FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
LATIN AMERICAN MIGRATION AND RELIGION IN THE NEW IMMIGRANTS EXPERIENCES
(RLG 5106 Cross listed with REL 4105 & LAH 5937)
FALL 2014

Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Ana María Bidegain
E-Mail: bidegain@fiu.edu
Class Room Ryder Business 130
Time: Tuesday 5pm – 8:45 pm
Office: DM 304B
Office Hours: By appointment or on Tuesday 2:00- 4:00 P.M.

Description:
The course will analyze the main ways in which the complex phenomenon of migration overlaps with religion. This area of study necessarily demands an interdisciplinary approach to the subject. We have identified important relationships that have been developed within the fields of History, Theology, Pastoral Studies, Sociology and Anthropology; our course will present a panorama of these approaches, taking into account a gender perspective. The course will focus on the historical migration process in different places and times in the Americas. There will be a balance between conceptual, methodological aspects and a retrospective overview of the reality of migration and religion as it has been experienced historically since the formation of the Americas to the present. The course will also analyze how religions are reconfigured via the immigration process focusing on different religious experiences among immigrants to South Florida. Special attention will be paid to recent studies on Latino immigration to the United State, particularly to the Miami Area. This semester the seminar work and students’ papers and reports will focus on the Humanitarian Crisis with the Centro American Children at the US border.

Goals:

A) Students must develop an understanding of the following:
1) The history of migration within the project of nation building in the Americas and specifically the place of Latinos/as in the United States historical process. 2) Theories and concepts presented by the combined study of migration and religion, including: assimilation, the melting pot, transnationalism, and religious reconfiguration. 3) The reasons for children to cross border without adults and legal support. 4) The feminization of recent migration processes and gender relations among migrants will be analyzed; as well the gender perspectives and perceptions in both: the countries of origin and receiving countries.

B) Students will observe and analyze firsthand a chosen religious community in South Florida. The aim is to develop an understanding of how theories and concepts learned in class help to
interpret, or not, the reactions of these religious groups facing the humanitarian crisis of the Centro American children in the US border. Their founding will be discussed in class and will be the focus of final the research paper.

**Methodology:** The course will be taught in a seminar format therefore active student participation is expected.

**Requirements:**
All students will be asked to do at least one presentation of the assigned readings. This presentation is not a summary of the reading; rather, the students must analyze the author’s perspective and conclude by proposing questions related to the author’s central ideas or assumptions, which will be discussed in the class according to the week’s topic.

*Graduate* students must develop a final paper based on the analysis of a field research with a chosen religious group in South Florida.

- **First paper:** Due on September 16 (This paper must present the topic to be developed into a final paper, with main research question, potential bibliography and sources to be analyzed later)
- **Second paper:** Due on October 7 (a continuation of the first, with a deeper analysis of the sources, of the bibliography, and further development toward the final paper)
- **Final paper:** Due on December 2 Oral Presentation on December 9.

**Requirements for all written work:**
All written work must be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font (written work submitted in large font will not be acceptable); and any citations should follow MLA format. These papers must be submitted by the deadline. Late work will result in the reduction of half a letter grade per day, unless arrangements with professor were made prior to deadline.

**Final course grade**
- Participation : 2 x 20 % = 40%
- 3-page paper: 10 %
- 10-page paper: 20 %
- 20-page paper: 30 %
- Final grade: 100 %

**Grading criteria**
- A/A- = Outstanding/Exceptional in terms of content (grasp of concepts, depth of analysis and comprehension) and expression.
- B+/B = Above average to Very Good.
- B-/C+ = Good to above average.
- C/C- = Achieving minimum standards.
- D+/D = Passing but barely meeting minimum standards.
- F = Not meeting minimum or acceptable standards.

**Attendance/participation policy**
Attendance and participation are very important to this course. Students are expected to read assignments and participate in class discussions. Attendance will be taken and I expect students to inform me of any prior commitments or emergencies that prevent them from attending. Students may be absent up to three times. A fourth absence will result in a loss of 15% from their attendance grade.

**Intellectual and academic behavior**
As members of the academic community, students are expected to recognize and uphold standards of intellectual and academy integrity. Plagiarism is presenting another person’s work as one’s own. Plagiarism includes submitting another student’s work as one’s own.

REQUIRED TEXTS


THE SCHEDULE COULD BE CHANGED TO ATTEND AN INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS WITH THE CENTRO AMERICAN CHILDREN AT THE US BORDER (One first colloquium at the second or third week of the semester, with experts on the issue and a second colloquium at the end of the semester with Religious leaders who have been working with the children’s situation)

CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings for Undergraduates &amp; Graduates</th>
<th>Documents to be discuss in the Graduate seminar</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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| Week 1   | *Introduction to the course, Assessments and Research Paper.*          | Pellegrino A. “Trends in the international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean”.
Colin Woodard Introduction pp. 1-19 | Latino Religious Trend
Pew Report                                                 |
| 08/26    | *Origins & development of multiethnic societies in the Americas and the Caribbean* |                                                                                                         | CAMAYD –FREIXAS ERIK *US Immigration Reform and Its Global Impact*, |
| Week 2   | *Methods, Sources and Concepts to*                                      | Percy Hintzen: *Introduction Methodologies.* (on line)                                                 | Manuel Vazquez
“Toward a new agenda for the |
<p>| 09/02    |                                                                        |                                                                                                         |                                                            |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>09/09</td>
<td>No class</td>
<td>First field work week to identify a religious group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7 10/7</td>
<td>Religions among Immigrants Haitians A) Catholics B) Voodoo Communities</td>
<td>Stepick, Rey and Mahler: Refugee Catholicism in Little Haiti pp72-92 McAlister and Richman in Alba; Catholic, Voodoo, and Protestant: Being Haitian, Becoming American pp. 319-352</td>
<td>Karen M. Brown, Mama Lola: A Voodoo Priestess in Brooklyn (Los Angeles: University of California, 2001)</td>
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<td>Week 8 10/14</td>
<td>Catholic Diversity, and the rise of Latino Community. Latino Protestantism and Pentecostalism</td>
<td>David Badillo, pp. 66-91 - P.Levitt in Gutierrez pp. 229-255.</td>
<td>CAMAYD – FREIXAS ERIK US Immigration Reform and Its Global Impact,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10 10/28</td>
<td>Jewish immigration to South America and from South America to South Florida Latinos Muslims in Miami</td>
<td>Calvin Goldsieder: “Immigration and the Transformation of the American Jews” Chap 7 in Alba, Raboteau&amp;Wind</td>
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<td>Week 11 11/04</td>
<td>RESEARCH WEEK</td>
<td>NO CLASS RESEARCH WEEK</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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**US:**
A) Cubans
a) Catholics
B) Cubans afro religions diaspora

- Badillo pp. 92-119
- Prieto Yolanda Saint Augustine Parrish and Cuban adaptation. Pp. 85-112
- A. Fernandez (online)
- K.Hansing in Stepick, Rey and Mahler; pp119 -132
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Veterans Day</th>
<th>11/11</th>
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| Week 13 | The role of Religion in the integration of a Maya immigrant community in south Florida | Sandra Lasso de la Vega  
*Against the Tide* | Jacqueline Hagan  
“Religion & the process of migration A Maya Transnational Community” | Williams, Steigenga Vasquez  
“A Place to Be”  
chap. 7  
pp. 151-169  
“Living Illegal”  
pp. 204-224 |
| Week 14 | Migrant women and Gender relationships | Gutierrez chap 7  
pp281 -302 | | Sandra Lasso de la Vega  
Chisme Across Border .in Migraciones Internacionales. |
| Week 15 | Migration as a new theological place in Christianity  
Political and Academic controversial positions | Maduro Otto. Religion under imperial duress: Postcolonial Reflections and Proposals  
Phan Peter  
in Campese G.& Cialella  
-Espinosa Gastón: “Today we vote ,tomorrow we act.”  
*The Hispanic Challenge* Foreing Policy March 2004/  
CAMAYD – FREIXAS ERIK  
US Immigration Reform and Its Global Impact,  
Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People  
*The love of Christ towards migrants* - Vatican, 2004  
-Jose Casanova : Globalizing Catholicism and the return to a “Universal” church,  
Chap 5 in Hoeber Rudolph S. & Piscatori J. |
### Articles and materials to be downloaded (some of these sources can also be found in the library)

- **ESPINOSA GASTON** - “Today we vote, tomorrow we act.” Latinos Religions, Politics and Activism in Contemporary US civil Society. in ANNALS AAPSS, 612, 2007.
  “Latinos and Religion in 2008 Presidential Election” in *Hemisphere* Volume 19, Spring 2010
  [HTTP://LACC.FIU.EDU](HTTP://LACC.FIU.EDU)

- **FRIEDMANN MARQUARDT MARIE, WILLIAMS PH. STEIGENGA T. VASQUEZ M.**
  Living “Illegals”

- **FORNET-BETANCOURT RAUL** “Philosophical Presuppositions of Intercultural Dialogue”
  [http://them.polylog.org/1/ffr-en.htm](http://them.polylog.org/1/ffr-en.htm)


- **MADURO OTTO.** *Religion under imperial duress: Postcolonial Reflections and Proposals.*

- **PELLEGRINO ADELA**：“Trends in the international migration in Latin America and the Caribbean”

- Pontifical Council For The Pastoral Care Of Migrants And Itinerant People
  *The love of Christ towards migrants* – Vatican, 2004

-www.justiceforimmigrants.org

- Pastoral Letter Concerning Migration from the Catholic Bishops of Mexico and the United States. *Strangers No Longer: Together on Journey of hope*

- [http://programs.ssrc.org/intmigration/working_groups/religion_and_migration/](http://programs.ssrc.org/intmigration/working_groups/religion_and_migration/)

- [http://www.thearda.com/Archive/browse.asp](http://www.thearda.com/Archive/browse.asp)


- UNFPA 2011 Report . chapter on Migration.
  Foweb.unfa.org/reports/EN-SWOP2011-FINAL.Pdf

### Recommended books

7. **ALBA RICHARD, ALBERT J. RABOTEAU & JOSH DEWIND,** *Immigration and Religion in America.*

8. **BAILEY SAMUEL. & MIGUEZ EDUARDO JOSE** “*Mass Migration to Modern Latin America.*”
17. LAZO DE LA VEGA AND TIMOTHY J. STEIGENGA *Immigrants, Day Laborers, and Community in Jupiter, Florida.* Univ. of Wisconsin 2013
22. PRIETO YOLANDA, The Cubans of Union city. Temple University, 2009
24. WILLIAMS PH. STEIGENGA T. VASQUEZ M. *A Place to be. Brazilian, Guatemalan and Mexican Immigrants in Florida’s New Destination.* Rutgers, 2009