HIST 3390: Acculturating Christianity in Latin America
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EL PASO (CRN 18882)

Fall Semester
2018

Classroom: Liberal Arts 208
Class time: Tues & Thurs 1:30 pm -2:50 pm
CRN: 18882
Instructor: Dr. Eric Rodrigo Meringer
Office: LART 329
Office Hours: MW 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM, T TH 12:00 noon – 1:00 PM and by appointment
Email: ermeringer@utep.edu

UTEP Dates & Deadlines:
Aug 27 First day of class
Sept 3 Labor Day – no class
Nov 2 Course withdrawal deadline (grade of W)
Nov 22, 23 Thanksgiving Holiday - no classes
Dec 7 Dead day – no class
Dec 13 Final Exam – Thursday, 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm

Course Description and Objectives:
Acculturation is the process of cultural modification in which one group adapts to or borrows traits from another culture. The adoption of Christianity in Latin America by African and Amerindian peoples in the colonial period is an example of such a process. This course traces the evolution of Christianity in Latin America from the spiritual conquest of native populations by Spanish missionaries in the sixteenth century to more recent waves of Protestant conversion in the twentieth century. The process of acculturation is presented here as a two-way street in which Christianity, as the dominant spiritual force, is nonetheless infiltrated by indigenous and African religious influences.

Learning goals addressed in this course include, but are not limited to the following: historical mindedness; construction of historiography; interdisciplinary awareness; comparative perspectives. Historical mindedness in terms of awareness of both individuals and social groups as creators of history will be addressed in class discussions on the spiritual conquest and the role of religion in forming national identities and national histories. Construction of historiography will be addressed in topics including the historical debate relating to the origins of Mexico’s national devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe. This course promotes interdisciplinary awareness in that it draws on anthropology and religious studies to consider parallels in pre-Columbian indigenous and Catholic cosmologies as well as continuity of indigenous tradition in Catholic ritual. Finally, students gain comparative perspectives through their consideration of Liberation Theology as a counter-hegemonic force in the 1970s and 1980s as through their study of indigenous cultural revitalization movements and their impact on regional politics in more recent years.
Course Requirements:

Your final grade will be determined according to the following model:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 team writing exercises</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 reading quizzes</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 team presentation</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>mid-term exam</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>final exam</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible</td>
<td>1000 pts</td>
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Grading Scale:

- 900-1000 A
- 800-899 B
- 700-799 C
- 600-699 D
- Below 600 F

Exams (30% of final grade): There will be two exams, one mid-term and one final. The mid-term is worth 100 points and the final is worth 200 points. Exams will be short answer with one essay. Test questions will draw on required readings, information presented in the lectures and the various reading quizzes. **Make-up exams** in cases of unavoidable scheduling conflicts must be arranged prior to exam date. Exceptions for unanticipated medical or family emergencies will require written documentation from the student.

Team writing Assignments (20% of grade): There are two team writing assignments. The first will ask for a thesis statement with bullet points (essay outline) and the second assignment with be an actual 3-5 page essay. Each assignment is worth 100 points. Essays must be turned in at the beginning of the class period. Late assignments will be penalized 10 percent for each day they are late.

Reading quizzes (20% of grade): There will be 10 quizzes based on the various readings. These are worth 20 points each will account for 200 points toward your final grade. These will be primarily online quizzes. Quizzes must be completed before the class period. Late quizzes receive half credit – so make sure you do them before class.

Attendance and Participation (10% of grade): This portion of your grade is based upon your attendance and participation in classroom activities. Experience shows that poor attendance almost always results in poor grades. Regular attendance is required and excellent attendance is rewarded.
Presentations (20% of grade): All students are required to take part in one 15 minute team presentation over the course of the semester. Teams are to be comprised of four persons. Suggested presentation topics are provided by your instructor. (See list below). If you see a topic of particular interest to you make sure to sign up for that topic early. If you have an idea of a different topic seek approval from the instructor first. Presentation must include references to either the suggested readings or article from scholarly journal. Presentations should also include one question for the audience.

Suggestions for presentation topics:

- Religious aspects of ritual sacrifice in Mesoamerica
- Acculturating history in the Florentine Codex (or other indigenous sources – Gacilaso, Guaman Poma)
- Corpus Christi or other examples of Catholic acculturation in religious festivals
- Parallels in indigenous and Christian belief systems
- Imposing sexual norms
- Afro-Caribbean Santeria
- Women and conventual lives (Spanish or indigenous)
- Sor Juana Ines’ challenge to patriarchal church
- Religious rebellion (two presentations on Pueblo Revolt, Caste War of the Yucatan, Taki Onkoy, etc...)
- Be a Patriot, Kill a Priest – El Salvador’s war on religious activism
- Leaders of Liberation Theology
- Rise of Protestantism in Latin America

Bibliography (some resources for student presentations):


Disability Support Services for Students
If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Academic Integrity
“Academic Integrity is a commitment to fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.” Specifically these values are defined as follows:

- Honesty: advances the quest for truth and knowledge by requiring intellectual and personal honesty in learning, teaching, research, and service.
HIST 3390: Class and Assignment Schedule

This is a general outline of weekly lecture topics and scheduled due dates for assignments and tests. Reading assignments are denoted by the book symbol 📕 and are to be completed by the date provided. Minor changes and adjustments to this schedule may be made over the course of the semester.

Section 1:

Week 1 Aug 28 and 30 – Pre-Columbian America
Topics: Pre-Columbian Indigenous Societies; Cultural Diversity; History of Transculturation
📖 Reading: Native Societies of the Americas before Contact –John Kicza from Resilient Cultures chpt 2 pp. 4-33 (available on Blackboard as “1-Kicza”)
► Reading Quiz 1: Aug 30 (online quiz found under module 1. Complete by class time on Thursday)

Week 2 Sept 4 and 6 – Andean Societies and Early Examples of Acculturation
Topics: Inca Society; Andean religious traditions
📖 Reading: Inca Ideology - Terence D’Altroy from The Incas chpt 7 (available on Blackboard as “2-D’Altroy”)
► Reading Quiz 2: Sept 6

Week 3 Sept 11 and 13 - Arrival of the Mendicants: Bringing Christianity to the New World
Topics: The Mendicant Orders and European Strategies and Expectations
📖 Reading: Franciscan Millennium - D.A. Brading from The First America (available on Blackboard “3 – Brading”)

Trust: fosters a climate of mutual trust, encourages the free exchange of ideas, and enables all to reach their highest potential.
Fairness: establishes clear standards, practices, and procedures and expects fairness in the interaction of students, faculty, and administrators.
Respect: recognizes the participatory nature of the learning process and honors and respects a wide range of opinions and ideas.
Responsibility: upholds personal responsibility and depends upon action in the face of wrongdoing.

For more on Academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty visit the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution website at http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/
► Reading Quiz 3: Sept 11
► Presentations 1 and 2 (Sept 13) – Suggested presentation topics:
  • Aztec sacrifice
  • Acculturation of history in Florentine Codex or other “indigenous sources”.
  • The Las Casas – Sepulveda Debate on Indigenous Humanity

Week 4 Sept 18 and 20 - Spiritual Conquest
Topics: Accommodation and Contestation
📖 Reading: Images and Prophets - D.A. Brading from The Indian Community of Colonial Mexico (available on Blackboard “4 – Brading”)
► Reading Quiz 4: Sept 18
► Presentations 3 and 4 (Sept 20) – Suggested presentation topics:
  • The Spanish Reconquista
  • Parallels in Christian and Indigenous belief systems

Week 5 Sept 25 and 27- Extirpation of Idolatry
Topics: Practice and effectiveness of extirpation
📖 Reading: Extirpation - Kenneth Mills from Idolatry and Its Enemies (available as “5-K. Mills”)
► Reading Quiz 5: Sept 25
► Presentations 5 and 6 (Sept 27) – Suggested presentation topics:
  • Imposing sexual norms (indigenous and Spanish views on sexuality)
  • Diego de Landa’s Mayan Inquisition

Week 6 Oct 2 and 4 – Resistance and Rebellion
Topics: Indigenous Rebellions
📖 Reading: Ramon Gutierrez from Franciscans and the Pueblo Revolt, (excerpt from When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Away, Sexuality and Power in New Mexico 1500-1846)
► Reading Quiz 6: Oct 2
► Presentations 7 and 8 (Oct 4) – Suggested presentation topics:
  • Caste War of Yucatan
  • Pueblo Revolt
  • Taki Onkoy Rebellion of the Andes

Week 7 Oct 9 and 11 – Religious Continuity in Public Spaces
Topics: Cofradias (religious confraternities); acculturated practices in present day
Film – The Devil’s Miner
► Team writing exercise 1: due Oct 11
Week 8 Oct 16 and 18 – Review and Mid-Term Exam
Topics: Section review
► Mid-Term: Oct 18

Section 2

Week 9 Oct 24 and 26 – Legitimizing Creole Christianity
Topics: Criollismo and Our Lady of Guadalupe
📖 Reading: Conclusions – Stafford Poole from Our Lady of Guadalupe (available as “6-Stafford”)
► Reading Quiz 7: Oct 26

Week 10 Oct 30 and Nov 1 - Liberal Challenge to Catholic Church
Topics: Anti-clericalism; Mexico’s Liberal Reform
📖 Reading: The Juarez Law and the Lerdo Law pp. 97-100 (Problems in Modern Latin American History; Mexico section from Church and State in a Liberal World chapter in New Worlds by John Lynch.
► Presentation 9 (Nov 1) – Suggested presentation topic:
  • Benito Juarez and La Reforma
  • Liberal Reform in other Latin American countries

Week 11 Nov 6 and 8 – Religion in Revolutionary Mexico
Topics: Anti-clericalism in the Revolution; Cristero Rebellion;
📖 Reading: Church in Red Mexico – Butler from Journal of Ecclesiastical History Vol. 55 (See Blackboard “7 Butler”)
► Reading Quiz 8: Nov 6
► Presentation 10 (Nov 8) – Suggested presentation topics:
  • Cristero Rebellion
  • The Anti-clericalism of the Mexican Muralists

Week 12 Nov 13 and 15 – Christianity and the Cold War
Topics: Spiritual Socialism in Allende’s Chile; Dirty Wars
📖 Reading: Mental State of Torturers – Mark Osiel (See Blackboard)
► Reading Quiz 9: Nov 14
► Presentation Day # 11: Nov 16 – Suggested presentation topics:
  • Be a Patriot, Kill a Priest – El Salvador’s war on religious activism
  • Leaders of Liberation Theology
Week 13 Nov 20 – Christianity and the Cold War (continued)
Topics: Argentina’s Dirty War
Film – La Historia Oficial
► No class: Thanksgiving Break Nov 22

Week 14 Nov 27 and 29 – Liberation Theology
Topics: Liberation Theology
📖 Reading: Church Base Communities – Dominique Barbé from chapt 12 of *Liberation Theology: An Introductory Reader*
► Reading Quiz 10: Nov 27
► Team writing exercise 2 (essay):

Week 15 Dec 4 and 6- Emergent Protestantism; Identity Politics in Indigenous Cultural Revitalization; Review for Final Exam
Topics: Protestant Evangelism; Social activism in the indigenous community
📖 Reading: Making Disciples, Evangelical Growth - Phillip Berryman from Chapt 5 of *Stubborn Hope*

Week 16– Finals Week
► Final Exam – Thursday, 1:00 pm – 3:45 pm