

Latin American Philosophy

Philosophy 80E/LALS 80E

Instructor: Prof. Rasmus Grønfeldt Winther

Classroom: Stevenson 175

Meeting Times: Tuesdays&Thursdays 2 – 3:45 pm

Office Hours: Cowell A-104 Thursdays 12.15 – 1.30 pm (N.b., meeting sign-up required); “Chat with prof” Wednesdays 4 – 4:30 pm, eCommons and ucsc mail; by appointment

Email: rgw@ucsc.edu

Webpage: www.rgwinther.com

There is an [eCommons](#) page for this course.

TA

Amena Coronado (PhD student in Philosophy)

Office Hours: Stevenson Coffee Shop, Mondays 12-1 pm; by appointment

Email: acorona2@ucsc.edu

Does Latin American Philosophy/Thought have to appeal to quintessential Western philosophical questions regarding knowledge, values, and reality? Is there, or could there be, a single school (or even a few schools) of Latin American Philosophy/Thought? Latin America exhibits large ethnic and national diversity as well as strong political and social inequality. What difference, if any, does such diversity and inequality make to the development of core philosophical questions and frameworks?

In order to try to answer these questions, we investigate the rich and diverse philosophical content of the work of Latin American philosophers/thinkers, past and present. For example, we will read texts by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Simón Bolívar, Jorge Luis Borges, Carlos Astrada, Octavio Paz, Paulo Freire, and Carlos Pereda. We explore the following themes: (1) *What is Latin American Philosophy?*, (2) *Identity*, (3) *Philosophy in a Multicultural Context*, (4) *Indigeneity*, (5) *Feminism*, (6) *Philosophical Anthropology*, (7) *Historical and Social Context*, and (8) *Philosophy of Education*. You will prepare a group project on *one* of these themes. You are strongly encouraged to attend a conference on philosophy in a multicultural context on October 20. Perhaps the very concept of “Latin American Philosophy/Thought” is an example of *orientalism*? The hope is that this course will challenge you to reconsider how you understand Philosophy/Thought.

1. COMMUNICATION

1. Please ask all questions about the content or format of the course *during classtime*. If you’re wondering about X, almost certainly some of your peers also will be. A non-asked question is a lost teaching opportunity and potentially a question never answered! We’ll have “open questions” session for a few minutes during every class.
2. Please direct all “practical” questions about assignments, grading etc. to your TA, Amena Coronado. She will contact Prof. Winther if necessary.
3. Motto: *prov igen, spørg en ven, spørg en voksen*
4. I do not answer email on weekends. I will try to answer your email during the week, but may not always succeed as I drown in mails. Your best bet is to follow (1) – (3) above.

2. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Two one-page summaries (10% of your grade) (date assigned → date due; Oct 11 → Oct 18; Nov 1 → 8)
2. One short paper (approximately 5 pages) (20%) (Oct. 24 → 31)
3. Take-home midterm (30%) (Nov. 8 → 15)
4. Group Project (30%) (see below)
5. Participation in class and in section. If you don't attend class, you can't participate. Attend class! (10%)

3. GROUP PROJECT

For the group projects, you will work on *one* of the eight themes outlined above in the course description, and below in the class readings. You will be divided into a group of 3-4 people, already the first week of class. These are your peers for the entire quarter. You will also evaluate one another. For the projects you have four options (which do not exclude one another):

- i. a poster of your philosophical school, which can be made directly physically or through PowerPoint
- ii. a well-organized skit or dialogue of your philosophical school
- iii. a board game or card game showing extensive knowledge of your philosophical school, and that perhaps points to the dialectics among a handful of the philosophical schools. What would the objective of the game be? What would the rules be?
- iv. A video. Here is an example from another class Prof. Winther taught:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3OrcJXi1mw>

Timeline

Week 8: show preparatory materials, including a bibliography, to TA/Prof in class/sections

Week 9: dry-run in sections

Week 10: in-class presentations

Each of the three milestones will be part of your group project grade! Moreover, you will also evaluate your group peers as part of your grade.

4. BOOKS

All books can be purchased at the Literary Guillotine:

<http://www.literaryguillotine.com/>

Freire, P. 1993. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. (30th anniversary ed.) New York: Continuum.

http://www.amazon.com/Pedagogy-Oppressed-Anniversary-Paulo-Freire/dp/0826412769/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1347812119&sr=1-1&keywords=pedagogy+of+the+oppressed

Galeano, E. 1997. *Open Veins of Latin America. Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*. New York: Monthly Review Press.

http://www.amazon.com/Open-Veins-Latin-America-Centuries/dp/0853459916/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1347812096&sr=1-1&keywords=open+veins+of+latin+america

Gracia, JJE, Millán-Zaibert E. (eds.) 2004. *Latin American Philosophy for the 21st Century. The Human Condition, Values, and the Search for Identity*. New York: Prometheus Books. (on this syllabus: LAP21)

<http://www.amazon.com/Latin-American-Philosophy-21st-Century/dp/1573929786>

5. GRADING POLICY

1. In order to pass the course, you must satisfy every requirement.
2. One third of a letter grade will be deducted per day for any unexcused late assignments (e.g., a B+ becomes a B, etc.).
3. Except in severe cases, no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days after the due date.

6. WRITING ADVICE

Writing is essential to our craft as philosophers. Your writing can always improve. Here are some relevant online resources. Read and enjoy!

1. Guidelines for philosophical writing:

<http://www.public.asu.edu/~dportmor/tips.pdf>

<http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/research/wp.html>

2. Guidelines for essay writing, in general:

<http://www.westmont.edu/~work/material/writing.html>

3. Oxford English Dictionary. You have online to this extraordinary resource at:

<http://www.oed.com.oca.ucsc.edu/>

4. "Politics and the English Language." Please read this funny and useful essay by George Orwell (author of *1984*) here:

<http://www.resort.com/~prime8/Orwell/patee.html>

7. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me, after class or in office hours, **as soon as possible**, preferably within the first week of the Quarter. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.

8. WARNING

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Please consult:

http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/index.html

9. NOTE: Conference on Class-Related Themes:

“FREE TO UNIVERSALIZE OR BOUND BY CULTURE?”

Philosophy in a Multicultural Context

Saturday October 20, 2012; Humanities 1, room 210; UCSC

<http://philosophy.ucsc.edu/news-events/news/multiculturalphilosophy.html>

10. READINGS

There may be supplementary readings, given with at least one weeks notice!

Week 1. *What is Latin American Philosophy?*

Oct 2. Pereda, C. 2006. Latin American Philosophy: Some Vices. *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 20: 192-203. [eCommons]

Oct 4. Hurtado, G. 2006. Two Models of Latin American Philosophy. *Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 20: 204-213 [eCommons]

Week 2. *Identity*

Oct 9. Simón Bolívar; José Martí; Leopoldo Zea (in *LAP21*; read all of Bolívar and Martí; for Zea, read only the second essay “Identity: A Latin American Philosophical Problem”)

Oct 11. Octavio Paz. “Mexico and the United States” (1980) [eCommons]

Week 3. *Philosophy in a Multicultural Context*

Oct 16. Nicholson, CJ. (August, 1998). “Three Views of Philosophy and Multiculturalism: Searle, Rorty, and Taylor.” Unpublished paper presented at 20th World Congress of Philosophy, Boston, Massachusetts.

<http://www.bu.edu/wcp/Papers/Educ/EducNich.htm>

Oct 18. Smith, J. “Philosophy's Western Bias.” *The New York Times on the Web* 3 June 2012.

<http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/03/philosophys-western-bias/?hp>

AND

Fraenkel, C. “In Praise of the Clash of Cultures.” *The New York Times on the Web* 2 September 2012. <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/02/in-praise-of-the-clash-of-cultures/?hp>

Week 4. *Indigeneity and Feminism*

Oct 23. Bartolomé de las Casas (in *LAP21*)

Oct 25. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (in *LAP21*) Guest Lecture: Renée Amter (MA in Counseling Psychology, California Institute of Integral Studies)

Week 5. *Philosophical Anthropology*

Oct 30. Carlos Astrada; Francisco Miró Quesada (in *LAP21*). Viveiros de Castro [eCommons]

Guest Lecture: Carlos López-Beltrán, Philosophy @ Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana and Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Nov 1. Jorge Luis Borges

“The Lottery in Babylon”

<http://www.class.uh.edu/mcl/faculty/armstrong/cityofdreams/texts/babylon.html>

“Funes the Memorious”

http://jamesgeorge.org/3dworlds/borges_funes.pdf

“On Exactitude in Science”

<http://www.sccs.swarthmore.edu/users/08/bblonder/phys120/docs/borges.pdf>

Week 6. *Historical and Social Context.* Galeano. *Open Veins of Latin America*

Nov 6. pp. 1-15, 22-31, 38-42, 59-67, 91-94, 107-110, 126-130. Guest Lecture: Guillermo Delgado, UCSC Anthropology.

Nov 8. pp., 156-170, 205-214, 225-227, 259-26, 265-285.

Week 7. *Philosophy of Education.* Freire. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

Nov 13 Chapter 1

Nov 15. Work on group projects in class.

Week 8. *Philosophy of Education.* Freire. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

Nov 20 Chapter 2

Nov 22 Thanksgiving

Week 9. *Philosophy of Education.* Freire. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

Nov 27 Chapter 3

Nov 29 Chapter 4

Week 10.

Dec 4 Group Project Presentations

Dec 6. Group Project Presentations