Reid Andrews, Introduction and 1800, In *Afro-Latin America, 1800-2000*, 2011

Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, "The Motley Crew in the American Revolution," In *The Many Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic*, 2003

**Week 2:**

Raul Zibechi, *Territories of Resistance: A Cartography of Latin American Social Movement*, 2012 (First Half)

Paul Bluestein, "Don't Cry for Them Argentina," In *The Money Kept Rolling In (And Out)*, 2005

Grito del Sur, "Memories del Argentinazo," 2024

**Wednesday:**

Lynn Stephens, Gender and Politics, Experience and Structure, In *Women and Latin American Social Movements: Power from Below*, 1997

**In-Class Film:** Isaac Isitan and Caroline Poliquin, *The Women of Brukman*, 2007

**Week 3:**

**Monday:**

Raul Zibechi, *Territories of Resistance: A Cartography of Latin American Social Movement*, 2012 (Second Half)

**In-Class Archival Methods:** CEDINCI

**Wednesday:**

Daniel Widener, *Third Worlds Within*, 2024 (First Half)

Alexander Gunder Frank, The Development of Underdevelopment, In *Latin America: Underdevelopment of Revolution*, 1969

Manuel Castells, The Rise of the Fourth World, In *An Introduction to the Globalization Debate*, 2000

**Week 4:**

**Monday:**

Ramon Gutierrez, Internal Colonialism: An American Theory of Race, *DuBois Review*, 2004

Malcolm X Talks about Meeting Fidel Castro, On Barry Gray Show, 1960 [Malcolm X Talks Meeting Fidel Castro \(1960\) | Barry Gray Talk Radio - YouTube](#)

Proclamation of the Delano Grape Workers for International Boycott Day, 10 May 1969 [Proclamation of the Delano Grape Workers for International Boycott Day, May 10, 1969 · SHEC: Resources for Teachers \(cuny.edu\)](#)

**In-Class Theatre:** Luis Valdes, Vietnam Campesino, In *Actos: El teatro campesino*, 1971

**In-Class exercise:** Third World Liberation Front Digital Archive: <http://revolution.berkeley.edu/projects/twlf/>

### **Wednesday:**

Daniel Widener, *Third Worlds Within*, 2024 (Second Half)

Katherine McCaffrey, Social Struggle Against the U.S. Navy in Vieques, Puerto Rico: Two Movements in History, In *Latin American Perspectives*, 2006

Naema Alamri, Yemeni Workers and the Politics of Arab Nationalism in UFW, In *Boom California*, 2023

**In Class Exercise:** Young Lords Newspaper Collection [Young Lords Newspaper Collection - DePaul University Library Digital Collections](#)

### **Week 5:**

#### **Monday:**

Veronica Gago, *Feminist International: How To Change Everything*, 2020 (First Half)

Linda Martin Alcoff, "Decolonizing Feminist Theory, In *Theories of the Flesh*, 2019

**In-Class Archival Methods:** CEDENCI

#### **Wednesday:**

Veronica Gago, *Feminist International: How To Change Everything*, 2020 (Second Half)

**Friday: In-Class Final Presentations**

