

Introduction to Latin American and Caribbean Studies
A Global Learning¹ Foundations Course
LAS 3002 - Fall 2022
Syllabus

Professor Information:

Dr. Gabriela Hoberman

Fall 2022

Florida International University

Email:

Phone:

Office Location:

Office Hours: By appointment every week. Please email me at

Course Overview:

As students at Florida International University and likely residents of South Florida, Latin America and the Caribbean may not seem that far away. Maybe you have even traveled to parts of the region. But even if you have not, you likely recognize that Latin America is becoming increasingly visible on the US radar. There are many reasons for this, including trade deals with the region, increased consumption of cultural goods (music, sports and even food!) from across Latin America, and the growth in immigration and tourism between the hemispheres. But Introduction to Latin American Studies is not just a course to give you a tour of the region. Instead, the course begins by asking what it means to "know" a place. Throughout the fifteen weeks we spend together, you will see how others have come to "know" Latin America and the Caribbean. Some have used scientific disciplines such as political science, economics, and anthropology. Others have turned to the humanities and studied history and literature. Still, others have felt that social science alone is not enough to "know" a place: so, they have turned to the arts, creating paintings or songs that capture moments and emotions, and then speak of problems--and imagine solutions--across Latin America.

Your job here is to be a strong reader as you engage these writings. Then be a reflective thinker, asking yourself how different academic and artistic approaches yield different results. As you engage the variety of sources (scholarly texts, documentaries, albums, paintings) ask yourself, "Which route to knowledge best helps me understand Latin America? What are the limitations of each method?" Working with these sources will broaden your current understanding of Latin

*This is a discipline-specific global learning course that counts towards your FIU Global Learning Graduation Requirement. Class discussions will serve as an assessment of your global perspective and global engagement.

America and the Caribbean, and then (hopefully) encourage you to continue to study the area beyond this class.

Course Objectives:

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of globalization and the interrelatedness of the Global North's impact on LAC and the impact of LAC on the rest of the world.
2. Students will be able to conduct a multi-perspective analysis of political and social issues in LAC.
3. Students will demonstrate a willingness to engage in contemporary local and global issues through film discussion responses.

Global Learning Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Global Awareness: Students will be able to construct an evidence-based argument demonstrating how local, regional, and inter-regional events will have far reaching impacts. Specifically, here you will analyze the Columbian Exchange in the 16th century and the devastating spread of diseases among native Amerindians.
2. Global Perspective: Students will be able to construct an evidence-based argument that integrates multiple perspectives on the necessity on the idea of Latin America, vs. *Americanidad*, and the pros and cons of a Latino identity versus a Hispanic identity.
3. Global Engagement: Students will be able to consider different perspectives on a problem or controversy that is deeply troubling us world.

Important Information - Policies:

Please review [FIU's Policies and Netiquette](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

As a member of the FIU community you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

Technical Requirements & Skills:

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently and

learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer.

Throughout the semester, readings, announcements, notes of clarification, and grades will be placed in the FIU Online classroom. To access these, students will need to enter the classroom regularly (at least three times each week). Be certain to do a browser check-up to ensure all features in the FIU Online classroom work properly.

This course utilizes the following tools:

- Canvas ([Privacy Policy](#))
- Adobe Acrobat Reader ([Privacy Policy](#))
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, etc.) ([Privacy Policy](#))
- Zoom ([Privacy Policy](#))
- Turnitin ([Privacy Policy](#))
- Respondus Lockdown Browser ([Privacy Policy](#))

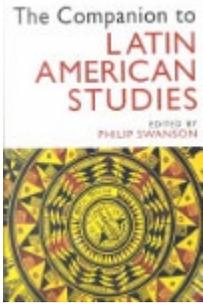
Technical problems can sometimes come up unexpectedly. Students should have a backup plan for Internet and e-mail access in case your home or work computer connection goes offline or crashes. Always keep a back-up copy of all assignments and e-mails in a safe place. Though they are rare, major system outages and failures do happen.

All technical problems must be directed to the [FIU Canvas Help Desk](#) by phone at **(305) 348-3630** or online. Be certain to **request and not the "trouble ticket" number**, which will be used to verify and track any claims of a system failure. The trouble ticket number must be provided to the Professor and technical problems verified by FIU Support Services before a makeup will be considered. An assignment makeup is at the discretion of the Professor. **Remember that individual technical problems are not an acceptable excuse for late assignments.**

Important to Remember – Class Discussions/Presentations: Some of the topics have no right or wrong answer. It is fine to disagree. However, be respectful of your classmates' opinions. Expect different beliefs and perspectives. Your classmates may express ideas that are foreign to you because this class is diverse. If you disagree with someone, disagree with their ideas. Listen and learn from your fellow students!

More generally, the FIU rules on cheating, plagiarism, and classroom comportment will be strictly enforced in all aspects of this class. In particular, please note the Code of Academic Integrity adopted by the FIU Student Government Association on the university website.

Required Texts:

	<p>The Companion to Latin American Studies</p> <p>Philip Swanson</p> <p>Hodder Arnold</p> <p>Dec 2002</p> <p>0340806826</p> <p>9780340806821</p> <p>Bookstore Info</p>
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Additional required readings will be provided to you within the Weekly Outlines.

*The Professor reserves the right to add readings during the semester if one or more items (usually articles) enter the public domain.

Expectations of this Course:

Students are expected to:

- **Review the getting started** located in the course modules;
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **Interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **Review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **Log in** to the course at least **3 or more** times per week;
- **Respond** to discussions by the due date specified. **No late work will be accepted;**
- **Submit** assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The Professor will:

- Grade assignments within seven/ten days (business days) of the assignment deadline
- Respond to emails within 48 hours
- Be available each week for office hours through Zoom/Canvas platform

Course Detail

Course Communications:

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within **48 hours**.

Zoom:

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities.

Weekly lectures will be posted in Zoom. Please make sure you watch the weekly lecture (zoom) to stay updated with the course content.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FJ Canvas Help Team](#). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Assignments:

Discussion Forums:

There will be 10 discussion forums during the semester. You will be required to participate in online discussions with your peers to reflect on [PBS documentaries](#) related to the material. Several other documentaries will be included with the six PBS episodes to complete the ten discussions.

Skipping these forum discussions or failing to submit a response will adversely affect your grade. Forum discussions are typically open by Monday mornings and due on Sunday nights by midnight (11:59pm). After the forum discussions are closed, no late submissions will be accepted.

General Guidelines:

- Initial Response: These should be around 300-350 words in length (about 3 paragraphs).
- Responses to Peers' Posts (2): Respond to the posts of two of your fellow classmates. Each response should be between 50-100 words in length (about 1 paragraph).
- Response posts and replies that fall short of the expected minimum word count will have points deducted accordingly.

Review the rubric attached to the discussion boards for further details. Grades for discussion forums will be available within **10 days** of the deadline.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Essays:

Two writing assignments are required including one essay and one essay revision. The essay should be between 1,000 to 1,200 words in length (3-4 pages) and double-spaced.

General Guidelines:

- The essay must be written with a thesis statement and supported with evidence.
- The essay should draw evidence from primary sources, secondary sources, and class lectures. Please ask if you need additional guidance on sources.
- All source material must be cited correctly using MLA or Chicago Style and long quotes should be avoided.
- Writing should demonstrate knowledge and awareness of standard written English.
- Essays must be submitted via **Turnitin** for plagiarism prevention. For more information, read [How to submit a Turnitin Assignment](#). Papers with an originality score of over 20% similarity will be subject to additional scrutiny and may incur additional penalties, up to and including receiving an F (0 points). No essays or written work will be accepted via email. If you have technical difficulties, document your issue, and contact the student help desk or your professor immediately for assistance.

Review the assignment details and the rubric attached to the assignment for further details. Grades for the essay submissions will be available within **10 days** of the deadline.

Assessments:

There will be 15 weekly quizzes on assigned readings, with only the 10 highest quiz scores counting towards your final grade. The 5 lowest quiz scores will be dropped. Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions based on the weekly assigned readings. Twenty minutes will be allowed for the completion of the quiz. Quizzes are automatically graded, and results are available immediately upon completion.

The Midterm and Final Exams consist of multiple-choice questions taken from the reading quizzes. The Midterm covers content from modules 1-7. The Final Exam is comprehensive, covering readings from the entire semester. Exams are automatically graded, and results are available immediately upon completion. The best ways to prepare for the exams is to review the quizzes.

To mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

All assessments will auto-submit when (1) the timer runs out OR (2) the closing date/time is reached, **whichever happens first**.

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance, please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

Extra Credit:

You may earn up to 3% of the final grade with extra credit. Each activity listed below is worth 1% of the final grade. Absolutely no extra credits or make-ups will be accepted after December 2.

1. Introduce Yourself
2. Latin America Map Quiz
3. Write a forum response to the film *Four Days in September*.
4. Write a forum response to the film *Doña Flor e seus dois maridos*.

Just like for the forum discussions, review and write a 300-word post describing the role that Latin America- or the Caribbean-related themes play in the story or event. Focus on topics, themes, or practices from the region that we have covered in this course influence the plot or meaning of the movie. Do not tell the whole story of the movie, but just enough so that your points are clear. The movie selection must be approved by the Professor.

Grading:

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Discussion Forums	10	40	400	40%
Essay	1	150	150	15%
Essay Revision	1	150	150	15%

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Quizzes	10	10	100	10%
Midterm Exam	1	100	100	10%
Final Exam	1	100	100	10%
Participation	-	0	0	0
Total	24	300	1000	100%

Grade Distribution:

930-1000: A
 900-929: A-
 880-899: B+
 830-879: B
 800-829: B-
 780-799: C+
 700-779: C
 600-699: D
 0-599: F

Letter Grades:

A 100%-93%
 A- 92%-90%
 B+ 89%-88%
 B 87%-83%
 B- 82%-80%
 C+ 79%-78%
 C 77%-70%
 D 69%-60%

F 59%-0

Medical Emergencies:

A doctor's note will NOT automatically excuse students from assignments. Students must have a true medical emergency before the excuse will be considered. The Professor must be contacted as soon as possible regarding the situation. Additionally, the acceptance of the medical excuse is at the discretion of the Professor.

University Policies and Support:

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [FIU Online Policies, Rules and Academic Misconduct](#)
- [Panthers Care](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)

Accessibility and Accommodations:

Florida International University is committed to social justice. The Professor concurs with that commitment and expects to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Florida International University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestion as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. Any student with a disability that anticipates needing any type of accommodation to participate in this class should advise the Professor within the **first week of class** to make appropriate arrangements.

- Please visit the ADA Compliance webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course
- For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center or contact them at (305) 348-3532 with any questions.

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190. For additional assistance please contact FIU's Disability Resource Center.

Class Cancellation for Weather and Other Emergencies:

At some point during the semester, it may be necessary for the University to cancel all or some classes due to poor weather, power failures, or other emergencies. In times of a power outage or system wide failure, the Professor will make an announcement in the FIU Canvas classroom and by email as soon as information becomes available. Assignments due dates are firm and will not automatically change if the University is closed. Always check with the Professor for updates and announcements concerning the class.

Student Evaluation of Instruction:

Effective teaching is a primary mission of Florida International University. Student evaluation of instruction provides the university and the Professor with feedback about the student's experience in the course for review and course improvement. Student participation in the evaluation of the course instruction is both strongly encouraged and highly valued. Results are strictly confidential, anonymous, and not available to the Professor until after final grades are released by Admissions and Records. Information about the evaluation will be provided toward the end of the semester.

Course Schedule – Fall 2022

Week One: Introduction (August 22 – August 28):

Week 1 Outline
Extra Credit: Introduce Yourself
Reading Quiz 1

Week Two: Latin American Geographies (August 29 – September 4):

Week 2 Outline
Reading Quiz 2
Discussion 1: Foreigners in Their Own Land
Extra Credit: South American Geography Test

Week Three: Latin American Politics and Society (September 5 – September 11):

Week 3 Outline
Labor Day – September 5 (no classes)
Reading Quiz 3
Discussion 2: Empire of Dreams

Week Four: Cultures of Colonialism (September 12 – September 18):

Week 4 Outline
Reading Quiz 4
Discussion 3: War and Peace

Week Five: Civilization and Barbarism (September 19 – September 25):

Week 5 Outline
Reading Quiz 5
Essay: The Idea of Latin America (September 23)

Week Six: Latin American Literature (September 26 – October 2):

Week 6 Outline
Reading Quiz 6
Discussion 4: The New Latinos

Week Seven: Latin American Visual Culture (October 3 – October 9):

Week 7 Outline
Reading Quiz 7
Midterm Exam (October 7)

Week Eight: Latin America Popular Culture (October 10 – October 16):

Week 8 Outline
Reading Quiz 8
Discussion 5: Prejudice and Pride

Week Nine: Race in Latin America (October 17 – October 23):

Week 9 Outline
Reading Quiz 9
Essay Revision (October 21)
Discussion 6: An Island Divided

Week Ten: Gender and Sexuality in Latin America (October 24 – October 30):

Week 10 Outline
Reading Quiz 10
Discussion 7: Peril and Promise

Week Eleven: Religion in Latin America (October 31 – November 6):

Week 11 Outline
Reading Quiz 11
Discussion 8: Jesuit Martyrs in El Salvador

Week Twelve: History of Latin America (November 7 – November 13):

Week 12 Outline
Reading Quiz 12
Discussion 9: Egalite for All – The Haitian Revolution

Week Thirteen: International Relations (November 14 – November 20):

Week 13 Outline
Reading Quiz 13
Discussion 10: US Involvement in Guatemala 1950s-1990s

Week Fourteen: Sociology and Anthropology (November 21 – November 27):

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 24-25

Week 14 Outline

Reading Quiz 14

Extra Credit: Four Days in September (1997)

Week Fifteen: LAS and the Global System (November 28 – December 3):

Week 15 Outline

Reading Quiz 15

Extra Credit: Dona Flor e Seus Dois Maridos (1976)

Finals Week: December 5 – 10, 2022

Final Exam: December 6, 2022

Additional Information:

1. All students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the core values. All students should understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the FIU Academic Misconduct Policies & Procedures. For additional information refer to <https://studentaffairs.fiu.edu/get-support/student-conduct-and-academic-integrity/>. The Professor abides and endorses the university's policy on academic integrity. Any form of academic misconduct is considered a **serious** offense. Should you have academic or personal problems that are getting in the way of your academic success, please contact your professor.
2. Any student having a prior commitment any time during the semester should notify the Professor by the first week of class to make any necessary arrangements.
3. Any student requiring accommodations should contact FIU's Disability Resource Center (DRC).
4. This class will utilize the Turnitin originality software. Always check the uploaded attachments correct. After the deadline passes, the content submitted will be used for grading.
5. Grade grievances on any assignment in the class must follow the university policy. For additional information, please review <http://integrity.fiu.edu/grievances.html>
6. The Professor reserves the right to modify any part of the syllabus should the need arise.