

## **History 320: The City in Latin American History and Culture.**

**Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-11**

**Burdine 224**

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**Course Description:** Whether its the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires' take as the Paris of South America, the sprawl of Mexico City or the shantytowns of Port au Prince, Latin American cities have captivated the imaginations in the United States for decades. Building on the work of urban and cultural historians, this course is designed to analyze and describe the "city's" contributions to Latin American culture and development. The course thematically surveys several "cultural moments" from the colonial era to the late 20th century through the perspective of a the urban populace. The course explores how urbanites, male and female, poor and rich, native born and immigrant, experienced "city life." Furthermore, it explores the way cities and their inhabitants have been imagined in Latin America and how this has impacted the way that urbanites have interacted with their governments and been understood by the world. It plays special attention to how categories of race, class and gender were created, augmented or contested in urban spaces. Finally, it provides an interpretive framework for understanding the various ways Latin Americans have interpreted their cities.

### **Course Objectives:**

**To teach you about Latin American Urban History.** By the end of the semester, you should know the basic geography of Latin America's major cities, the overarching chronology in their development, the major factors contributing to their development and the major problems they now face. Most importantly, you should be able to connect these people, periods, and places within a broad, sweeping "story" of Latin American history.

**To teach you to think like a historian.** I know historians have a reputation for an obsession with names and dates, but through this class you will learn a little more about what historians do and how they do it. In this class, we will try to look at urban history through a variety of lens and perspectives. We will then try to piece those stories together into a larger more complicated narrative. For students to investigate the ways that urban spaces became a place where categories of race, gender and class were constructed, performed and debated.

**To improve you writing and speaking skills.** This class has regular writing and reading components. Students to improve their oral and written expression through a series of discussions, response papers and a final term paper.

**To help you become more familiar with Latin American Urban Culture and encourage you to reflect on US cities and society.** The course revolves around fundamental issues of how city', how people use it and how they experience life in Latin America's cities. It explores how gender, class, ethnicity and race affect these experiences and how people can confront urban problems and work towards solving

them. Some aspects of this will be specific to Latin America making you more familiar with a different part of the world. Other parts will lend themselves to a comparison with the cities you live in, challenging you to think about your city in a different way.

**Course Format:** We meet every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays to explore a theme about urban spaces in the history of Latin American Culture. Tuesdays will be a lecture. On Thursdays, we will discuss readings related to that theme.

### **Grade Breakdown:**

Map Quiz: Required to pass the course.

Participation: 20%

Five Response Papers: 20%

Midterm 1: 15%

Final Exam 2: 20%

Final Term Paper 10-12 pages: 25%

### **Assignments and Policies:**

**Map Quiz:** Attached to this syllabus is a Map of Latin America that contains the major cities of Latin America, forty in all. In order to receive a grade in this class you will need to pass a map quiz correctly identifying 30 out of 40 terms. The first two opportunities will take place in class. After that, students will be responsible for attending office hours to take further quizzes.

**Reading and Response Papers:** One week prior to the discussion the professor will post a reading question or a reading worksheet on blackboard. Students will hand in a two-page reading response or a completed reading worksheet during FIVE of the classes marked discussion.

These response papers are intended in part to ensure that you will be prepared to engage in discussion sections. Therefore, email submissions and late papers will not be accepted under any circumstances.

**Exams:** Exams will be short answer passages that connects the assigned readings to the big themes we developed in lectures and discussions.

**Research Paper:** Students will complete a 10-12 page research paper that explores the course's theme: "The City in Latin American History and Culture." The paper topic is intentionally broad. If you read Spanish well enough, you can explore a historical moment or movement in a Latin American City. If not, you can explore how Latinos have contributed to the remaking of a U.S. City. How Latin American Cities are portrayed in US popular culture is also open. The grade for the research paper includes a graded rough draft.

**Attendance:** Attendance is taken every day. After four missed classes you will be marked down per day. (A to A-, B+ to B ect.).

**Participation:** Active discussion of weekly readings is an integral part of this class. Active participation means that you have thought critically about a reading before coming to class and are engaging with your fellow classmates and your instructor's questions. If talking in class sounds overwhelming, come to office hours before class.

We can talk about the reading to ensure that you are as prepared as possible to discuss it with your classmates.

**Extra Credit:** Through the semester there will be three opportunities for you to attend lectures or seminars outside of class time to earn extra credit.

**Academic Honesty:** Any student who turns in work that is not his or her own will receive an F for the course. This includes downloading it off the internet, getting it from a friend or copying it out of a book.

**Technology in the Classroom:** There is none. Turn off cell phones and computers before you come in. It is better this way. I promise.

**Office Hours:** If you have a question, COME TO THEM! If you are struggling, COME TO THEM! If you don't understand an assignment or the grade you received, COME TO THEM! If you find the reading difficult, COME TO THEM! If you find yourself on a Tuesday afternoon lonely and without a lunch companion, COME TO THEM. This is a big class and I can't help you unless you come talk to me. Every student needs to come to talk about their presentation and to pick up comments on their rough drafts.

### **Required Text:**

Piccato, Pablo. *City of Suspects: Crime in Mexico City 1900-1931*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2001.

Carolina De Robertis *Invisible Mountain*, Knopf 2004

Frank Zepher *Dutras World Wealth and Family in Nineteenth-Century Rio de Janeiro*. Albuquerque University of New Mexico Press 2004.

Gilbert M. Joseph , Mark D. Szuchman, *I Saw a City Invincible: Urban Portraits of Latin America* (Jaguar Books on Latin America, No. 9)

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Week One: Imagining Urban Spaces**

Tuesday, January 15, Class Introduction

Thursday January 17, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" and "What is a City?"

#### **Week Two: Pre-colonial Cities**

Tuesday, January 22, Lecture.

Thursday, January 24, "Mapping the Aztec Empire," AND "Cortez Letter." *I Saw a City Invincible* Chapter 1.

#### **Week Three: Cities of Empire: The City in Colonial Latin America**

Tuesday, January 29, Lecture.

Thursday, January 31, *I Saw a City Invincible*, Chapters 2, 3 and 4.

#### **Week Four: Cities in Independence**

Tuesday, February, 5, Lecture.

Thursday, February 7, "(Hapsburg) Law and (Bourbon) Order: AND "Islands in the Storm."

**Week Five: Cities of Slavery**

Tuesday, February 12, Lecture.

Thursday, February 14, Zephyr L. Frank, *Dutra's World Wealth and Family in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Rio de Janeiro*. **This is a longer, but cool reading! Get started early.**

**Week Five: Ordering the Republican City/Controlling the Urban Populace**

Tuesday, February 19, Lecture.

Thursday, February 21, "Disciplining Cities" AND *I Saw a City Invincible* and Chapters 6, 7 and 8.

**Week Six: Creating Modernity in Latin American Oligarchic Republics**

Tuesday, February 26 Lecture.

Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> Pablo Piccato, *City of Suspects*, Introduction and Part One.

**Week Seven: Everyday Life in Turn of the Century Cities**

Tuesday, March 5, Lecture.

Thursday, March 7, Pablo Piccato, *City of Suspects*, Part II and III.

**PAPER TOPIC DUE**

**Week 8: Spring Break No Class**

**Week 9: Immigrants and Integration in Latin American Cities**

Tuesday, March 19,

**Thursday, March 21, EXAM 1**

Readings: "The Adjustment of Italian Immigrants in Buenos Aires and New York."

**Week 10 Urban Politics and Populism**

Tuesday, March 26, Lecture

Thursday, March 28 "Labor in the Favelas of Rio." And TBA

**Week 11 The Fall of Democracy and Rise of Dictatorships – The Tupamaros**

Tuesday, April 2, Lecture

Thursday, April 4, , *The Invisible Mountain*, Part I and Part II.

**OPTIONAL OUTLINE OF PAPER DUE**

**Week 12 Revolution and Protests in the Cities**

Tuesday, April 9, Lecture

Thursday, April 11, *The Invisible Mountain* Part III

**Week 13: Urban Poverty: Favelas and Street Children in Popular Imagination**

Tuesday, April 16, Lecture:

Thursday, April 18, MOVIE: Favela Rising.

**ROUGH DRAFT OF TERM PAPER DUE**

**Week 14: Drugs, Gangs and Crime in Contemporary Megacities**

Tuesday, April 23, Discussion Favela Rising/ Lecture

Thursday, April 25, "Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation" AND "The Hyper-shantytown: Neo-Liberal Violence."

**Week 15: Selling the Latin American City: Tourism in Latin American Cities**

Tuesday, April 30, Lecture

Thursday May 2, "Tourism for Whom?" AND "Tourism Images"

**TERM PAPERS DUE Friday MAY 10th.**