PHIL 3210: Latin American and Caribbean Philosophy  
Gabriel Soldatenko, Asst. Prof. of Philosophy  
TTH 9:30-10:45, Room: BB 382, Fall 2013

Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-1:00, Tuesdays 11:00-12:00, and by appointment.

Office Phone: (770) 794-7759

Email Address: gsoldate@kennesaw.edu

Course Description:
This is a philosophy core course designed to introduce students to the richness and diversity of Latin American and Caribbean thought. To that end, a firm grounding in the region’s history and social landscape is necessary. Thus, the themes of conquest, colonialism, and slavery will be explored within their specific historical context, and also philosophically broached in their long-term social consequences. In this way, Latin American and Caribbean thought will be understood according to its own specificity. As a result, students will gain an understanding and appreciation that in as much as Latin American and Caribbean philosophy is deeply influenced by Western philosophical modes of inquiry it also represents a distinct collection of philosophical traditions with their own set of concepts and problematics.

Required Texts: All course materials will be provided through Georgia View. Note that the cost you save in not having to buy books may be incurred through printing and photocopying.

Course Requirements: Over the course of the semester students
• will bring the days reading to class according to the schedule on the syllabus and/or the professor’s instructions;
• will actively engage the course material and participate in the class discussion; and
• will attend class regularly, even if attendance is not taken.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students will have gained
• a global understanding of Latin American and Caribbean social formation, such that, they cannot be thought as developing independently from the rest of the world;
• a firm historical and social sense of the roots of Latin American and Caribbean philosophy;
• a general understanding of Latin American and Caribbean philosophical discourse around the themes of race, identity, liberation, and capitalism;
• a localized sense of how these themes are differentially deployed in different parts of Latin America and the Caribbean; and
• a practical sense of how philosophy can be used as a lever for thinking about the arrangement of society in the Americas broadly.
Grading Scale:
Students are evaluated on the following scale:
A (90%-100%)
B (80%-89%)
C (70%-79%)
D (60%-69%)
F (59% and below)
I (Indicates an incomplete grade for the course, and will be awarded only when the student has done satisfactory work up to the last two weeks of the semester, but for nonacademic reasons beyond his/her control is unable to meet the full requirements of the course. Incomplete grades are only valid after submission of the Incomplete Grade form (signed by both the instructor and student) to the Department Chair’s office.)

Evaluation: Your final grade will be determined by the combination of two sets of grades; the first set, and most important, are four five-page papers each covering one of the major sections of the course (reflected in the syllabus by sections II-V). Additionally, each paper will be worth 22% of the final grade. The second set of grades will make up the remaining 12% of your grade and will be determined by two map quizzes, in-class participation and engagement.

Extra Credit: You may acquire extra credit, but all exams must have been completed to receive points. Extra credit is obtained by completing a summary and discussion of how one of the “Suggested Movies” helped you understand a reading, or how perhaps the reading helped you understand the movie. Consequently, this assignment entails both a summary of a movie, and an explanation of a reading in relation to the movie.

Academic Integrity Statement: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including but not limited to provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, and misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program.

Absence Policy: There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes and discussing the main topics of conversation). Students are responsible for all material covered: readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow make-up exams only if I’m contacted at least two days prior to the exam date.

ADA Statement: Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange the necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from KSU disAbled Student Support Services. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process. Accommodations are arranged on an individualized, as-needed basis after the needs and circumstances have been evaluated. The following individuals have been designated by the President of the University to provide assistance and ensure compliance with the ADA. Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact:
Reading Schedule:

I. What is Latin American and Caribbean Philosophy?

August 20: Introduction: Western and Non Western Philosophy

August 22: George Yancy, “Introduction” to *Philosophy in Multiple Voices* (Rowman & Littlefield: Lanham, MD, 2007)


II. Conquest and Colonialism

September 5: Map Quiz #1 and Pierre Clastres, “Elements in Amerindian Demography” in *Society Against the State* (Zone Books: NY, 1989)


III. The Social Consequences of Colonialism and Slavery


October 1: Aníbal Quijano, “Coloniality and Modernity-Rationality”, *Cultural Studies*, v.21, nos.2-3 (March/May 2007)

October 3: Aníbal Quijano, “Questioning Race”, *Socialism and Democracy* v.21, no.1 (March 2007)

October 8: Maria Lugones, “Heterosexualism and the Colonial-Modern Gender System”, *Hypatia*, v.22, no.1 (Winter 2007)


IV. Caribbean Philosophy


October 31: Frantz Fanon continued.

November 7: Sylvia Wynter, “Columbus, the Ocean Blue, and Fables that Stir the Mind” in *Poetics of the Americas* (Louisiana State University Press: Baton Rouge, 1997)

November 12: Sylvia Wynter continued.


Suggested Movie: *Life and Debt* (2001)

Paper #3 Issued

V. Latin American Philosophy


November 26: Catherine Walsh, “Other Knowledges, Other Critiques”, *Transmodernity*, v.1, no.3 (2012)

Paper #3 Due

November 28: No Class


Suggested Movie: Hasta la Lluvia/Even the Rain (2010)

Paper #4 Issued

December 10: Paper #4 Due