

## **The William Paterson University of New Jersey**

Latin American and Latino Studies Program

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### **LAS 2010 Winter: Introduction to Latin American Studies**

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of Latin America from global perspective and from the pre-Columbian period to the present. The class will analyze texts in their cultural, historical, political, and ethical contexts. Class will include a mixture of lectures, group work, films, and online discussions of assigned reading.

**Objectives:** Introduce students to a wide range of questions and subjects concerning Latin America. Read with greater understanding about Latin American issues, having acquired the necessary skills through close critical examination of selected resources. Discuss the crucial comparative elements common and uncommon to all Latin America. Discuss key historical, political and cultural movements.

**Texts/Readings:** All readings for this class are available via Blackboard. You only need a streaming Netflix subscription.

Recommended as a reference text: *Born in Blood and Fire* by Charles Chasteen. W. W. Norton & Company (May 2005)

#### **Grading System:**

A) Final Exam Total - 30% (I will post the exam online and students will choose the questions they wish to answer (Short responses and one essay question)

B) Online class participation and activities- 50%. Discussion boards, blogs and journals: weekly participation online (discussion boards, blogs) consists of a post or response to a question and one reply (or more) to your classmates.

C) Response paper 20% (One, 2-3 pages)

Important: I will be available for online consultation during office hours and by appointment.

#### **Topics**

Week 1: Early and Modern History.

Week 2: Society, Sports, Literature, Religion, Culture and Thought

Latinos in the US, Immigration

Week 3 Political Culture - U.S.-Latin American Relations