

Fall 2015 Syllabus for LAS 150: Introduction to Latin American Studies

Section 002 (13790) 11a.m.-12:15p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in CENT 1704
Section 001 (11066) 2 p.m. - 3:15p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in HHH 324

Professor: Gerardo Licón, Office: Hibbard 353, licong@uwec.edu, (715) 836-4224
Office Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays 1:30 – 2:30p.m.
Thursdays 3:30 – 4:30p.m., and by appointment.

Course Description:

LAS 150 is an interdisciplinary course designed to introduce students to Latin America, the Caribbean and U.S. Latinos, as well as to the Latin American Studies program at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The course focuses on three main areas of academic inquiry which provide students with a panoramic perspective of the region:

- 1) A historical survey beginning with pre-Colombian civilizations and ending in the 21st century.
- 2) An introduction to the physical and cultural landscapes of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 3) A selection of contemporary political, economic, social, environmental, and cultural issues relevant to Latin America and Caribbean today.

Format:

The format of the course includes lectures, discussions, web activities, films, clickers, and attendance of outside events related to the course. Students will follow textbook readings, news articles, selected readings (on D2L or online), and films relevant to the course. The instructor will also provide additional material as deemed necessary throughout the course.

Scholars may guest-lecture on an area of her/his expertise. Our experts provide a more in-depth focus of the class material. The content of guest lectures will be included on quizzes and exams. The guest-lecturer's topic will not always correspond with the weekly theme.

Textbook:

David L. Clawson, *Latin America and the Caribbean, Lands and Peoples*, University of New Orleans: McGraw Hill, Fifth Edition, 2012.

iClickers are required for this course

In addition to the textbook and iclickers, you will watch films and read materials that I will put on D2L, make available on-line, or send you by email. Most assignments are on this syllabus.

Course Grade Breakdown:

- 50% Four Quizzes and Cumulative Final Exam (10% each)
- 25% Homework
- 10% Presentation
- 5% Class Participation and Attendance
- 5% Outside Activities (2.5% each)
- 5% Responsibility Outcome

Quizzes and Final Exam: Quizzes are almost entirely multiple-choice, except for a map quiz on the location of Latin American countries. The final exam is cumulative and made up of questions from previous quizzes. There is a -1% penalty for scantrons without your ID Number.

Homework: You will answer discussion questions based on the weekly readings/films and turn them in on the assigned date. Your answers must be submitted via D2L by 10a.m. on the due date. Late homework will be penalized 10% for each calendar day that it is late. All homework must include your name and date. If you have trouble accessing the films and documentaries, copy and paste the address on to a web server instead of just clicking on the link. Some Mac users need to download a plugin to play windows files like the .asx links below. Here is a link to one such plugin <http://www.telestream.net/flip4mac/overview.htm> The plugin used to be free, but now they charge. Free options include using a VLC player, or changing the file extension from .asx to .wmv. Contact the LTS Help Desk for assistance with technological difficulties at (715) 836-5711, helpdesk@uwec.edu, or OL1106. Some films and documentaries have recently been moved over to the UWEC Streaming Media Portal. Click on the links in the syllabus or look them up at <https://media.uwec.edu> You have to sign in with your UWEC username and password and then look them up.

Attendance is recorded during each class session. You may have two unexcused absences. This means that you should NOT contact your professor with your first two absences. Excused absences need to be made known to your professor in advance via email or in writing. However, you are still responsible for getting class notes or getting information you may have missed as a result of your absence from a classmate. If you are absent on the date of a quiz you need to make arrangements to take the quiz BEFORE the scheduled date. Otherwise, you will be penalized 10% for each day you take the quiz late.

Participation: Class participation is rewarded, failure to participate is penalized. Distractions or actions which hinder participation such as arriving late, leaving early, packing up your materials before I have indicated lecture is over, using your phone, studying for other classes, or using your laptop for anything other than taking notes will drop your grade for the day 10-20%.

Grade Breakdown of Class Attendance and Participation worth 5% of Course Grade

100% = Attendance + > 75% Clicker Grade

Or Attendance + asking questions, making comments, and participating in discussion groups when we don't have clicker activities.

Or written proof of excused absence from outside source such as Dr., Dean, Coach, or Professor.

85% = Attendance + < 75% Clicker Grade

70% = Attendance + < 40% Clicker Grade

65% = Attendance but did not bring clicker or did not participate in class activity.

50% = Absent but emailed a valid excuse before class started (note difference between an absence with proof from an outside source versus an email from a student)

0% = Absent with a late excuse or no excuse

(Except for the first two unexcused absences which are dropped)

-10-20% = Percent taken away for distractions (especially those addressed above)

Presentations: You will prepare one 4 minute presentation based on a reputable news source or website. You will be expected to summarize the article, have a visual or audio aid related to your article (preferably a powerpoint or prezi), and make a connection to the topics addressed in your textbook or class. You should also conclude with 3 multiple choice questions that emphasize the three most important facts about your topic. Your presentation will be followed by one minute of comments and questions from classmates. See “Presentations and Reports” on D2L for more detailed information on the expectations.

You will also turn-in a three-to-four page (double-spaced Times New Roman 12 font) written report within one week of your oral presentation. Your report must be proof-read and include additional research, your name, date of presentation, date the report is submitted, a title, page numbers, and include citations in the body of the paper AND a bibliography. It must also demonstrate knowledge of how the class has covered a topic, or how Clawson covers it in his text. Abide by a Style manual of your choice, or follow the instructions for “Short Papers” on the History Department Style Sheet website for an example of the guidelines according to the Chicano Style Manual used by historians (http://www.uwec.edu/History/resources/StyleSheet.htm#CP_JUMP_1305706). Your visual aid file and report must be submitted via D2L as separate files into “presentation 1” and “report 1.” Please also include the topic of your presentation in the comment section of D2L when you upload your presentation files.

It is also possible to do something different instead of a presentation, such as the performance of a song, poem, play, or the presentation of original artwork.

Facebook Participation is not required: The class facebook page is where Dr. Licon will post current articles related to the course. You are welcome to comment or borrow the articles for use in your presentations. If you are having trouble finding the class facebook page follow these instructions: 1) log in to your facebook account, 2) then click on this link <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Licons-Introduction-to-Latin-American-Studies/283061678377057>

Outside Activities and Extra Credit: There will be educational events throughout the semester relevant to this course that will be made known to you by the professor via the syllabus, lecture, D2L, Email, or Facebook page. You are required to attend two Outside Activities that are related to the course for 5% of your course grade. You need to prove your attendance, write a one paragraph summary of the event, and write a one paragraph reflection with your own analysis, opinion, and discussion of how it relates to the course. The total length is expected to be a full page (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font). Your work needs to be turned in within one week via D2L (this includes films). You can repeat this process for extra credit. You will earn a 2% boost in your total class grade for each extra event. There is a maximum of 6% that can be earned through extra credit.

Responsibility Outcome #2: UWEC is in the process of developing new learning goals for liberal education requirements. To fulfil this requirement in this course, it is your responsibility to identify and document specific examples in which you fulfilled each of the three outcomes listed below. This is due on Week 14, but can be completed much earlier in the semester.

Responsibility Outcome #2: Evaluate the impact of systems, institutions and issues in local and global contexts and across cultures.

- A. Student demonstrates knowledge about the world's diverse cultures, environments, practices, or values.
- B. Student evaluates global systems/ institutions, and/or relationships of power in a historical or geographical context.
- C. Student understands that individual and collective decisions have ethical and global implications.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:

If you violate UW-Eau Claire's policies on academic honesty, you will be penalized. I consider any academic misconduct in this course as a serious offense, and will pursue the strongest possible academic penalties for such behavior. The disciplinary procedures and penalties for academic misconduct are described on the UW-Eau Claire Dean of Students web site (<http://www.uwec.edu/DOS/policies/academic/ch14procedure.htm>) in Chapter UWS 14— Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities and Non-Native English Speakers:

Any student with a disability and need of particular classroom accommodations needs to contact the instructor and the Services for Students with Disabilities Office in Centennial Hall 2106 at the beginning of the semester. Students who are non-native speakers of English might qualify for extended test-taking time (time and a half). To determine eligibility, English proficiency is evaluated by the Academic Skills Center (for U. S. permanent residents/citizens) or by the Languages Department (for international students). Students approved for the accommodation are given a verification form to present to their course instructors. Students must provide verification during each semester at least one week before the test for which accommodation is needed. Verification is valid for one semester. The accommodation policy does not apply to other forms of evaluation (e.g., papers, projects, group presentations).

Email Etiquette: All emails you send must include your full name, the course number, and section number for the class you are taking with me. I check email once a day around 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. I do not check email on weekends, holidays, evenings, nor right before class. Please do not email me with questions that are answered by reading the class syllabus.

Important UWEC Deadlines:

- Sept 9 Last day to register for or add full-semester courses without instructor's approval

- Sept 16 Last day to drop full-semester Spring courses with no record;
Last day to register for or add full-semester Spring courses without Dean's approval;
Last day to change grade basis to/from Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory or Audit. After this date a Change of Registration form with proper signatures is required.

Nov 11 Last day to file withdrawal from the University with “W”s; Last day to withdraw from individual full-semester classes

Syllabus will change slightly throughout the semester. You will be notified of changes in class, through email, or via D2L at least two days in advance. It is the student’s responsibility to get lecture notes and information about changes to syllabus from a classmate in case of absence.

Grading Scale for Final Course Grades

A = 91-100%

A- = 90

B+ = 89%

D+ = 69%

B = 81-88%

D = 60-68%

B- = 80

C+ = 79%

F = 0-59%

C = 71-78%

C- = 70