

INTL 101: Culture and Society in International Perspective

M/W 12:30-1:50pm, Robinson Auditorium

Prof. Manuel Vargas

Fall 2018

Overview

Welcome! This course focuses on consideration of the moral and political conflicts that arise in international contexts, through the lens of historical, philosophical, and literary sources. A recurring focus throughout will be on the challenges of understanding communities and values that are sometimes radically alien to one's own. The conquest, colonization, and independence of Latin America will be used as a recurring case study, with some emphasis on the nature, function, and fluidity of categories of identity, race, nationality, and culture. Our goal is to help you develop an analytical tool kit for thinking about culture and society in an international perspective.

Contact info

mrvargas@ucsd.edu

Office: HSS 8089

Office hours: W 2-3:50pm

Teaching Assistants

Dallas Amico

damico@ucsd.edu

M: 9-9:50a (A01)

M: 10-10:50a (A02)

OH: M 11-12:30pm, HSS 7039

Sebastian Speitel

sspeitel@ucsd.edu

W 3-3:50p (A07)

W 4-4:50p (A08)

OH: W 11-12:30p, HSS 7055

Emma Duncan

erduncan@ucsd.edu

W 9-9:50a (A03)

W 10-10:50a (A04)

OH: T 12:30-2:00p + by appt, HSS 7013

Richard Vagnino

rvagnino@ucsd.edu

F: 9-9:50a (A05)

F: 10-10:50a (A06)

OH: T 1-2:30pm HSS 7013

Evaluation

Midterm: (30%)

Paper: 1,500-word essay due 11/16 @ 10pm (20%)

Final exam: 2000-word word essay due @ end of final exam timeslot (40%)

Discussion section grade (5% attendance* + 5% participation = 10%)

*More than two unexcused absences in section will result in an attendance grade of zero.

Readings

Mandatory texts:

Williamson, E (2009) *The Penguin History of Latin America*

León-Portilla, M (2006) *The Broken Spears*

All other readings are available via pdf at <TritonEd.ucsd.edu> or via links from this syllabus.

Because electronics are not permitted in this class, you may find it serves your purposes best to print out readings in advance.

Provisional Schedule

Subject to change, but if so, there will be advance warning.

Read the articles *prior* to the date of the class meeting.

Week 1	Intro; Modernities
10/1	What are we doing?
10/3	Kant "What is Enlightenment?" Dussel, E (2002) "World-System and 'Trans' Modernity"
Week 2	Histories of Contact and Conquest
10/8	Williamson, E (2009) <i>The Penguin History of Latin America</i> pp. 1-115
10/10	<i>The Broken Spears</i> pp.13-36; 62-90; 115-126; 152-158 <i>Optional: Mann, C (2011) 1491 (Ch.4)</i>
Week 3	The Las Casas/Sepúlveda Debate
10/15-17	Olivier, G (2017) "Humans and the Gods of the Mexica Universe" Sepúlveda, J (1550) <i>Democrates Alter</i> Las Casas, B (1550) <i>In Defense of the Indians</i>
Week 4	Epistemic challenges to knowing The Other
10/22	Villoro, L (1989) "Sahagún, or the Limits of the Discovery of the Other" O'Gorman (1960) "Art or Monstrosity"
10/24	MIDTERM
Week 5	Cultural headaches
10/29	Aesthetics for Birds Roundtable: "Is Cultural Appropriation Ever Okay?"
10/31	Williamson, <i>The Penguin History of Latin America</i> , 511-566 Retamar, R (1971) <i>Caliban</i>
Week 6	Identities 1
11/5	de Erauso, C (1624) <i>The Lieutenant Nun</i> Castellanos (1950) "On Feminine Culture"
11/7	Vasconcelos, J (1926) "The Race Problem"
11/8	<i>Paper 1 topics are posted on TritonEd</i>
Week 7	Identities 2
11/12	Forbes, J (1973) "The Mestizo Concept as a Product of European Imperialism"
11/14	Warren and Sue (2011) "Comparative Racism and Latin America" Morales and Paixao (2014) "Mixed and Unequal"

11/16	PAPER 1 DUE, 10pm [FRI]
Week 8	Civilization
11/19	Huntington, S. (1993) "The Clash of Civilizations" Quijano, A (2007) "Coloniality and Modernity/Rationality"
11/21	<i>Mid-course review</i>
Week 9	Revisiting Western Civilization
11/26	Appiah, K (2018) "Culture" Heinrich, et al. (2010) "The Wierdest People in the World" (selections)
11/28	Harari, N (2018) "Civilization" and "Nationalism"
Week 10	Dreaming ideas into the world
12/3	Borges, JL (1962) <i>Labyrinths</i> (selections) Peri Rossi (1986) The Threshold
12/5	Outro

FINAL EXAM TIME SLOT: 12/13 (Th) 11:30-2:59pm

General Information

Office Hours

I keep office hours. Sometimes, I am available immediately after class or by appointment.

Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
- b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

Paper submissions

Essays will be submitted electronically. Hard copies are not required. Any and all submitted work may be run through turnitin.com.

One-time Discretionary TA Extensions

Teaching assistants can grant each student one extension of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension your TA needs to receive your request before noon on the day the assessment in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary TA extension. So, if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

Late work without an extension is automatically subject to a grade penalty of a third of a grade for every 24 hours period after the due date (that is, approximately, 3.3% of the value of the assignment per 24-hour period after the assignment was due). After a week, the assignment becomes an automatic 'F', but it must be submitted because (a) all assignments must be turned in to pass the class and (b) a 59% F is better than a 0% F. Note also that assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

Re-grading

Students unhappy with their grade for a class essay can apply to have it re-graded. Students first need to arrange a face-to-face meeting with their grader to discuss the basis for the original grade. Please note that email or other electronic forms of communication are not an acceptable substitute and no regrading will occur without an initial face-to-face meeting. If the student and grader come to an agreement on the merit of the initial grade, or on an adjusted grade resulting from their meeting, no further student action is required. If the student still prefers a re-grade he or she should email me a clean copy of the original essay, without the original grader's grade or comments. The essay will then go to a second grader unfamiliar with the original grade for re-grading.

In order for a re-grade to occur I need to receive the clean copy within two weeks of the original essay grade being released, or before the exam, whichever is sooner. Whatever grade the second grader gives the essay will be the final grade, even if it is lower than the original grader's grade. The professor reserves the right to review and decide any re-grade cases.

Note that there is no option to regrade exams or complete assignments for bonus points..

Disabilities

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. Plagiarism in this course is ordinarily grounds for failing this course. For more information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity go to: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

Slides, handouts, etc.

Any handouts, slides, or the like that are used in class and that have substantive content will be made available online.

Technology in da classroom

Electronics (including but not limited to cell phones, laptops, and tablets) are not ordinarily permitted in lecture or during exams. If you believe you have compelling grounds for an exception, talk to the professor in advance.

The second violation of this policy will trigger a 0% for the participation grade.

Your TA will let you know what the policy is in discussion group.

Waitlist

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

Exams

By enrolling in this class, you agree to take the final at its scheduled day and time, unless registered with OSD. Failure to take the exam at that time constitutes failure to pass the course. Plan your end of term travel accordingly.

Where can I get help?

We strongly encourage you to make use of your TAs and professor, because we'd love for you to succeed in this course. One challenge has to do with the interdisciplinary nature of this course, and what it means to write papers for this course.

Many of you will be familiar with writing essays for humanities courses, but if not, you might check out [this handout on writing papers for humanities classes](#). Those are reasonable directions for literature-focused papers, and some other parts of the humanities. However, those directions are pretty terrible for philosophy papers. Even though philosophy is one of the humanities, it tends to have somewhat different norms of writing. Because this class involves significant philosophy, we've got a couple of philosophy-focused handouts that may help you flourish in those parts of the course.

[How to Survive Your First Philosophy Class](#)

[How to Write Philosophy Papers](#)

If you have questions about any of this, please contact your TA or professor.