

**LAS 3002: Topics in Latin American Studies
Fall 2017**

Dr. Consuelo Stebbins

**Director, Latin American Studies Program
Colbourn Hall, Room 123**

Office hours: MW 10:00 am- 12:00 pm

Office phone number: (407) 823-1174

Email: stebbins@ucf.edu

Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico



Required Text: Textbook is available for purchase at Barnes & Nobles or Amazon.Com

Chasteen, John Charles. *Born in Blood & Fire*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 4th Edition, 2016. ISBN 978-0-393-28305-1

Selected Readings and Videos are provided for you in the modules.

Evaluation Procedures

- Plus and minus grades will be given in this class according to the following point scale:
- 94-100 A
- 90-93 A-
- 87- 89 B+
- 84-86 B
- 80-83 B-
- 77-79 C+
- 74-76 C
- 70-73 C-
- 67-69 D+
- 64-66 D
- 60-63 D-
- 59 and below F

Course content covers the history of the nations in Latin America from the colonial period to modern day with an emphasis on the appreciation of the cultural diversity that exists in our neighboring nations. Research assignments develop critical thinking skills in analysis and writing.

Exams/Quizzes/Assignments: The final grade will be based on a maximum of 100 points, which can be earned during the semester. Weekly quizzes will cover the content of the readings; discussions and written assignments reinforce the weekly topics. Discussions are based on Selected Readings or Selected Viewings; students must post their opinion on the topic and respond to two other student's postings to earn one point each week. A one page written assignment on a current event in Latin America will also earn you two points each week. Mid term and Final exams will be in essay format and will be based on your readings. The total of all points add up to 100 points. The last module earns you 3 points of Extra Credit.

Quizzes = 33 points
Discussions = 13 points
Written Assignments = 24 points
Mid Term = 15 points
Final = 15 points
Extra Credit = 3 points

Assignment Window

Modules open on Mondays at 6:00 am and close on Sundays at 11:59 pm. Post your discussion by Fridays so that others can respond to your posts before the deadline on Sunday.

If you want to work ahead, the quizzes, discussions, and assignments for each Module (except Midterm and Final) open on August 21st. If you work ahead, be sure to respond to two other posts for each Discussion Topic so that you can earn your points.

Grade Dissemination

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned only upon request. You can access your scores at any time using "myUCF Grades" in the portal. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. If you need help accessing myUCF Grades, see the online tutorial: <https://myucfgrades.ucf.edu/help/>

Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy: There are no make-ups for the weekly assignments, quizzes, the midterm, or the final exam. You have one week to complete each of these graded assignments. The window closes each week at 11:59 pm on Sundays.

Extra Credit Policy: 3 Extra credit points are offered in this class for the last module on Migration.

Grades of Incomplete: The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in these courses.

Course Expectations Tips for Success

The following expectations will help you be successful in this course. Please carefully review these expectations and follow them.

- 1 Log into the course several times each week to check the course content, announcements, conversations, and discussions.
- 2 Keep up with the weekly readings and assignments. Students who keep up with the weekly reading and assignments tend to do much better in an online course than those who do not.
- 3 Please do not miss an assignment deadline. Refer to the course schedule/calendar to ensure that you submit assignments on time.
- 4 Remember that academic integrity will be appraised according to the student academic behavior standards outlined in The Golden Rule of the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook. See <http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/> for further details

Notifications

Each semester, review your Notification settings to make sure you receive course information in a timely manner. Use this [notification guide](#) to make adjustments.

Profile Pictures

Webcourses@UCF provides the ability to upload an image for each user of the system. This image is used in a variety of ways throughout Webcourses@UCF when you interact with other users. Be mindful of the appropriateness of the image and use professional judgement. Please contact your instructor with any further questions.

Conversations

Conversations (also known as the Inbox) will be an integral part of this course. Make sure you:

- 1 Check your inbox at least twice per week (more often is better).
- 2 Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply.
- 3 Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.
- 4 Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.
- 5 Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the discussion or message).

6 Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Interaction Guidelines

Many of the "rules of the road" that apply to conversations also apply to the use of interactive tools used in this course. Use the following conventions when interacting with the instructor and fellow students:

- 1 While using synchronous tools, such as chat and conferences, be located in a quiet, private environment. This will help you stay clear of disturbances.
- 2 If you want to send a personal message to the instructor or to another student, use conversations rather than the discussions (see Conversations).
- 3 Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you post to a discussion.
- 4 Respect each other's ideas, feelings and experience.
- 5 Be courteous and considerate. It is important to be honest and to express yourself freely, but being considerate of others is just as important and expected online, as it is in the classroom.
- 6 Explore disagreements and support assertions with data and evidence.
- 7 Be sure to post discussions in the appropriate discussion topic.
- 8 Do not use postings such as "I agree," "I don't know either," "Who cares," or "ditto." They do not add to the discussion, take up space on the Discussions, and will not be counted for assignment credit.
- 9 Avoid posting large blocks of text. If you must, break them into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.
- 10 During a discussion assignment, deadlines for posting to and replying will be specified with each assignment. It is a good practice to always check the discussions tool multiple times during the week.

Viruses and Redundancy

A virus can spell disaster. Your use of a reputable anti-virus program is a requirement for participation in this course. AVG is a great, free antivirus program. Malwarebytes is a great anti-malware program.

The preferred option for redundancy is to use [Microsoft Skydrive](#) which is available through [Knightsmail](#) (available to UCF Faculty, Students, and Staff). Other popular solutions are [Dropbox](#) and [Google Drive](#).

Technical issues can and will happen. These problems do occur and are really inconvenient, however, they are not a valid excuse for failing to get your work in on time. Store your documents using skydrive to minimize the impact of such events.

Disability Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.