

PHIL 3375: Latin American Philosophy

Fall 2026



Mercado indigena by Julia Codesido

Course Information

Course Meetings: TTH 2:20-3:40pm
Location: Hickory 252

Professor Meda-Lambru

E-Mail: denise.meda-lambru@UNT.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 10am-12:00pm

ENV (EESAT) 310U, by appointment. For alternative times, email me to schedule an appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Clara Peña-Arcila

Email: ClaraPena-Arcila@my.unt.edu

Course Description

Philosophy 3375 will take a historical and thematic approach to critically engage responses to issues emerging from traditions of what is now known as Latin America. This course will introduce students to Indigenous philosophies of Mexico and the Andes, as well as scholarship on Latin American histories, geopolitical circumstances, and liberatory discourses. Ultimately, students will examine the arguments put forth by Latin American and Latinx philosophers on issues related to knowledge, colonialism, liberation, identity, feminisms and aesthetics.

Course Learning Objectives

- Students will develop their reading comprehension abilities, including argument identification and evaluation.
- Students will synthesize positions on debates in Latin American and Latinx philosophies.
- Students will create and explain an art project that applies an understanding of course literature with larger social discourses concerning Latin American philosophies, cultures, and histories.

- Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the literature through exams, reading quizzes, and course discussions.
- Students will be able to relate course discussions to philosophical discourses within various areas of study such as aesthetics, liberation philosophy, and Indigenous philosophies in Latin American contexts.

Course Readings and Course Schedule

To fully participate in the class, students will need internet access to reference Canvas and course materials. Readings are accessible digitally through the UNT Library course guide* and/or Canvas. Students are responsible for reading the assigned readings *prior* to the scheduled class discussions. Our **PHIL 3375 Library Course Guide*** is available at: <https://guides.library.unt.edu/phil3375>

The course schedule lists the readings, including required reading from, *Latin American and Latinx Philosophy* (2020), edited by Robert Eli Sanchez Jr. The reading schedule and assignment deadlines are accessible through Canvas.

Assignments

<i>Discussion Boards (2)</i>	20%
<i>Exams (2)</i>	40%
<i>Art Project</i>	20%
<i>Attendance</i>	10%
<i>Participation</i>	10%

Discussion Boards

There will be three discussion boards based on the course readings. Students will respond to the prompt on Canvas. The two highest scores of the three discussion boards will count for this category's credit. If the student scores at least 75% on the remaining discussion board, those points will convert to five extra credit points.

Exams

There will be two exams consisting of multiple choice and short essay questions. The second exam is the final exam.

Art Project: Ofrenda

The art project features three parts: an art installation, a presentation, and an essay. Related to course readings from week 4 to week 9, students will create an *ofrenda* (offering) that will be exhibited and presented at Elm Fork Gallery in the Environmental Sciences building.

A note on Late Submissions/Make-Up Assignments

Late submissions are strongly discouraged. However, I understand that life happens, so I accept late submission and allow make-up assignments. Permission to submit a late assignment requires the student to communicate with me. A penalty of 5% per day may apply. Attendance, participation, and the art project are assignments a student cannot make-up.

Attendance

The course is scheduled to meet in person twice a week. Students are expected to attend every class on time. However, students are allowed four absences without any penalty. After four absences, a 1% deduction will be applied to the attendance category for *each* missed class. Please note that attending less than 75% of a single class is considered an absence. If you miss a class, contact me and a peer to discuss the class material and assignments.

Participation

Student participation involves discussing the course materials, especially with an understanding of the argument and main claims, critiques, questions, and connections with other course materials. Participation will be evaluated through a variety of opportunities such as in-class quizzes, and class discussion, i.e., asking questions, offering analysis and/or commentary, engagement during small group discussions. Additional components include adherence to the technology policy and classroom etiquette as they impact the classroom experience and learning environment.

Technology policy

Given that technology is essential for this course, it is important you utilize devices such as laptops or tablets as an advantage and not as a distraction. As such, cell phones and headphones or earbuds are not permitted for use during class, unless stated by the professor. Continuous disruptions will impact the learning environment and may result in penalties from the student's overall participation score.

Classroom Etiquette

This course is going to discuss challenging topics that may engender strong responses to the subject matter. Our classroom is meant to be a space to investigate, understand, and engage with the material. To do so, classroom etiquette is important and, at the least, requires students to maintain open communication, respectful engagement, active listening, and self-reflectiveness.

Email Communication*

Students should check emails regularly. Any emails to me should follow proper email etiquette:

A clear title in the subject line, a detailed purpose of the email in the text box, and a closing/student's signature.

I will respond to emails within 48 hours, Monday – Friday.

*Before emailing me, double check for the answer in the syllabus, class notes, or any previous email correspondence.

Course Suggestions

- Check *Canvas* regularly for assignments, readings, and course updates.
- Actively check your grade and attendance throughout the semester. It is easier to address any questions or issues as they arise.
- Exchange contact information with at least two peers so you can discuss the course material and/or notes if you miss any information or class.

- Use the campus resources to your advantage. For example, the [UNT Writing Center](#) is a great place to develop your writing skills and to work through your writing assignments. For subject related materials resources, visit the [UNT libraries](#)
- Philosophy courses may be challenging, especially at first, so *please* do not hesitate to ask for help. I am happy to serve as a resource.
- Additional philosophy resources:
 - o Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Latin American Philosophy: <https://iep.utm.edu/latin-am/>
 - o Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Latin American Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/latin-american-philosophy/>
 - o Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Latinx Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/latinx/>

Non-Academic Responsibilities

You are a student among many other roles you fulfill in life. If our course and other priorities, such as family responsibilities, conflict, please speak with me. I will try to be flexible and accommodate your learning experience with outside classroom responsibilities.

UNT Policies

UNT Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to [UNT Policy 06.003](#), Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Artificial Intelligence Use

In this course, I want you to engage with the materials personally, develop your critical thinking skills, and strengthen your writing abilities. For these reasons, students are not permitted to use generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and related tools on assignments and submissions for credit. Moreover, using GenAI content without proper credit or substituting your own work with GenAI undermines the learning process and violates academic integrity (see [Policy 06.003](#))

ADA Accommodation

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities and different abilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter. Students will provide me with a copy of the letter and are encouraged to meet with me to discuss their course needs during office hours or through email. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/) at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/>.

Eagle Alert

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class and describe that the calendar is subject to change.