History 4000/7772 Winter 2014
Race and Nation in Modern Latin America

Professor Julie A. Gibbings
Office: 409 Fletcher Argue Building
Email: julie.gibbings@umanitoba.ca
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will examine the formation of racial, ethnic, and national identities in different Latin American contexts in the twentieth century. We will begin by analyzing different approaches to the history of racial discourses and national identities. We will then explore how distinct Latin American countries sought to come to terms with the legacies of colonialism and construct modern, unified nations out of diverse colonial societies by forging novel interpretations of national identity and racial difference such as mestizaje, racial democracy, and indigenismo. We will see how concepts of race and nation got constructed in particular moments of national flux and need, and how racial-cultural discourses infiltrated and shaped specific forms of power, social reform, and domains of knowledge and identity.

Requirements:

This course is based on two components: participation in weekly seminars and one major paper.

Participation: Attendance in seminars is mandatory, and thus does not count towards your participation grade. Your grade will be based on weekly reading responses (due twenty-four hours in advance of class) and your contributions to class discussion. Weekly reading responses should be relatively short, no more than 300 words. You are allowed one “free pass” during the semester for submitting weekly reading responses.

Paper: You may write either a historiographical paper (recommended) or a research paper. There are limited English language sources available, so if you do not read Spanish or Portuguese it is advisable to talk to me early in the semester about possible topics. A proposed topic outlined in an abstract and a bibliography will be due mid-semester. The final paper should be 12-15 pages in length.

Important:
Graduate students: academic work for graduate students enrolled at the 7000-level is expected to have a higher and deeper quality. In addition, the length of their papers should be at least 20 pages.

Grading breakdown:
Participation: 40%
Bibliography and Abstract: 10%
Final Paper: 50%
*You will be provided with an evaluation of your course work to date by the Final Voluntary Withdrawal deadline of March 19, 2014.

*Please approach me with any grade appeals or concerns as soon as possible. It is university policy that “Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.”

Grading Scale:
- A+ 88-100%
- A  80-87%
- B+ 75-79%
- B  70-74%
- C+ 65-69%
- C  60-64%
- D  50-59%
- F  0-49%

Course Policies

* I have a zero tolerance policy towards plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Section 8 of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html) reads:

> The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

> The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

> The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from registration in courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

*If you would like your course work from the end of the semester please collect it early in the following semester. “Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.”
*Email: Please reserve email for quick, one-word-answer type questions only. A face-to-face conversation is more productive for substantive questions about course content, deadlines, concerns, etc. In these cases, we can talk before or after class, during my regular office hours or by appointment. You are responsible for checking your university email account regularly. “I didn’t receive your email” is not an acceptable excuse for missed assignments, etc.

*Late Papers: Please contact me at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline in order to receive an extension. Papers not granted an extension and submitted late will receive a penalty of 2.5% for everyday it is not submitted.

Required Readings

*Available on D2L

Course Outline

**Week 1:** January 9th: Introductions
Laura Gotkowtiz, “Introductions: Racisms of the Present and the Past in Latin America,” Histories of Race and Racism, 1-56
Thomas Holt “The First New Nations” Race and Nation in Modern Latin America, pps.vii-xiv

**Week 2:** January 16th: Thinking with and Beyond the Nation: Colonial Modernity, Postcolonialism, and Internal Colonialism

**Week 3:** January 23rd: Thinking with and Beyond Race: Biology, Culture, and the Politics of Difference

Week 4: January 30th Mestizaje: U.S. Imperialism, Nationalism, and New Racial Imaginaries after the 1910 Mexican Revolution
José Vasconcelos, The Cosmic Race, Translated, with an introduction by Didier T. Jaén (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997)

Week 5: February 4th: Indigenismo: Intellectuals and the Remaking of Citizenship and the Nation

* Bibliography Due February 4th

Week 6: February 13th: Racial Democracy: Brazil and the Legacies of Slavery

*February Break 17th-21st
Week 7 February 27th: Motherhood, Public Health, and Eugenics

Week 8: March 6th: Race, Nation, and Popular Culture

Week 9: March 13th: Race and Revolution in the Age of Development

Week 10: March 20th: Afro-Latin American Movements: Thinking from Colonial Difference
Revista MNU “National Day Against Racism” The Brazil Reader, 281-3.

Week 11: March 27th: Indigenous Movements: Autonomy, and Difference within and against the Nation

**Week 12:** *Class cancelled, professor is away at a professional conference, working on final papers*

*Final Papers due April 9th*