

Modernity and Its Discontents in Latin America

HISL 661-01 – Fall 2006 – Tuesdays 3:30-6:00pm – Hebert 125D

Prof. Justin Wolfe

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Course Description

Latin American is at once stunningly modern and emphatically traditional. A place where gleaming skyscrapers look out across ramshackle shantytowns. Where you can find highly mechanized, efficient factories and enormous, underutilized landholdings called *latifundio*. Where bankers and garbage pickers, managers and factory workers, processors and peasants, jet-setters and homeless street children drive (and are driven by) the economy. Where centuries old Catholicism vies for practitioners with evangelical Protestantism and Santería (among others). In this class, we will be exploring the idea of modernity in Latin America in all its facets: political, social, cultural and economic. Since the independence movements of the 19th century, Latin Americans have been struggling with what it means to be modern and the uneasy (and frequently tumultuous) dialogue they have had about this with Europe and North America.

Grading Policy and Assignments

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Discussion	15%
Discussion Leadership	10%
Weekly Discussion Answers	10%
Four 5-page papers	40%
Final Exam	25%

I am available to discuss any aspect of this class throughout the semester. All assignments are due on the date noted. If you turn in an assignment late without having cleared it with me 48 HOURS BEFORE THE DUE DATE, you will be marked down one grade for each day that it is late (e.g., from a "A" to a "B", etc.).

BlackBoard and Turnitin.com

This class makes extensive use of BlackBoard (<http://blackboard.tulane.edu>) and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). As soon as you are registered for this class, you will be assigned to its BlackBoard site. You will need to register for the Turnitin.com site at http://www.turnitin.com/newuser_type.asp using the following information:

Class ID: 1571731
Enrollment password: modernity

All papers must be submitted via the Turnitin.com website by the due date and time.

Honor Code and Policy

Academic honesty is expected of all students at Tulane. Your responsibilities as a Tulane student include being familiar with the honor code and the plagiarism policy of the University. Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Honor Board and may result in a failing grade, academic probation or expulsion.

Books for the Course

All of the following books are available for purchase at the University Book Store.

Buffington, Robert. *Criminal and Citizen in Modern Mexico*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2000.

Colleredo-Mansfeld, Rudi. *The Native Leisure Class: Consumption and Cultural Creativity in the Andes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Farnsworth-Alvear, Ann. *Dulcinea in the Factory: Myths, Morals, Men, and Women in Colombia's Industrial Experiment, 1905-1960*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2000.

García-Canclini, Néstor. *Consumers and Citizens: Globalization and Multicultural Conflicts*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001.

Nugent, David. *Modernity at the Edge of Empire: State, Individual, and Nation in the Northern Peruvian Andes, 1885-1935*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1997.

O'Dougherty, Maureen. *Consumption Intensified: The Politics of Middle-Class Daily Life in Brazil*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2002.

Ortiz, Fernando. *Cuban Counterpoint: Tobacco and Sugar*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1995.

Paz, Octavio. *The Labyrinth of Solitude*. New York: Grove Press, 1985.

Class Schedule

Part I: Tradition, Modernity, Postmodernity

9/5 **Introduction to class**

9/12 **Theories of Modernity (1)**

David Harvey, "Modernity and Modernism," in *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1989). Download/print from BlackBoard.

9/19 **Theories of Modernity (2)**

David Harvey, "Postmodernism" and "Modernization," in *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1989). Download/print both chapters from BlackBoard.

9/26 **Theories of Modernity (3)**

Néstor García-Canclini, "Modernity after Postmodernity," in *Beyond the Fantastic: Contemporary Art Criticism from Latin America*, ed. Gerardo Mosquera (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996). Download/print from BlackBoard.

! Paper #1 is due on Friday, September 29 by 5:00pm. Submit via Turnitin.com. If you have lost the assignment sheet, you can find a copy of it on BlackBoard in the ● "Assignments" section.

Part II: Workers, Industry and Modernity

10/3 **Manning Nash, *Machine Age Maya***

Because this reading is out of print, it must be downloaded/printed from BlackBoard (it is in the "Course Documents" section in the "Readings" folder).

10/10 **Ann Farnsworth-Alvear, *Dulcinea in the Factory***

10/17 **Fernando Ortiz, *Cuban Counterpoint***

! Paper #2 is due on Friday, October 20 by 5:00pm. Submit via Turnitin.com. If you have lost the assignment sheet, you can find a copy of it on BlackBoard in

- the “Assignments” section.

Part III: Consumption, Class and the Modern Self

10/24 Maureen O’Dougherty, *Consumption Intensified*

10/31 Rudi Colleredo-Mansfeld, *The Native Leisure Class*

11/7 Néstor García-Canclini, *Consumers and Citizens*

! Paper #3 is due on Monday, November 10 by 5:00pm. Submit via Turnitin.com. If you have lost the assignment sheet, you can find a copy of it on BlackBoard in the

- “Assignments” section.

Part IV: States and the Fashioning of Modern Citizens

11/14 Robert Buffington, *Criminal and Citizen in Modern Mexico*

11/21 No class

11/28 David Nugent, *Modernity at the Edge of Empire*

12/5 Octavio Paz, *The Labyrinth of Solitude*

! Paper #4 is due on Friday, December 8 by 5:00pm. Submit via Turnitin.com. If you have lost the assignment sheet, you can find a copy of it on BlackBoard in

- the “Assignments” section.