His 350L #39665 LAS 366 #40575 RS 368 #44355 Dr. Virginia Garrard Burnett The Religious Tradition in Latin America Spring 2011

Syllabus

Course Description: This interdisciplinary course will explore the role that organized religion and popular religiosity have played in the formation of the society, culture, and politics of the area we refer to as Latin America. The readings and discussions will examine in detail the pervasive influence of the institutional Catholic Church. The course will also investigate the impact that informal religious sectors--from *cofradias,* to African beliefs, to messianic movements--have had in the Latin American experience. Finally, the course will examine important shifts in traditional Latin American religiosity that have taken place in the twentieth century, including the emergence of Liberation Theology and the growing influence of non-Catholic religious movements such as Pentecostalism.

Course Structure:
The success of this course is largely contingent on the sustained enthusiasm and effort of each student. The structure of the course will consist of lectures, readings, films, and informal discussion. The discussions are integral to an analytical understanding of the subject at hand, so please come prepared and ready to talk or ask insightful questions. This of course means that you will need to have the day's readings done before you come to class.

There are no tests per se in this course; your entire grade will be based on: 1) participation in class discussion, 2) a participant-observation project 3) a series of short reflexion papers on films and speakers and 4) the research paper. Research papers will be subject to peer review and revisions.

Grade Assignment:

Final grades are based on the following: Participant observation project: 20% Reflexion papers: 10% Attendance and participation: 10% Research paper: 60%

Grades will be given using the plus (+)/ minus (-) system.

Class Policies:
It is essential that you attend every single class meeting. If there is an urgent reason that you must miss class, please let us know in advance if possible. If you do miss class, please get the notes from another student. (I do not put my notes on Blackboard). All assignments are due on the date stated on the syllabus at the beginning of the class, without exception.

This classroom is a technology blackout zone! Please turn off all personal electronics before coming to class. **Please do not use your computer to do anything but take notes during our class.**

Academic Honesty:
Anyone who cheats (ie., turns in work that is not his or her own, or is shamelessly recycled from another class) will receive an F for this course. You are hereby warned.

Office Hours: I will hold regular office hours on T-Th, 2:30-3:30 and later hours to be announced.
Email: garrard@mail.utexas.edu (best method of communication)

Assigned Texts:

Lee Tenyak and Walter J. Petry, Religion and Society in Latin America: Interpretative Essays from Conquest to the Present (Orbis, 2009).

(Optional) Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Thesis, and Dissertations, 4th ed. or later.