

HC 424H
Winter 2010

Race and Ethnicity in Modern Latin America

Instructor: Professor Carlos Aguirre
Office Hours: Mondays, 10-12 am; Wednesdays, 11-12 am.
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Course 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 colloquium 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 and participation (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.

Weekly reading reports: 20%

Students will write 2-3 page reports, due at the beginning of each class, about the assigned readings. These reports should include: a) a short summary of the reading(s), highlighting the main arguments presented by the author(s) under review; b) a critical assessment of their contribution to the topic under discussion; and c) at least three stimulating questions for discussion 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): 50%.

Students will choose a topic related to the course and use the best and up-to-date bibliography available to write a paper on it. Ideally, students should incorporate *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

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**

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Sarah Radcliffe, "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

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

Week 9: Bolivia: Race, Ethnicity and Nation in the Construction of a New Society

Readings:

Forrest Hylton and Sinclair Thomson, "The Chequered Rainbow," *New Left Review*, 35, Sept-Oct. 2005, pp. 41-54.

Andrew Canessa, "The Past is not Another Country: Exploring Indigenous Histories in Bolivia," *History and Anthropology*, 19, 4, December 2008, pp. 353-369.

Álvaro García Linera, "Indianismo and Marxism: The Missed Encounter of Two Revolutionary Principles." <http://links.org.au/node/264>

Nancy Postero, "Indigenous Responses to Neoliberalism: A Look at the Bolivian Uprising of 2003," *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 73-92

Nancy Postero, "Andean Utopias in Evo Morales's Bolivia," *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies*, 2, 1, April 2007, pp. 1-28.

"Cocalero" (Video)

Week 10: Wrap-up session; general discussion of research papers. No readings assigned.

FINAL PAPERS DUE: Tuesday, March 16, 5 pm.