Course Description:

The course will read and examine the philosophical writings of some of the most important contributions of Latino/as (or Hispanics) to the history of philosophy. Latin American philosophers have presented and defended philosophically plausible and unique answers to (1) some of the fundamental problems of philosophy, and to (2) philosophical problems that have arisen out of their unique historical circumstances. These philosophers constitute a philosophical tradition with its own historical development. The course will consider this development and examine the views of Latin American philosophers on the nature of reality, humans, philosophy, values, identity, and other issues that have faced them from the colonial period to the present day.

The emphasis will be on 20th century thought and philosophical issues but some texts will require that get acquainted with the common historical circumstances that have shaped the experience of Hispanics in Latin America and the United States. In other words, we will combine a historical and thematic approach. However, the focus will be of evaluating philosophically the positions considered and determining their contemporary relevance.

Course Objectives:

1. To demonstrate a works in Latin American philosophy (EEO 1).
2. To understand the values of Latin American Philosophers as expressions of their historical circumstances (EEO 2).
3. To respond critically to works in Latin American philosophy and appreciate their relevance for today (EEO 3).

Required Texts:


Dr. Gregory F. Pappas
Office- YMCA 413
Office Hours- 11:00-12:30 TTH & by appt.
E-mail: goyo_pappas@sbcglobal.net
Jose Ortega Y Gassett, Some *Lessons in Metaphysics* (W W Norton & Co Inc (Np); New Ed edition (June 1976)


Packet of readings (available at Notes & Quotes, University Ave)
(Identified in outline as 'P')

**Outline of the Course:**

**Week 1: Pre-Colonial Philosophies, Scholasticism, and Latin American Positivism**

“Pre-Colombian Philosophies” James Maffie (P)

“Scholasticism”, “Positivism”, pp.179-193 (N),

Sor Juana, pp.51-60 (G)

José Enrique Rodó, selections from *Ariel* (P)

Zea, *Positivism in Mexico* (P)

**Week 2-3: Philosophy of Life and Metaphysics**

“Metaphysics in Latin America” Jorge Gracia in *A Companion to Metaphysics* edited by Ernest Sosa (Blackwell) (P)

Jose Ortega Y Gassett, Some *Lessons in Metaphysics*

Miguel de Unamuno *Tragic Sense of Life*

“Carlos Vaz Ferreira: Uruguayan Philosopher”
(John H. Haddox *Journal of Inter-American Studies*, Vol. 8, No. 4, Special Issue: Argentina - Uruguay (Oct., 1966), pp. 595-600))
Samuel Ramos, selections from Hacia *un Nuevo Humanismo* (P)

Risieri Frondizi, selections from El *Punto de Partida de la Filosofía* (P)

**Week 4: Philosophical Anthropology** (on Human Nature)

Romero, *A Theory of Man* (P)

Antonio Caso (Electronic Reserve, Library)

Samuel Ramos (Electronic Reserve, Library)


**Week 5-6: Value Theory**

Introduction, pp.161-166 (G)


Alejandro Korn, pp. 167-180 (G)

Alejandro Deustua, pp.181-192 (G)

**Week 7-8: Identity: Race and Ethnicity.**

Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*

Introduction, pp.219-229 (G)

Jorge J. E. Gracia, selections from Hispanic/Latino Identity: A Philosophical Perspective (P)


Gloria Anzaldúa “From Borderlands”(P)

Ofelia Schutte, pp.335-354 (G)
Week 9: Philosophy of education and religion.

Gutiérrez, selections from *A Theology of Liberation*,

“Homilies of Romero” (P)

*Paulo Freire Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

Week 10-13 Socio-Political Philosophy: Justice, Democracy, and the Philosophy of Liberation

Jose Carlos Mariategui, pp. 257-265 (G)

http://them.polylog.org/2/fvl-en.htm


Paget, *Caliban’s Reason: Introducing Afro-Caribbean Thought* (P)


**Evaluation:**

30 % 5 Critical Reactions:
These are short essays (try to keep it no longer than 1 page) by means of a list group on the Internet.

10 % Participation (in-class and in cyberspace)

20 % 1 Report:
There are two components to the report:
(1) a brief outline of what is (are) the main argument or points made by the author.
(2) some critical questions (or general evaluation) with the goal of opening a class discussion.
40% Final paper 10 to 15 pages. This is your own personal inquiry about some issue or philosopher relevant to the class. You are welcome to consult with me early in the semester to see if I can guide you regarding the research or general outline of your paper.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Academic Integrity Statement: “An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.” For rules concerning academic dishonesty, see that section under “Academic Rules” at http://student-rules.tamu.edu/.