

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.
- Week 3. Library orientation (I). Sept. 16.
Guest: Suzanne Hodgman, Memorial Library, OR
Beverly Phillips, Land Tenure Center.

Week 4. Humanities (I): Culture, Literature, and Experience
in Post-Modern Perspective. Sept. 23.

Rdng.: Antonio Benítez-Rojo, The Repeating Island: The Caribbean
and the Post-Modern Perspective, trans. James E. Maraniss
(Durham: Duke Univ. Press, 1992).

Guest discussant: to be announced.

Week 5. Humanities (II): Meanings and Texts as Discovery and Power. Sept. 30.

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 scholar-
ship on Latin America.

Guest discussant: to be announced.

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

Week 7. History (I): Regional Social History as a Pathway
to Popular Agency and Consciousness. Oct. 14.

Rdng.: Jeffrey Gould, To Lead as Equals: Rural Protest and Political
Consciousness in Chinandega, Nicaragua, 1912-1979 (Chapel
Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1990).

Guest discussant: to be announced.

Week 8. History (II): History, Theory, and Professional Upheaval. Oct. 21.

Rdng.: Steve J. Stern, "Africa, Latin America, and the Splintering
of Historical Knowledge: From Fragmentation to Reverberation," in Frederick Cooper et al., Confronting Historical
Paradigms: Peasants, Labor, and the Capitalist World System
in Africa and Latin America (Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin
Press, forthcoming 1993);

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

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

Steve J. Stern, "New Approaches to the Study of Peasant
Rebellion and Consciousness: Implications of the Andean
Experience," in Stern, ed., Resistance, Rebellion, and
Consciousness in the Andean Peasant World, 18th to 20th
Centuries (Madison: Univ. of Wisconsin Press, 1987), 3-25.

Guest discussant: to be announced.

LA/Interdeptl. 982, New Trends, Forster/Stern, page 3.

Week 9. Library orientation (II). Oct. 28.

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

Week 10. Social Science (I): Gender in the Rethinking of Social Analysis.
Nov. 4.

Rdng.: Sonia E. Alvarez, Engendering Democracy in Brazil: Women's
Movements in Transition Politics (Princeton: Princeton
Univ. Press, 1990).

Guest discussant: to be announced.

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

Week 12. Social Science (II): Anthropology and the Contentiousness of
Ethnographic Authority. Nov. 18.

Rdng.:

ALL: James Clifford, "On Ethnographic Authority," in Clifford,
The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth-Century Ethnog-
raphy, Literature, and Art (Cambridge, Ma.: Harvard Univ.
Press, 1988), 21-54;

GRP. A: Clifford, Predicament, all;

GRP. B: Stephen Gudeman and Alberto Rivera, Conversations in
Colombia: The Domestic Economy in Life and Text (New
York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1990).

Guest discussant: to be announced.

Week 13. Beyond Familiar Knowledge Boundaries (I): Ecology and Society,
"Natural" Science and "Social" Science. Nov. 25.

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

Guest discussant: to be announced.

Week 14. Beyond Familiar Knowledge Boundaries (II): "Area Studies" and
Transnational Research Agendas. Dec. 2.

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.