INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this class is to study in one hand the genealogy of the Liberation movement in the history of Christianity, and in the other the transformation and political impact of the Prosperity Theology followers focusing on Brazil. These movement has been tied to the transformation of Christianity in the twenty centuries, particularly after the Second Vatican Council reception in Latin America and evangelical transformation regarding politics in the United States. The changes undertaken by the Contemporary Christianity may be compared in importance and consequences to the reformation of the XVI century.

One of the major challenges brought up by the Second Vatican Council was the return to the original Christian message marked by the prominence of the poor. As stated by Pope John XXIII: “In regards of the poor countries, the Church is presented as it is and wants to be: the Church of all but especially the Church of the poor.” This message had particular resonance in Brazil due to the history of the Brazilian church and the historical context of that country. This would be the core of this course. But also, the last classes will analyze the development of Theology of Prosperity, the rise of Pentecostalism and the development of a new authoritarianism under Jair Bolsonaro.

OBJECTIVES AND STUDENT OUTCOME

After completing the course students should be able:

a) To have a comprehension of the Liberation Christianity in the Brazilian context. Although the course focuses on Brazil, the student will advance toward the
comprehension of the Liberation movement in Latin American and globally and make comparisons.

b) Be aware of different historical processes that converge in the second half of the 20th century such as: the socioeconomic crisis of mid-20th century, the new Brazilian Nationalism, the political transformations related to the Cold War, the society transformation marked by the emergence of marginalized actors such as women, natives Amerindians, and black communities.

c) To understand the main ideas of the social teaching of the church and the impact of the Second Vatican Council, the CELAM’s conference and the development of the Base Communities and the development of new social movements (Los Sin tierra) and political parties such as the Partido dos Trabalhadores.

In order to reach these general learning objectives, students will have weekly goals and weekly seminar meeting, outcomes and assessments that will measure their knowledge and unit’s comprehension (please, look at the calendar, below).

Students’ participation in the Seminar will be through:

1) Participation on the Discussions Forum Weekly.
2) Paper developed in three stages.

**Discussions Forum Seminar**

We will have weekly meetings through Discussion Board

First week: On-line self-introduction. Students will be asked to introduce themselves to the Class. Students have the opportunity to do questions and comments on the syllabus to start the course without difficulties.

**Online seminar Methodology through Discussion Board or Forum**

As this is an online seminar course, each week all the students have to read all the materials to be preparing to participate. Each week, on Mondays, the professor will assign three students to make questions from one of the week assigned articles or book chapters and other three students will be assigned to develop the answers. Other three students will be required to do revisions or comments on the questions and answers. The questions have to be uploaded on Wednesdays, to be answered on Fridays and to be review by Sundays. Each Monday the professor will assign students task for each week. The professor will take care of giving to all the students the same opportunity to participate uploading the requested task. At least each student will be required to participate 10 times during the semester.
Each post will be graded. Each discussion is worth 8 points. To receive all possible points, a posting must be on time, be easy to read, free of careless mistakes, and appropriately address the issue(s) or question(s) presented by the instructor.

Research Paper

Graduate students have to do a 20 pages final paper in three stages.

Undergraduates students have to do a 15 pages final paper in three stages.

1- Research Paper proposal: Due the Third Week (this paper must present the topic to be developed into a final paper. The topics will be chosen from a list proposed by the professor) It should be the first stage of the work. This paper should explain the reason and motivations to develop the research paper, the mayor sources and bibliography as well the hypothesis and methodology to accomplish the work.

2- Literature review Due on the Sixth Week (a continuation of the first, with a deeper analysis of the sources, of the bibliography, and further development toward the final paper)

3- Final paper: Due on the 14th week.

Requirements for all written work:
All written work must be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font; and any citations should follow MLA format. These papers must be submitted by the deadline.

The Final Grade will be determined by a totally of points scored throughout the semester. These points will be converted into percentages [that is, Points scored by student/total number of points [200] x 100]. Please keep printed copies of all assignments and graded material. If you cannot produce your class material in a grade dispute, the grade recorded in the instructor's grade book will take precedent. Students are required and responsible for all assigned text readings and material from Blackboard. Students are expected to check the Announcement and Assignment sections of Blackboard for this class at least every other day.

Students who take this course are expected to have the skills necessary to complete all assignments. Essay Assignments must not be sent as attachments to the professor. They must be posted in the Assignment drop box. I will not grade them if you send them to me as attachments. If you have computer technology questions during the semester, you should contact the FIU Computer Help Desk.

Note: I reserve the right to alter this syllabus if and whenever necessary.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Discussion Forum Presentation  \( (10 \times 8) = 80\% \\
First paper \hspace{2cm} 5 \% \\
Second paper \hspace{1cm} 5 \% \\
Final paper \hspace{0.7cm} 10\% \\
Total \hspace{3cm} 100\% \\

**GRADES RANGE**

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**COMMUNICATION WITH THE INSTRUCTOR**

**E-MAIL**
All students are expected to use their FIU e-mail address/account for course correspondence. Like Blackboard, you are expected to check your FIU e-mail at least every other day for the duration of this course. All e-mails sent to the instructor should reflect a professional

**ACADEMIC AND CLASSROOM MISCONDUCT**
Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Behavior defined by the instructor as disruptive will not be tolerated. For a Web class, the above statement includes flaming, which is writing or sending inappropriate messages to the web areas of this course. All interaction with your instructor and your fellow students is expected to be appropriate. If any activity becomes disruptive, the instructor reserves the right to take appropriate action.

In addition, if a student turns in an assignment where the authorship is questionable (plagiarism), the instructor reserves the right to discuss this situation with the student, and if she/he is not satisfied that the assignment is the work of that student, a grade of "0" will be assigned.

**REQUIRED BOOKS**
The big majority of the reading materials are articles and book chapters, which are online, and some few will be uploaded.

However, some important book will be used in the class

- Posner Sarah (2020) *Unholy* Random House

**CALENDAR**

**1st Week (January 11- 15)**

**Introduction to the course and to the study of Brazilian History**

**Assessments: Sharing through Discussion Forum**

Self-introduction (instructor and students)
Questions and comments on the syllabus

**Weekly outcomes:**

- Understanding course requirements and mayor learning goals established in the syllabus.
- General understanding of Brazilian history, geography and culture.

**Readings:**

- Löwy Michael Religion and Politics: Revisiting Marx and Weber, in *The War of Gods* Chap 1-
2nd Week (January 18-22)

The Brazilian Catholic Church History-Colonial Times

Weekly outcomes:
Understanding: 1) the role of Catholic Church under the Portuguese Empire.
2) Popular religiosity and religious diversity in Colonial Brazil

Reading:
-“Brazil” The Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity edited by Daniel Patte
-“Church and State Relations in Latin America” The Cambridge Dictionary
  of Christianity, pp. 242-246
-Bruneau Thomas. “Religious Beliefs and Practices”, Bruneau, Thomas. The
-Levine R. “Early Brazil” The History of Brazil (eBook) Westport. Conn,
  Greenwood Publishing Group 1999, pp.31-55

3rd Week (January 25-29)

The Brazilian Catholic Church History under the Empire (19th century) until
its transformation under Dom Leme’s leading.

Weekly outcomes:
Understanding: 1) State control of the Catholic church under the Brazilian
Empire 2) The church welcomes and support to the independency process.
3) Particularities of Brazilian Catholic Church in comparison to Hispano
American Church experiences.

Readings:
- Lynch, J. “Church and State in a Liberal World.” New Worlds: A Religious
  History of Latin America, Yale University Press, 2012, pp. 185–228,
  www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1npmbn.12

- Burns, E. Bradford. “Modernization and Continuity.” A History of Brazil,
  3rd ed., Columbia University Press, 1993, pp. 149–196,
- Vieira, David Gueiros. “Some Protestant Missionary Letters Relating to the
  Religious Question in Brazil: 1872-1875.” The Americas, vol. 24, no. 4,

4th Week  February 1-5

The Catholic Action, the Brazilian New Christendom

*Weekly outcomes:*

*General* understanding of Catholic Church in the turn out of the Century. 2) The implementation of the Catholic Action (the two models of Catholic Action) 3) The role of men and women in the Brazilian Church

*Readings:*


5th Week  Feb 8-12

Looking forward a National Church Organization the role of the Laity.

*Weekly outcomes:*

1) From Dom Leme’s to Dom Helder Church leadership.
2) The role of Brazilian lay people in the genesis of CNBB.
3) The 1955 Eucharistic Congress and the birth of CELAM.
4) New catholic Latin American networks and Brazilians participation
Readings:


Additonal Readings


6th Week  Feb 15-19

From Catholic Action to Liberation Christianity in Brazil.

Weekly outcomes:

Aggiornamento and Vatican Council II.
CELAM Second Conference, Medellin 1968.
Emergence of Liberation Christianity in Latin America

Readings:

  https://kellogg.nd.edu/publications/workingpapers/WPS/006.pdf

Further Readings

- Bidegain AM  *Participacion y protagonismo de las mujeres en la historia del catolicismo Latinoamericano*, op cit caps.8 y 9. pp 87-122. (to be uploaded)

7th Week Feb 22-26

The Church and Governments relationships before the Dictatorship.

Weekly outcomes:

- Political situation in the sixties.
- The Church and the governments pre-dictatorship.
- Northeastern Catholic Church.
- MEB. (Base Education Movement)

Readings:


Further Readings

- Mainwaring. The church from 1916 to 1964, in *The Catholic Church and Politics in Brazil 1916-1985*, pp. 25-75. (to be uploaded)
- Freire, Paulo. *Pedagogía del Oprimido. Pedagogy of the oppressed*

8th Week - March 1-5   SPRING BREAK

9th Week -March 8- 12

The Church ‘s contradictions and conflicts under the dictatorship

Dom Hélder Câmara as Church leader and Prophet

**Weekly outcomes:**

- Tradition, Family and Ownership.
- Coup d’état and the National Security Doctrine.
- Repression and first reactions of the church.
- Dom Hélder biography, ideas, pastoral work and prophetic voice

**Readings:**

- Câmara Hélder Spiral of violence London, 1971

**Further readings**

- Ana María Bidegain. La Doctrina de la Seguridad Nacional, en *Nacionalismo, Militarismo y Dominación en América Latina*, pp: 147-163. To be uploaded
- Regan, David. 2002. *Why are they Poor? Helder Câmara in Pastoral Perspective.* Münster: Lit Chapters 7, 8 and 9, pp. 81-121. (to be uploaded)
- Patrick J. Leonard “Bibliography of Helder Camara”  
  Latin American Research Review, Vol. 10, No. 2 (Summer, 1975), pp. 147-166  
  The Latin American Studies Association:  

**10th Week March 13-19**

**Basic Ecclesial Communities. Building up the church of the Poor**

**Liberation Theology’s development in Brazil and Latin America**

**Weekly outcomes:**
- The role of Brazilian Religious orders and congregations developing CEBs  
- Numbers, distribution in regions and dioceses and national organizations  
- CEBs Social Mouvement and the Partido dos Trabalhadores’ origins

**Readings:**

- Bruneau. “Brazil: The Catholic Church and Basic Christian Communities”, in Levine, *Religion and Political Conflict in Latin America*, pp106-123. (To be uploaded)

**Further readings**

- Bidegain. *Participación y protagonismo de las mujeres en la historia del catolicismo Latinoamericano*, cap. 11, pp. 139-152. (To be uploaded)

**11th Week March 22 -26**

**Liberation Church Movement facing Political and Ecclesiastical Repression**

Weekly outcomes:

- Political changes in the eighties.
- Wojtyla reign and the nomination of conservative bishops.
- Silencing Helder Camara, Leonardo Boff and Ivonne Guevara
- Church’s inconsistencies and contradictions.
- Pentecostalism presence and development.

*Readings*


*Further reading*


**12th Week March 29 –April 2**

**Church’s Human Rights Defense and Democratization.**

Weekly objectives and outcomes:
Opposition to dictatorship and Human Rights Defense.
The role of International Networks, Students’ organization and other social movements.
The Brazilian Catholic Church, Brazilian Presbyterian Church and the process re-democratization.

Readings:


Further Readings


13th April 5-9

Leadership and religious, social and political networks.

Weekly outcomes:

- Role of Brazilian’ laypeople and church leaders in religious and social action.
- Groups and networks.
- The Church and the problem of the land.
- The progressive church, the PT and the World Social Forum
- Understanding origins and Prosperity Theology guidelines in Brazil

Readings:
Further Readings:


**14th week April 12- 17**

- *Evangelical and Pentecostalism political implication in the rise of a new authoritarian order.*

**Weekly outcomes:**

- The US Evangelical and Pentecostalism Right wings influence in Brazil
- A Moral Combat - Gender and Sexual Rights under Assault
- Pentecostalism, democracy and new authoritarianism.

**Readings:**


**Further Readings:**
15th Week April 19 – 23

The Brazilian Religious Experience and its legacy.

Weekly outcomes:

- Intellectual legacy of Liberation Theology in several fields
- The influence of Liberation Theology in Postcolonial Studies.
- The Brazilian Church’s experience and the Latin American “Indigenismo”

Readings:


Further Readings


16 WEEK April 26-29  FINALS