

HIST BC 2676, Spring 2020  
504 Diana Center  
MW 1:10pm-2:25pm  
Office: 903 Milstein

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## LATIN AMERICA: MIGRATION, RACE, AND ETHNICITY

Because humans evolved only in Eastern Africa every other region in the planet was populated by emigrants and their descendants. However, Latin America is a region of immigrants in more specific ways. It is part of a hemisphere populated by arrivals from every other continent. Transcontinental migrations and the resulting condition of multi-raciality are arguably the traits that most distinguish the Americas from the rest of the world. The first half of the class examines the different inflows: the earliest ones from Northeastern Asia, those of colonizers and immigrants from Europe, the slave traffic from Africa, and later arrivals from Asia. We will analyze how conquest, imperialism, slavery, and immigration forged colonial and postcolonial societies where race and racial inequality played a critical role even in places and times where dominant public discourses obscured those realities. The last third of the class shifts the focus to emigration from Latin America and the formation of Latino communities in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere.

The goals of the class are:

- 1-To familiarize you with Latin America's ethno-cultural diversity and historical development
- 2-To study the Latino experience in the U.S. and place it in a historical and international perspective
- 3-To explore the uses of history as critical social analysis rather than narrative
- 4-To analyze how ethno-racial identities and hierarchies are constructed in a process that is both socioeconomic and discursive-cognitive
- 5-To place current debates about immigration, illegality, ethnicity, and race in a historical and hemispheric context

**Readings:** Jose C. Moya, *Cousins and Strangers: Spanish Immigrants in Buenos Aires, 1850-1930* (University of California Press, 1998), available on reserve, as electronic books in the Columbia libraries, and for purchase at Book Culture, 536 West 112th St. Other weekly readings (book chapters, articles, primary documents, maps, etc.) will be posted on Courseworks under "Files."

### Examinations and Grading

Examination	Date	% of final grade
In-class 90 multiple choice	Monday March 2	20%
In-class 90 multiple choice	Monday April 13	20%
5-6 page paper*	Due May 4	20%
Final: essay + short questions	Projected May 11	40%

Much of the examinations material will come from lecture so attendance is highly recommended.

\*The paper can focus on any of the themes of the class. It can be a research paper based on a mixture of secondary sources (books and articles written by scholars) and primary sources (original documents such as letters, memoirs, interviews); or a review of Moya's *Cousins and Strangers* in which you discuss and analyze some of the themes, methods, and theories in the book. The paper will be graded by graduate student assistants.

**Grade Scale:** Examinations & paper will be graded numerically. Below are the letter equivalents

97+	A+		87-89	B+		77-79	C+		67-69	D+		59-	F
93-96	A		83-86	B		73-76	C		63-66	D			
90-92	A-		80-82	B-		70-72	C-		60-62	D-			

**Extra Credit:**

You can earn 0.5 point of extra credit for each presentation you attend at the Forum on Migration (list below), which can raise your final grade by one step (for example from B+ to A-) or two steps (e.g., B- to B+) . Make sure to write you name in the sign-up sheet during the events, which will take place at Sulzberger Parlor, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Barnard Hall, at 6 pm.

The Cold War Origins of Human Rights in the Americas  
 Juan Pablo Scarfi, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina  
 Thursday, January 30, 6 PM

Jewish and non-Jewish Latinos in Israel: Religion, Culture, and Identity  
 Raanan Rein, Tel Aviv University  
 Monday February 10, 6 PM

*The U-Turn.* An eye-opening and inspiring documentary about the Guatemalan immigrant workers at a meatpacking plant in Postville, Iowa who managed to overcome exploitation and governmental abuse with the support of the local community; followed by a conversation with its director, Luis Argueta.  
 Thursday, March 26, 6 PM, Barnard Hall 304

Transpacific Relations and Chinese Labor in Brazil  
 Ana Paulina Lee, Columbia University  
 Monday, April 20, 6 PM

How to Legally Construct Nationals, Citizens and Foreigners? The Case of South America and Implications for Venezuela  
 Diego Acosta, Professor in European and Migration Law, University of Bristol, UK  
 Monday, May 4, 6 PM

**SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS:**

Week	Date	Day	Topic
1	Jan. 22	W	Introduction: A Continent of Transcontinental Immigrants
2	Jan. 27	M	The First Migrations: Out of Africa
	Jan. 29	W	The Evolution of Human Migration, Race, and Ethnicity
3	Feb. 3	M	Prehistoric Amerindian Migrations
	Feb. 5	W	Ethnicity in Pre-Columbian America
4	Feb. 10	M	The Iberian Background: Race and Colonization before 1492
	Feb. 12	W	European Conquest & Colonization

5	Feb. 17	M	Ethnicity and Race in Colonial Indo-Latin America
	Feb. 19	W	Colonial Brazil
6	Feb. 24	M	The African Diaspora in the Americas I
	Feb. 26	W	The African Diaspora in the Americas II
7	March 2	M	<b>Examination 1</b>
	March 4	W	Postcolonial European Migration I
8	March 9	M	Postcolonial European Migration II
	March 11	W	Asians, West Indians, and Haitians in Latin America
9	March 16	M	SPRING BREAK
	March 18	W	SPRING BREAK
10	March 23	M	Jews and Arabs: Middlemen minorities?
	March 25	W	Race and Ethnicity in Indo-Latin America
11	March 30	M	Race and Ethnicity in Afro-Latin America
	April 1	W	Latinos in the U.S.: The Early History
12	April 6	M	Caribbean New York
	April 8	W	The Mexican Southwest
13	April 13	M	<b>Examination 2</b>
	April 15	W	<b>No class</b>
14	April 20	M	The Racialization of a Multi-Racial Group
	April 22	W	The Diversification of “Latino” America, 1980s-Present
15	April 27	M	Latinos Go Global
	April 29	W	US Immigration Debate in Historical Perspective
16	May 4	W	US Immigration Debate Today
Exam	May 15		<b>Final Exam projected for Monday May 11, 1:10-4:00pm</b>