

Proseminar in Latin American Studies

LAS 381

Fall 2010

Professor: Shannon Speed

Office: EPS 1.208

Phone: 471-0061 or 232-5386

E-mail: sspeed@mail.utexas.edu

Class meets: Friday 12:00 – 3:00

Hackett Room SRH 1.313

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar explores contemporary issues in Latin American Studies. We will consider the history, current debates, and field methodologies in Latin American Studies, then consider how the issues are approached from a variety of disciplines through the work of UT and visiting faculty members engaged in cutting-edge work in Latin America. Throughout, we will consider both theoretical and methodological concerns, with attention to the practical, ethical and political aspects of research in and on Latin America today.

Requirements:

Readings and Reading Notes:

All participants are required to do the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. To aid in this process, students will bring a brief (one or two paragraph) summary of the readings and two or three written questions/issues of interest from the readings to the class meeting. Notes are not graded but are required.

Final Reflection Paper:

All participants will produce a final reflection paper, approximately 10 pages in length, discussing the questions raised by the course in relation to your particular research project. If you do not have a defined project, please reflect on what impact the issues discussed in the course might have on the way you will define your research as your progress on it.

Grading: Grades will be assessed based on class participation, including attendance, discussion of readings and presentations; reading notes; and the quality of the final reflection paper.

Readings: A reading list will be provided on the first day of class. This will be posted under the Blackboard Course site and the readings will be placed in the Documents section. Most readings will be available on-line and the addresses will appear on the syllabus reading list. If no on-line version is available, they will be placed in the Documents section of the Blackboard course site.

***Professor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time. You will be notified in class of any changes. If you must miss a seminar session, please check with me or a fellow student to make sure that the information for the following week has not changed.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: August 27 Introduction

Week 2: September 3 Latin American Studies History and Ontology

Assigned Reading:

Drake and Hilbink "Latin American Studies: Theory and Practice".

<http://repositories.cdlib.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1032&context=uciaspubs/editedvolumes>.

McClennen "Area Studies Beyond Ontology: Notes on Latin American Studies, American Studies, and Inter-American Studies," *Contra Corriente: Journal on Social History and Literature in Latin America*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Fall 2007, 173-184

http://www.ncsu.edu/project/acontracorriente/fall_07/McClennen.pdf

Mallon "The Promise and Dilemma of Subaltern Studies: Perspectives from Latin American History" *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 99, No. 5 (Dec., 1994), pp. 1491-1515

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2168386?seq=1>

Week 3: September 10 Rethinking Latin American Studies

Assigned Reading:

LASA Forum, Spring 2007, Vol. XXXVIII, Issue 2, Pps. 1-15 [Available on Blackboard]

Alvarez, Hale and Arias "De-Centering Latin American Studies" forthcoming (Available on Blackboard)

Week 4: September 17 Latin America Research Methods

12:00 - 1:30

Peter Ward

Qualitative Research Methods

Professor

Department of Government

Assigned Reading:

Latin American Housing Network website www.lahn.utexas.org

Munck Chapter seven in *Rethinking Social Enquiry: Diverse tools, shared standards*, Henry E Brady and David Collier, eds. 2004. [Available on Blackboard]

Shannon Speed

Collaborative Research

Associate professor

Anthropology

Assigned Reading: none