Latin American and Iberian Studies Program
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Semester I, 1992-93

NEW TRENDS IN SCHOLARSHIP ON LATIN AMERICA:
AN INTRODUCTION

LA/Interdeptl. 982
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262-2811

Course Description

This course is an experimental two-credit introduction that serves to orient new graduate students in the LAISP MA Program to scholarly trends in Ibero-American Studies, to relevant scholars and institutional resources on campus, and to one another. The course is the result of LAISP student suggestions about ways to improve the MA Program. In the current phase of the experiment, we consider this an "add-on" course. This means that reading requirements will be moderate and writing requirements light compared to an intense three-credit seminar, and that the course will be graded on a pass-fail basis.

Aside from orientation meetings, we will focus on innovative scholarship and trends in four areas of knowledge: humanities, history, social science, and themes that transcend familiar scholarly boundaries and divisions.

At the end of the experiment, students will have an opportunity to render an evaluation and to recommend whether we ought continue the experiment, and if so, whether significant alterations of approach and content are desirable. The Associate Director (Nancy Forster) and Director (Steve Stern) will share responsibility for the course in this initial trial run.

Tentative Schedule

Week 1. Introduction. Sept. 2.
   Introduce course experiment; explain purpose, format, requirements;
   distribute faculty and course roster; discuss MA program.

Week 2. Student Reception. Sept. 9.
   This will be a reception for all the LAISP MA students.

   Guest: Suzanne Hodgman, Memorial Library, OR
   Beverly Phillips, Land Tenure Center.


Guest discussant: to be announced.


Rdng./disc.: Read the papers of at least one panel at the UW "Discovery" Conference, attend at least two panels, and come to our meeting ready to contribute to a post-mortem evaluation of the conference, and of its significance as an index of trends in humanities scholarship on Latin America.

Guest discussant: to be announced.

Week 6. No meeting: Oct. 7 = Yom Kippur.


Guest discussant: to be announced.


Florencia E. Mallon, "Dialogues among the Fragments: Retrospect and Prospect," in ibid.;

William Roseberry, "Beyond the Agrarian Question in Latin America," in ibid.;


Guest discussant: to be announced.

Guest: Suzanne Hodgman, Memorial Library, OR
Beverly Phillips, Land Tenure Center.


Guest discussant: to be announced.

Week 11. No meeting: begin next week’s reading. Nov. 11.


Rdng.:
GRP. A: Clifford, Predicament, all;

Guest discussant: to be announced.


Rdng.: to be announced [possibly Juan Martínez-Alier on the ecology of the poor].

Guest discussant: to be announced.


Guest discussant: to be announced
[probably a rep. of OISP/Global Studies].

Week 15. Conclusion/Final Reception. Dec. 9.

Objective: review what we have discovered, evaluate the experiment, make recommendations for the future; AND

an end-of-semester reception.
Course Requirements

Since this is a two-credit orientation seminar, the requirements are more limited than in a standard three-credit seminar, and the grading system is pass-fail. Nonetheless, the requirements are serious. To pass the course, a student must attend the class sessions regularly; must submit a satisfactory one-paragraph response sheet at the beginning of all sessions involving assigned readings; and must participate with reasonable regularity to the oral discussions.