

OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE INFORMATION

Students are advised to keep course outlines in personal files for future use.
 Shaded headings are subject to change at the discretion of the department and the material will vary
 - see course syllabus available from instructor

FACULTY/DEPARTMENT:	LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES	3
LAS 200		
COURSE NAME/NUMBER	FORMER COURSE NUMBER	UCFV CREDITS
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL & POLITICAL ISSUES OF LATIN AMERICA		
COURSE DESCRIPTIVE TITLE		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to the major issues facing Latin America. An interdisciplinary approach encourages the student to develop a broad understanding of the human condition in the region, and to consider some of the possible directions for change.

PREREQUISITES: **None**

COREQUISITES:

SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S)

(a) Replaces: _____

(b) Cannot take: _____ for further credit.

SERVICE COURSE TO:

TOTAL HOURS PER TERM: **60**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES / GOALS / OUTCOMES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- To encourage an interest in Latin American society and culture
- To develop an appreciation of the complexity and diversity of Latin America and the major socio-political issues facing the region
- To encourage an understanding of the importance of history in determining the present
- To assist students to appreciate the challenges facing both North and South in the Americas
- To help students make connections between their world and that of Latin America
- To provide an introduction to Latin America that is valuable to community groups concerned with third world issues (eg. Church groups, support groups, professional groups, business, etc.)
- To encourage students to broaden their imaginations to include a long-term interest in the global community
- To help students develop the knowledge needed to participate in the new reality of a more closely-linked Americas.
- To encourage the development of the intellectual skills required for full participation in Canadian society

METHODS:

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):

Credit can be awarded for this course through PLAR (Please check :) Yes No

METHODS OF OBTAINING PLAR:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:

[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]

- E. Bradford Burns: Latin America: a Concise Interpretive History
- Jonathan Evan Maslowe: Bird of Life, Bird of Death
- Rigaberta Menchu: I, Rigaberta Menchu

Recommended Texts:

- Eduardo Galeano: Genesis
- Eduardo Galeano, Century of the Wind
- Jan Knippers Black: Latin America: its Problems and its Promise

In addition, required and recommended articles will be made available in the library on reserve.

SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:

STUDENT EVALUATION:

[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Course Requirements and Grading

- Two short essays 20% each
 (approximately 1000 words each)
- One midterm exam 30%
- One final exam 30%

COURSE CONTENT:

[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

UNIT I

The Land and the People

The physical, climatic and demographic features of Latin America are introduced through map exercises.

UNIT II

The Historical Setting

A consideration of Carlos Fuentes' proposal that Latin America is at war with its past. The heritage of the indigenous peoples, the colonial legacy and the impact of "progress" are examined in order to understand better the major issues facing Latin America.

UNIT III

The Theoretical Context

A survey of the major theoretical approaches used to analyze Latin American development issues. Particular attention will be paid to modernization theory, dependency theory and alternative approaches to the study of power and inequality. The theoretical discussion is illustrated by case studies.

UNIT IV

Latin America in a Global Context

- Latin America and the USA
- Canadian relations with Latin America and the role of non-governmental organizations.

UNIT V

Structure of Privilege and Inequality

Building on the theoretical material developed in Unit III we shall consider class, power, gender and race.

UNIT VI

The Rural Experience

The general structure of rural society. The impact of agro-commercial export economies. The issues of land reform, land conflicts and environmental degradation.

UNIT VII

The Urban Experience

Urban growth, primate cities, villas miserias. The "informal" economy in the city.

UNIT VII

Conclusions and Overview