

## COURSE SPECIFICATION

**School:** Communications, Arts, and Social Sciences

**Programme:** American Studies

**Level:** 5

**Course Title:** Power in the Americas

**Course Code:** AMS 5200

**Course Leader:** Dr Christopher Wylde

**Student Engagement Hours:** 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

**Semester:** FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

**Credits:** 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

### **Course Description:**

This course aims to look at how the Latin American region was shaped by and in turn helped shape the contours of the contemporary global order. It has three main inter-related objectives. The first seeks to understand what role the 'invention' of Latin America has had on the development of modernity, particularly in the North Atlantic region, but more generally at a global level. This will involve specifically looking at the emergence of European colonialism as implemented in the Latin American region, its role in the formation of modern capitalism and the resulting social impact this has had in indigenous and colonisers alike, particularly with regard to issues of social inequalities of class, race and gender. The second objective will involve looking at the nature of power structures within the region and how these have manifested themselves at an economic, political, and social level. Finally, the course will seek to assess Latin America's role in the contemporary global context, paying particular attention to the implementation of and responses to neoliberal globalization within the region and what these experiences can offer our own societies in terms of seeking alternatives to dominant economic, political and social models.

**Pre-requisites and/or Co-requisites:** DEV 4100 or ECN 4100 or HST 4100 or INR 4100 or PLT 4100

### **Aims and Objectives:**

- To acquaint students with key trajectories, issues and debates present in the history and politics of Latin America;
- To draw attention to the complexities and subtleties of the analysis of Latin American history and politics;

- To provide students with an opportunity to relate theories and concepts to historic and contemporary events in Latin American politics, as well as to encourage critical evaluation of both the theory and practice of Latin American politics in both historical and contemporary terms.

### **Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

5A(iv); 5B(v); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(iii)

### **Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Understand the origins and role at an economic, political, historical, and social level of Latin America in the global context;
- Understand the specific economic, political, historical, and social dynamics of the region and how these reflect and affect its structures of power;
- Critically evaluate the inter-relationship between regional and global dynamics and how one helps mutually constitute and challenge the other;
- Assess Latin America's contemporary economic, political and social context and how this can influence current structures of power at the global level.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

### **Indicative Content:**

- The Clash of Civilizations? Pre-Columbian Latin America and Europe;
- The Colonisation of the Americas and the European Project of Modernity;
- Economic relations in Latin America and their relation to the Global Economy;
- Social relations in Latin America;
- Latin American politics in relation to Europe
- Latin America today: Regional dynamics and global tensions;
- Latin American Futures: Learning from Latin America.

### **Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

### **Teaching Methodology:**

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course, and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in

the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be **Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating**. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely, but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

### **Bibliography:**

- **Bethell, Leslie, ed: (Various years):** , *The Cambridge History of Latin America*. Cambridge University Press. Vols. I - XI,
- **Peadar Kirby (2003):** *Introduction to Latin America: Twenty-First Century Challenges*. Sage.,
- **Bulmer-Thomas, Victor (2003):** *The Economic History of Latin America since Independence 2nd ed.* Cambridge University Press.
- **Mignolo, Walter D. (2005).** *The Idea of Latin America*. Wiley Blackwell.
- **Daniel C. Hellinger (2011).** *Comparative Politics of Latin America*. Routledge.
- **Galeano, Eduardo (2009)** *Open Veins of Latin America*. Serpents Tail.
- **Zea, Leopoldo (1991)** *The Role of the Americas in History*. Rowan and Littlefield.
- **Munck, R. (2012)** *Contemporary Latin America*, Palgrave Macmillan.