

HILA 115: THE LATIN AMERICAN CITY, A HISTORY

Michael Monteón

H&SS 4077

Office Hours. TTh, 10-11

Class: Tuesday, Thursday: 12:30-1:50

Room: PCYNH 120

Fall, 2012

This course surveys the development of major metropolitan areas in Latin America since the Iberian conquest of the New World. Urban theories, both historical and contemporary, are employed to explain how the region's cities began and developed. Students need not have a background in either urban theory or Latin American history but they will find either or both very useful. While the course will spend some time on the political economy of cities, it will also study some of the major cultural phenomena such as architecture, music, literature, the plastic arts, and sports, and the ways they brought together or divided urban societies. Students will be free and, in fact, encouraged to relate their own interests to the general subject and may if they choose, do their final papers on topics related to the arts, sports, or urban lifestyles.

You will be expected to read five texts. All are on sale at the Bookstore and are in paperback; all are available on reserve in the Central Library. Please follow the reading guide carefully, since your papers must refer to the assigned readings. You may add other readings (although this is not required) but if I see you are not using the readings in the list below, I will assume you have not done the work in this class.

EXAMS: There are two assigned papers, a five-page mid-term (25% of the grade) and a ten-page final (50% of the grade); both are take-home assignments. The mid-term is due in hard copy on Thursday of Week V; the Final is due at the time and date announced for the final exam. You will be able to write your final on either an assigned question or a topic of your choice. How you can do this will be explained in class.

CLASS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: Class participation is required and worth 25 per cent of the course grade. You may do an oral presentation for most of the mark. I am usually generous in grading presentations. First come, first served. You must schedule your presentation at least a week ahead of time and have the subject approved by me. No more than two presentations will be allowed during a class period and no presentations will be allowed on the mid-term day or the final class. Do not assume a date for a presentation will be available after week seven.

I expect the entire class to take part in discussion. This will include topics listed under “discussion” on the website. To be discussed on the first day of class.

Curcio-Nagy, Linda A. *The Great Festivals of Colonial Mexico City: Performing Power and Identity* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2004).

Rama, Angel. *The Lettered City* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1996) Trans. By John Charles Chasteen.

Almandoz, Alan, ed., *Planning Latin America’s Capital Cities, 1850–1950* (New York: Routledge, 2002).

Goldstein, Daniel M. *The Spectacular City: Violence and Performance in Urban Bolivia* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2004)

Gilbert, Alan and James Ferguson, *The Latin American City* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1998 edition).

HILA 115: OUTLINE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 0: The City in Latin America

A. Introduction – the importance of cities

Week I: Cities and Power

A. Sjoberg’s theory of pre-industrial development: the city and the state

B. Jacob’s theory of cities: urbanization and development

Read: Curcio-Nagy, The Great Festivals of Colonial Mexico City: Performing Power and Identity -- begin

Week II: The City of the Conquest

A. The Conquest, Urban Symbols and Social Structure

B. Cities and Political Organization

Read: Curcio-Nagy, The Great Festivals of Colonial Mexico City –
– finish

Week III: Urban Development and the Nation State

A. The Hierarchy of Colonial Empire

B. Artisans, Slaves, and Farmer – bring Curcio-Nagy’s book to class

Read: Angel Rama, The Lettered City.

Week IV: Who Creates a “Modern” City

A. The Lettered City – a discussion, bring Rama’s book to class

B. Ideas from Europe – who is Haussmann?

Read: Almandoz, ed. Planning Latin America’s Capital Cities, 1850–1950 – in reading this book be careful to keep track of which chapters are assigned when. Some assignments may be out of sequence. This week read: Chapters 1, 2 by Almandoz; Chapter Six (Mexico City) by Reese; Chapter Seven (Lima) by Ramón

Week V: The Early Twentieth Century

A. Export Booms and the New Design

B. Crisis and Recovery into the 1940s

Read: Almandoz anthology: Chapter Five (Santiago) by Peréz Ozargun and Rosas Vera; Chapter Eight (Havana) by Segre; Chapter Ten (San José, Costa Rica) by Quesada

THE MID-TERM IS DUE ON THURSDAY THIS WEEK. IT SHOULD BE IN HARD COPY

Week VI: The Megalopolis

A. The Waves of Migration – Two Cities, Two Cultures?

B. Primacy and a return to theory

Read: Almandoz anthology: Chapter Three (Buenos Aires) by Gutierrez; Chapter Four (Rio and São Paulo) by da Silva Perreira;

Chapter Nine (Caracas) by González Casas; Chapter Eleven by Almandoz

Week VII: The City and the New Forms of Authority

A. The Military and Police

B. The End of the Lettered City?

Read: Alan Gilbert, *The Latin American City* – begin

Week VIII: The Capitalization of the City

A. The People's City and the new culture

B. The New Cities and New Networks

Read: Gilbert, *The Latin American City* – finish

Week IX: Social Classes in the Present

A. Neoliberalism and the crisis of the working class

B. Crime and the City

Read: Goldstein, *The Spectacular City* – begin

Week X: Now What?

A. The Urban Prospect – plus and minus

B. Review

Read: Goldstein, *The Spectacular City* -- finish

Week IV: Independence and Urban Decline

A. City-states and political conflict

B. Social controls of the early nineteenth century

MID-TERM PAPER ASSIGNED ON FRIDAY

Choose: Read either Christine Hunefeldt, *Liberalism in the Bedroom* or Sylvia Arrom, *The Women of Mexico City* over the next two weeks or decide to wait until next week to read Pineo and Baer.

Week V: Urban growth and the Liberal Era

- A. Which cities grew and why, 1880–1910
- B. Review for mid-term

Choice: If you decide to read Pineo and Baer, *Cities of Hope*, for one of your optional books; you should have half of it read by the mid-term

MID-TERM PAPER DUE THURSDAY AT THE START OF CLASS

Week VI: An Industrial Culture?

- A. The Belle Epoque and Social Structure
- B. The decline of the Church

Required: Valerie Fraser, *Building the New World*, over the next two weeks.

Week VII: Cities and the Populist Era

- A. Real estate speculations
- B. Urban labor and the urban left

Keep working on Fraser.

Week VIII: The Modern Crisis, its Origins

- A. The Shantytowns and Popular Culture
- B. The Automobile and its impact

Required: Alex Bellos, Futebol, read over next two weeks.

Week IX: The Modern Crisis, the Present

A. The crisis of "infrastructure"

B. The intellectuals and their dark prophecies

Finish reading Bellos

FINAL EXAM IS HANDED OUT – DUE DATE AND TIME SCHEDULED
BUT WILL PICKED UP AT THE CAFÉ ROMA

Week X: Strategies for Survival

A. Cities of peddlers – the informal economy

B. Waves of social mobilization and course review

Review Gilbert.

NO NEW READING; FINAL PAPER DUE AT TIME ASSIGNED FOR FINAL
EXAM, DETAILS IN LECTURE

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR PRESENTATIONS:

You may present any topic at any time; you need not time your presentation to the chronology of the course. The topics below are suggestions, no more. Remember I must schedule the presentation and order any visual aids, aside from an overhead projector, one week before. Even if I approve a topic, do not assume it is scheduled until I put it into the website calendar. I will not reschedule any presentation.

1. Description, with some slides or projection images or powerpoint, of a pre-Colombian city.

2. Description of any foods in any era.

3. Description of Indian tribute system in any major colonial city: Mexico City, Lima, Santiago de Chile, etc.

4. Description of colonial slavery in any major city.

5. Cultural practices in a colonial city, any one of the following subjects for one city: Catholic Church, foods, sports, music, intellectual center, etc.

6. Description of any major nineteenth-century urban center, with slides or projection images or use of powerpoint.

7. Description of some major cultural elements in any city: education, religion, foods, music, dance, theater.

8. Description of Indians or of slaves in any nineteenth-century city.

9. Architecture in any major city during a specific era.

10. Discussion of any major writer or artist working on Latin American urban life.

11. Your experiences living in a Latin American city other than Mexico City.

Wide open: discussion of any assigned reading, discussion of labor movement, social movements, major cultural changes, music, shantytowns, etc. These can all be contemporary.