"Advanced Topics in Latin American and Caribbean Studies: Responses to Neo-Liberalism@"

Thursdays 11:30 AM -2:30 PM        Room: 101A McLaughlin College

**Course Description:** This course examines the impact of international economic integration and liberalization policies on Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on the social impact of globalization and the responses that these changes call forth. In the first half of the course, we look at the ways in which civil society organizations develop to meet new needs created by neoliberal policies. These organizations include new social movements, unions, producers= cooperatives, community policing and other grassroots activities. Ironically, another form of collective action can be found in the development and spread of gangs in urban and village settings throughout the region. Thus the course will also examine *pandillas* and *maras* as a response to neoliberalism and globalization.

However, collective action is not the only response that may be stimulated by deteriorating social and economic conditions. An alternative response to neoliberalism has been accelerated international labour migration in the Americas: permanent, cyclical and temporary. Thus, the second half of the course will consider this process and the *transnationalism* that results from the international flow of capital, commodities, individuals, and whole communities.

Both types of responses are examined with respect to case studies highlighted in readings on Brazil, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Peru. However, particular emphasis, throughout the course, will be given to the case of Mexico.

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Evaluation

The grade for the course will consist of:

Three short critical analyses of the readings (7 pages each) 25% each
Seminar Participation 25%

The course consists of a weekly three hour seminar in which the assigned readings will be discussed. All students are expected to complete the required readings, think carefully about them before coming to class, and take an active part in the discussion. Generally no "oral reports" will be assigned. Instead, all seminar members will be expected to come prepared to introduce, summarize, and analyze any of the required readings upon request of the instructor.

All the readings listed below are required for the week in which they appear, except when a reading is explicitly noted as "recommended," or appears between square brackets [ ]. Books and articles listed as "recommended" can be thought of as bibliographic suggestions for future exploration.

Written Assignments will consist of three short essays. In these essays you will explore a question or questions which will serve as one of several starting points for seminar discussion on any given week. The essay must be typed (double-spaced with standard margins, standard type) and must not exceed seven pages (i.e. 1,750 words) in length. Five to six pages would be an ideal length. Please make sure to number every page and to use your computer program to provide a word count at the end of your essay.

A hard copy of the essay is due at 11:30 A.M. on the Thursday of the week in which you have chosen to write (that is, at the beginning of class). You may prepare an essay for any week from week 2 through the end of the course. Questions will be distributed providing suggested topics for each of those seminar meetings. However, every member of the class who plans to continue in the course should have submitted at least one essay by the 5th class meeting, a second essay by week 9, with a third due at the latest on the day of the final class meeting.

Week 1: Jan. 7th Introduction to the course

Possible background reading for the course:

Inasmuch as the course begins with the assumption that everyone already knows how import substitution industrialization was replaced by neoliberalism, I would suggest that anyone who does not feel confident that she or he knows how neoliberalism came to replace state centered development models could easily cover this ground with a reading of John Rapley Understanding Development, (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2004), Introduction and chapters 1-3. (I have some "lending copies" available in my office if you would like to borrow one.)
Week 2 Jan. 14th  **The social impact of neoliberal reforms: Continuity and change**


Cristóbal Kay, *Agrarian Reform and the Neoliberal Counter-Reform in Latin America,* in *Chase op cit*, pp. 24-52;


Week 3 Jan. 21st  **Critical perspectives on new social movements and their interpreters**


Week 4 Jan. 28th

Critical perspectives on movements, (cont=d)


Week 5 Feb. 4th

Rural Movements

Marc Edelman, *op. cit.* chapter 5, and *Conclusions: Peasant Movements in the Late Twentieth Century,* @ pp. 156-211.


Week 6  Feb. 11th  Producers= cooperatives


Reading Week: February 15th -19th

Week 7  Feb 25th  Gangs


Weekly readings:

**Recommended:** Robert Courtney Smith, *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants,* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006), the chapter on pandillas.

**Week 8 Mar. 3rd**  Why migrate? Who migrates?

Bill Buford, *A Sweat is Good,* @The New Yorker, April 26 and May 3, 1999, pp. 130-139;


Wayne A. Cornelius, David Fitzgerald, Jorge Hernández-Díaz, and Scott Borger, eds. *Migration from the Mexican Mixteca: A Transnational Community in Oaxaca and California,* (La Jolla: Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, University of California, San Diego, 2009), Preface, pp. vii-ix, and Chapter 1, A San Miguel Tlacotepec as a Community of Emigration, @pp. 1-29.


**Week 9 Mar. 10th**  The Impact of out migration on the sending communities

Hellman, *The World of Mexican….,* Chapter 2, pp. 23-33;

Eric Popkin, *Transnational Household Relations and Social Change in Peripheral Migrant Sending Communities: The Case of Santa Eulalia, Guatemala,* @2003


Week 10  Mar. 17th  The Areceiving society@ : Migrant workers in Canadian and U.S. agriculture and society


Leigh Binford, ASocial and Economic Contradictions of Rural Migrant Contract Labor Between Tlaxcala, Mexico and Canada, Culture & Agriculture Vol. 24, No. 2, Fall 2002, pp. 1-19;


[Migration Film Festival !!!!]

Week 11  Mar. 24th  Immigrant strategies

Judith Adler Hellman, op. cit., Part II, AThe Journey, Chapters 6 through 13, pp. 65-116; and Part III, AThe Hard Place, Chapters 14 through 16, pp. 119-166.


Week 12  Mar. 31st  ATransnational Communities@

Read three of the following sources, according to your interests:
Judith Adler Hellman, *op. cit.*, Part IV, *To Stay or Go Home,* @Chapters 17 through 19, pp. 169-209 and *Conclusion,* @ pp. 210 @ 231.


Héctor Cordero-Guzmán, Robert C. Smith and Ramón Grosfoguel, *Introduction: Migration, Transnationalization and Ethnic and Racial Dynamics in a Changing New York,* @ in Héctor Cordero-Guzmán, Robert C. Smith and Ramón Grosfoguel, eds. *Migration, Transnationalization and Race in a Changing New York,* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1999), pp 1-34; (this chapter covers a good deal of the theoretical debates in this field, such as they are.)

Nancy Foner, *Transnationalism Then and Now: New York Immigrants Today and at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,* @ in Cordero-Guzmán et al, *op. cit.**, pp. 35-57;

Sarah J. Mahler, *Suburban Transnational Migrants: Long Island’s Salvadorans,* @ in Cordero-Guzmán et al, *op. cit.**, pp. 109-130;


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**Please note:** All readings for the course are available for photocopying in the Reserve Room of Scott Library, or are available to download through J-STOR. The two books that we will read in their entirety are Marc Edelman, *Peasants Against Globalization: Rural Social Movements in Costa Rica,* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1999); Judith Adler Hellman, *The World of Mexican Migrants,* (New York,
The New Press, 2008). Both will be available for purchase at the book store although they are both also available as e-books.

We will also read a substantial part of Héctor Cordero-Guzmán, Robert C. Smith and Ramón Grosfoguel, eds. Migration, Transnationalization and Race in a Changing New York, (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1999), is not available as an e-book although the first 77 pages can be found online at:


For anyone with a particular interest in Mexican movements some follow-up bibliographical suggestions for the future are below: