

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT: Social, Cultural & Media Studies **IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** September 1998

Revised: Dec. 1998

LAS 440
SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE

Religion in Latin America
DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

4
UCFV CREDITS

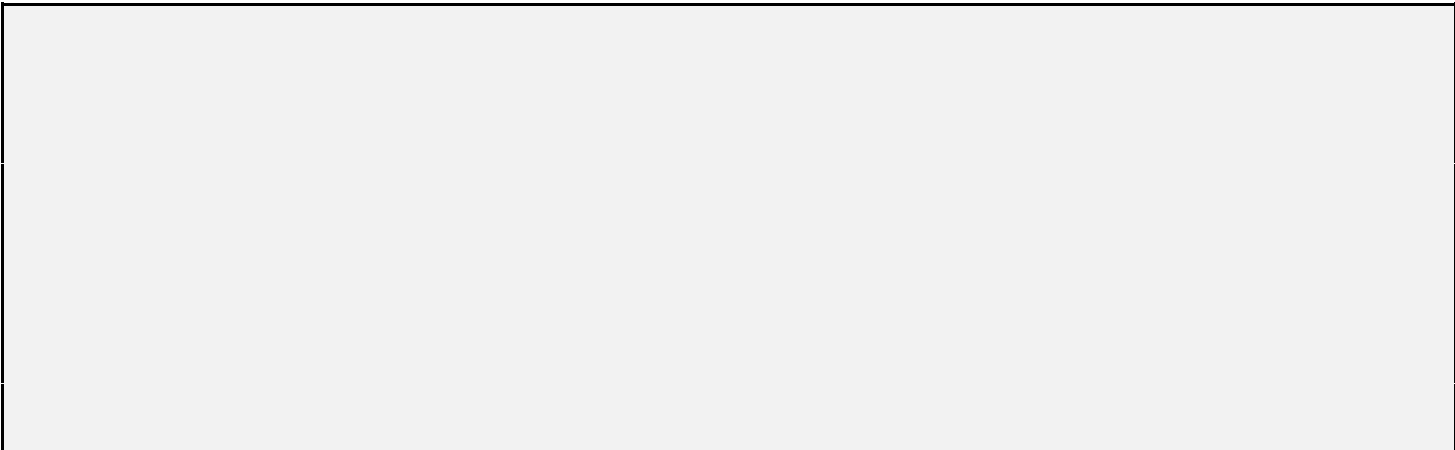
CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Most people know of Latin America as the crucible for recent developments in Catholicism like liberation theology. However, religion has long played a central role in shaping Latin American societies just as it has been shaped by them. This course will explore the connections between religion and society in the Latin American context. The emphasis of the course will shift from term to term, but it will normally focus on some combination of the following: pre-Columbian religions, Catholicism and conquest, syncretism, liberation theology, religion and revolution, evangelism, the survival of indigenous religions and other related topics.

RATIONALE:

Religion is an important force in Latin American society. This course will assist LAS students to deepen their understanding of the area. The course will also serve the needs of Religious Studies and Sociology for upper level courses.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: 60 credits, to include at least 9 credits of sociology, LAS and/or Religious Studies. (HIST 261, 262, 459 can be considered LAS courses.) (ANTH 130 can be considered Religious Studies.)

COURSE COREQUISITES:



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SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

(a) replaces _____
 (course #)

(b) cannot take SOC 440A for further credit
 (course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

LAS 440 Coursepack

Torres, Carlos Alberto, 1992, The Church, Society, and Hegemony: A critical Sociology of Religion in Latin America, New York: Praeger.

OBJECTIVES:

A student who successfully completes the course should have developed:

- greater knowledge of historical patterns of development of religion and society in Latin America
- a critical appreciation of substantive religious debate
- an increased understanding of the interplay of material and ideological social forces

METHODS:

A combination of lectures, discussions, AV presentations, and library research.

STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%
Research paper	30%
Participation	10%

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COURSE CONTENT

This is a sample class schedule for the course:

Week 1: Pre-Columbian societies and religious beliefs

Week 2: Religion in the reconquest of the Iberian peninsula — The nature of feudal Catholicism

Week 3: Religion in the conquest of the New World

Week 4: Religious debate on the new territories and their inhabitants — de las Casas, etc.