PHIL 3210
Latin American and Caribbean Philosophy
Spring 2016
Kennesaw Hall 1104
MW 3:30-4:45

Instructor: Gabriel Soldatenko
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Office Hours: Mondays 11:00-1:00, Tuesdays 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

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 and most important are three papers covering the major sections of the course (reflected in the syllabus by sections II-V). The first two papers will be short (5 pages) and exegetical; the first covering colonialism and Latin America, and the second covering slavery and the Caribbean. The third and final paper will be longer (8-10 pages) and synthetic where you will be expected to weave several texts together to articulate differences and similarities between Latin American and Caribbean philosophy. The first two papers will each be worth 25% of the final grade, and the final paper will be worth 35%. The second set of grades will make up the remaining 15% 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, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5.C of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct.

Attendance 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 Compliance:** Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University’s Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at [www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds) for more information, or call the office at 470-578-6443.

**Reading Schedule:**

I. **What is Latin American and Caribbean Philosophy?**

January 11: Introduction: Western and Non Western Philosophy


January 18: No class


II. Conquest and Colonialism


Map Quiz #1

February 3: Elizabeth Boone, “Preface” and Chapters 1 and 2 in *Stories in Red and Black* (University of Texas Press: Austin, 2000)

February 8: Alejandro Santana, “Did the Aztecs do Philosophy?”, *APA Newsletter*, v.8, no.1 (Fall 2008)


Alejandro Santana, “The Aztec Conception of Time”, *APA Newsletter*, v.9, no.1 (Fall 2009)


Map Quiz #2

Paper #1 Assigned


III. The Social Consequences of Colonialism and Slavery


March 2: Anibal Quijano, “Questioning Race”, *Socialism and Democracy* v.21, no.1 (March 2007)

Paper #1 Due


**IV. Caribbean Philosophy**


Paper #2 Assigned


**Spring Break**

No Class April 4th and 6th

April 11: Fanon continued

Paper #2 Due


Suggested Movie: *Life and Debt* (2001)

**V. Latin American Philosophy**

April 20: Walter Mignolo, “I am Where I Think”, *Journal of Latin American Cultural*

April 27: Catherine Walsh, “Other Knowledges, Other Critiques”, *Transmodernity*, v.1, no.3 (2012)

Final Paper Assigned


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

May 9: Final Paper Due in History and Philosophy main office no later than 3pm.