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LAS 2000: Introduction to Latin American Studies

Teresa Velasquez

California State University - San Bernardino, tvelasqu@csusb.edu

Bibiana Diaz

CSUSB

Esteban Cordoba de la Barrera

CSUSB, esteban.cordoba@csusb.edu

Michal Kohout

California State University - San Bernardino

Jose Munoz

CSUSB, munoz@csusb.edu

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California State University, San Bernardino
College of Arts & Letters and College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

LAS 2000: Introduction Latin American Studies

Instructor:	Dr. Teresa Velasquez
E-mail:	tvelasqu@csusb.edu
Office hours:	By appointment – Email to make an appointment by phone or Zoom
Course Format:	Fully Online, via Blackboard

Course Description

This course introduces issues related to Latin America from different perspectives as well as some of the foundations for the disciplines in the Latin American Studies Minor. Students will explore themes relevant to Latin America, such as transnationalism, migration, community, identity, race/racism, gender, place, and power.

Introduction

LAS 2000 is an introductory course to Latin American Studies. Through the process of exploring a range of historical and contemporary themes, you will learn how different disciplines approach the study of Latin America. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with people and places of Latin America, with the goal of fostering greater cross-cultural understanding of the region and enhancing diverse, global perspectives.

Prerequisite

None

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CO 1:** Present how different disciplines approach the study of Latin America
- CO 2:** Distinguish between various theoretical concepts as they relate to Latin America
- CO 3:** Explain why social movements emerge and how they advocate for change
- CO 4:** Examine how culture, politics and economics affect the environment
- CO 5:** Explore the connection between family and country of origin
- CLO 6:** Uncover various forms of evidence relating to the existence of migrant communities

CLO 7: Analyze the process of place making in Latin America

Required Texts, Readings, and Resources

No textbook required for this course. This course uses *open educational resources (oer)*, free and openly licensed material, and direct web links. You can access and/or download required materials within each module in the form of attached documents, web links, and/or videos to help you achieve learning objectives.

Online Course Expectations, Requirements, Guidelines, and Tools

This is a fully online course that may include virtual class sessions using Zoom. Students should be aware of all assignment due dates, specific assignment instructions, and should regularly consult the “Course Schedule” to ensure all work is completed in a timely manner.

It is required that you log into your Blackboard course several times throughout the week to participate in discussions, check new announcements, complete assignments, and other activities. Blackboard is a learning management system used as a centralized spot that hosts the course learning materials. Students will access all course materials and use a variety of tools via the Blackboard site. Each course tool serves a unique purpose in the course and are intended to help students achieve the stated course learning objectives;

- **Discussion Board:** Blackboard tool used to provide a place for discussion, where you will post certain assignments for the entire class to read, review, and respond to.
- **Journals:** Blackboard tool used as reflective activities.
- **Tests:** Blackboard assessment tool used to measure your knowledge.
- **My Grades:** Blackboard tool that displays the status of gradable items.
- **Announcements:** Blackboard tool that offers easy access to course information posted by your instructor.
- **YouTube:** Google tool used within your Blackboard course to host short video clips to help focus your study of each chapter on the material that will help you achieve the state module objectives.
- **Zoom:** Video conferencing to virtually meet with classmates and your professor in real-time.

Minimum system requirements, tutorials, and other helpful information designed to assist students throughout their online course experience are available in your Blackboard course; **Welcome-Start Here > Expectations, Online Readiness and Blackboard Overview**. Students who enroll in online courses are responsible for meeting the technical requirements necessary for this method of instruction and learning.

Online Class Attendance/Participation

In an online course attendance is based on participation. Students are required to log into their Blackboard course several times throughout the week to participate in discussions, check new announcements, complete assignments, and other activities.

Blackboard Technical Support and System Requirements

If you experience technical difficulties you should file an online help report immediately by contacting the CSUSB [Technology Support Center \(TSC\)](#), visit their office located in the Pfau Library Addition first floor (PL-1108), or call 909-537-7677.

Students should use a device with an Operating System and Internet Browser that is supported by Blackboard. Mobile devices do not have full Blackboard functionality.

- Use a [browser supported by Blackboard](#). If you encounter issues with one browser, use a different one. We recommend using [Firefox](#).
- Even if other browsers can connect to Bb, they may not provide full functionality or they have not been tested and are not recommended.

For dial-up AOL and other Internet Service Provider (ISP) Proprietary Browser users: These browsers are **NOT** compatible with Blackboard.

For best results with Blackboard, use a wired, high-speed Internet connection and a recommended browser. *Avoid taking tests using a wireless (WiFi) connection or a mobile device.*

Netiquette Guidelines

Netiquette refers to the behavior that you are expected to follow when communicating online. It covers both common courtesy in an online environment and the informal ground “rules” for navigating in cyberspace. For this course, you are asked to follow these basic guidelines:

- When writing an email to your instructor, include the class name and section, along with a description, in the subject line. For example: LAS 2000 RE: Midterm Project.
- Use a signature with your full name at the end of your emails.
- Remember that slang can be misunderstood or misinterpreted – use your “academic” voice. pls dnt use txt lang when sending messages 2 me.
- Be aware of your tone and avoid sentences typed in all caps – it implies online “screaming” or “shouting.”
- Do not send angry messages known as “flaming.”
- Do not use offensive language.
- Be sensitive to those with different cultural and/or linguistic backgrounds, as well as different political and religious beliefs.
- Respect different views and opinions.
- Provide constructive feedback and use good judgment when composing responses to your classmates.

Be professional and use good grammar and spelling. Consider writing your discussion posts, assignments, and online correspondence in a text editor to check for spelling and grammar before pasting it into an online submission.

Assignments

For specific grading criteria and grading scale go to Blackboard under My Grades, Rubrics, & Grading Policies

Syllabus Quiz (5 pts)

Class Discussions (10 pts each)

Class discussion is a critical component in this course. This consists of your response to discussion prompts and your peers. Your interaction with others in class and on Blackboard will identify your different perspectives and understanding, hopefully leading to a better overall understanding. It is critical and required for you to engage with each other. This is your commitment to work with each other, and to share your thoughts. Learning is a group effort.

Journals Reflections (10 pts each)

Your journal is a reflective activity based on the readings, the lectures and discussions. You are to provide a critical perspective reflecting on how the subject is manifest in your personal work world.

Papers (10 pts each)

You will produce papers using APA format/guidelines.

Annotated Bibliography (10 pts)

Use APA (American Psychological Association) formatting/guidelines.

- Examples of APA formatting and citation: <http://libguides.csusb.edu/apayou> can
- Free Zotero tool to help you create a bibliography: <https://zibib.org/>
- CSUSB library for assistance 909-537-5091

Infographic (10 pts)

You will search and gather data to compose and present the information in both text and images to produce an infographic.

Quizzes (10 pts each)

Quizzes may include short answer, multiple answer, and/or T/F questions. Quizzes will be in some modules and based on the materials covered for the particular module.

Midterm Poster (30 pts)

You will select 3 concepts of your choice from Modules 3-7 and create a poster project.

Final Poster and Video Presentation (40 pts)

You will use your Midterm Poster and add 2 additional concepts of your choice from Modules 9-13 and produce a final poster. You will also create a video presentation explain your poster concepts and why you select those concepts.

Grading Policy

Posting Grades, Late Submissions, and Incomplete

Grades for all assignments will be posted in Blackboard 3-10 days after the date of submission. Students are responsible for reviewing their course grades, via Blackboard, several times throughout the term and immediately notify their instructor of any questions or concerns.

- Assignments are expected to be completed by the due date. Assignments submitted after the due date will be deducted points, according to the assignment rubric. Please contact your instructor to discuss specific situation(s) that may keep you from complete coursework according to the schedule.
- Incompletes (I) are discouraged. They may be offered, at the discretion of the instructor, to students who have completed most of their coursework, but due to unforeseen circumstances need more time to complete their final assignments. Students desiring an incomplete must have a contract with their instructor specifying when they will complete their work and what grade will be filed if the prescribed work is not completed by the contracted deadline.

Response Time and Feedback

Students can expect a response to email within 1-3 days. Additionally, students can expect a response and feedback on assignment and grades as follows:

- Discussion Posting – 3-10 days following the dates of submission. While I may not respond to each post, I will read through all posts and respond to the majority.
- Feedback on Assignments – 3-10 days following the dates of submission.
- Grades – Issues or questions pertaining to grades will be answered within 1 days following the date of inquiry. Students are responsible for regularly checking their grades in Blackboard and contacting the instructor immediately, by email, with any questions or concerns.

University Policies and Campus Resources

Plagiarism & Cheating

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Policy on Academic Dishonesty. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of the Student Conduct Code (see Appendix of the CSUSB Bulletin of Courses) and may be dealt with by both the instructor and the Judicial Affairs Officer. Questions about academic dishonesty and the policy should be addressed to the Office of the Vice President, Student Affairs.

Cheating or plagiarism will result in no credit for the assignment and potentially an F for the course.

Student Services

Student services are designed to assist students in the development of their full academic potential and to motivate them to become self-directed learners. Students can find support for services such as skills assessment, individual or group tutorials, subject advising, learning

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assistance, academic preparation, technology support, etc. Student services information can be found on the [current students page of the CSUSB website](#).

Accommodations

CSUSB complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are in need of an accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this class, please see the instructor and contact [Services to Students with Disabilities \(SSD\)](#) at (909) 537-5238 or 909-537-7230 (TDD),

Dropping and Adding

Students MUST officially drop class to avoid "F" grade. [Policies for adding and dropping classes and withdrawing from the University](#)

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Please remember it is your responsibility to add/drop from the course by the deadline date without receiving a Fail grade.