LATIN AMERICAN MIGRATION AND RELIGION IN THE NEW IMMIGRANTS EXPERIENCES
SPRING 2013

Syllabus
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
(REL. 5106)

Professor: Dr. Ana María Bidegain
E-Mail: bidegain@fiu.edu
Class Time: Thursday 5 p.m.
Office: DM 304B
Office Hours: By appointment on Tuesday and Thursday 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. Particular attention will be paid to recent studies on Latino immigration to the United State, particularly to the Miami Area.

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 in the United States.
   2) Theories and concepts presented by the combined study of migration and religion, including: assimilation, the melting pot, transnationalism, and religious reconfiguration.
   3) 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 various migrants’ religious communities in South Florida, choosing a particular immigrant group to develop an understanding of how theories and concepts learned in class help to interpret, or not, the immigrant religious experience. Their founding will be discussed in class. Focusing on Latinos’ and its interaction with other ethics communities.
**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 some new immigrant religious group in South Florida.

- **First paper:** Due on January 24th (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 February 28th (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 April 24th. Oral Presentation on April 28th.

**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 academic 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


**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.” Latino Religions, Politics and Activism in Contemporary US civil Society. in ANNALS AAPSS, 612, 2007.
- FRIEDMANN MARQUARDT MARIE, WILLIAMS PH. STEIGENGA T. VASQUEZ M. Living “Illegal”
- MADURO OTTO. *Religion under imperial duress: Postcolonial Reflections and Proposals.*

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

  - [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://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**

15. PRIETO YOLANDA, The Cubans of Union city. Temple University, 2009
17. WILLIAMS PH. STEIGENGA T. VASQUEZ M. *A Place to be. Brazilian, Guatemalan and Mexican Immigrants in Florida’s New Destination.* Rutgers, 2009
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings for Undergraduates &amp; Graduates</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Origins &amp; development of multiethnic societies in the Americas and the Caribbean</td>
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<td>UNFPA  <em>A Passage to Hope.</em> State of World Population Report 2006</td>
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<td>The formation of new states, migrations, migration policies and the role of religions in the formation of the Americas societies.</td>
<td><em>David Badillo</em> pp. 1-22</td>
<td><em>Stepic, Alex.</em> “God is Apparently not Dead: The obvious, the Emergent, and the Still Unknown in Immigration and Religion.”</td>
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| Week 3  | 01/24                                                                  | Colin Woodard Part II Unlikely Allies; Pp.115- 170                                                      | *Glick-Schiller N & Levitt P.* “Conceptualizing simultaneity: A transnational social field perspective on society”  
*Stepick, Rey and Mahler; Religion, immigration and Civic Engagement pp.1-38*  
Ebaugh Helen Rose“Calling Upon the sacred: migrants’ use of Religion in migration Process. IMR March 31, 2003 Vol 37 Issue:4 pp1145-1162 | First Paper DUE |
|         | Transnational religions, migration and inter-cultural dialogue.                           |                                                                                                          |                                                                                   |               |
| Week 4  | 01/31                                                                  | Colin Woodard Pp243-322                                                                                   | *Williams, Steigenga Vasquez “A Place to Be”* chap. 7 pp. 151-169  
*“Living Illegal”* pp. 204-224                                                                 |               |
<p>|         | Amerindian Religious Legacy and the role of religion building an immigrant community | <em>Badillo Chap 2 – pp23-44</em>                                                                                   | <em>Jacqueline Hagan</em> “Religion &amp; the process of migration A Maya Transnational Community* |               |</p>
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<th>Week</th>
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<td>Skype conversation with P. Alejandro Solalinde – Albergue OAXACA</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Latinos in the U.S; traditional and new religious role of Christianity</td>
<td>Gutierrez pp302-354 Badillo, pp. 182-220</td>
<td>Conversation with Ignacia &amp; Edgard Beltran through Skype</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>MIDTERM</td>
<td>Sources and bibliographies presentations</td>
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<td>Week13</td>
<td>04/04</td>
<td>Jewish immigration to South America and from South America to South Florida</td>
<td>Calvin Goldsheider: “Immigration and the Transformation of the American Jews” Chap 7 in Alba, Raboteau &amp; Wind</td>
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<td>Week14</td>
<td>04/11</td>
<td>Migrant women and Gender relationships</td>
<td>Gutierrez chap 7 pp281-302</td>
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<td>Week15</td>
<td>04/18</td>
<td>Political and Academic controversial positions</td>
<td>Maduro Otto. Religion under imperial duress: Postcolonial Reflections and Proposals</td>
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<td>WEEK</td>
<td>04/25</td>
<td>Final Papers Presentations</td>
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