

Phil 4775, 001: Latin American Philosophy Fall 2024



Mercado Indigena by Julia Codesido

Course Information

Course Meetings: TTH 12:30 -1:50 pm
Location: Gab 114
Instructor: Dr. Denise Meda-Lambru
E-Mail: denise.meda-lambru@unt.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 am-12:00 pm in ENV 310U
For alternative times, email me to schedule an appointment.

Course Description

Philosophy 4775 will cover a broad scope of scholarship from Latin American and Latinx philosophical traditions. We will take a thematic approach to engage with debates from philosophies of the Americas, and to discuss important social concerns raised during the colonial era, revolutionary periods, and contemporary analyses. 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

Through a survey-style approach to the subject, students will gain an appreciation of the complex and diverse philosophical debates of Latin American and Latinx philosophies. Students are expected to identify the arguments in the readings, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each argument, and synthesize positions on debates in Latin American and Latinx philosophies. These tasks require students to exercise critical thinking skills, argumentation capabilities, and partake in philosophical reflections. Moreover, students will cultivate knowledge through a study of some practices deployed by Latin American and Latinx people to maintain social relations amidst the legacies of colonialism.

Course Readings

This course, our discussions, and student comprehension (as well as grades) are dependent on each student reading the material. Students should read the assigned material prior to class discussions.

Required text

Students are responsible for purchasing/renting/borrowing/scanning: *Latin American and Latinx Philosophy* (2020), edited by Robert Eli Sanchez Jr. Additional course materials will be available through *Canvas* and/or accessible as links through the course reading schedule.

Classroom Etiquette

This course is going to discuss controversial issues that may challenge our understanding, our patience, and our interactions with one another. In order for us to preserve a space that allows us to investigate and engage critically, students are asked to participate in respectful dialogue.

Given that technology is essential for this course, it is important you utilize it to your advantage and not as a distraction. Continuous disruptions will impact the learning environment and may result in penalties from the student's participation score. The [Code of Student Conduct](#) can be found at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students/>

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.

Email Communication*

Emails should follow proper email etiquette:

A clear title in the subject line, a detailed purpose of the email in the text box, and the 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 issues early on rather than at the end of the term.
- 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. Another fabulous resource are the [UNT libraries](#) for subject related materials.
- 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.

Philosophy Resources

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Latin American Philosophy:
<https://iep.utm.edu/latin-am/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Latin American Philosophy:
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/latin-american-philosophy/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, entry on Latinx Philosophy:
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/latinx/>

ADA Accommodation Statement

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. 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 to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. For additional information see the [ODA website](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/) at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access/>.

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 and work schedules conflict, please discuss the challenges with me. I will try to be flexible and accommodate your learning experience and outside classroom responsibilities.

Note: The course syllabus is subject to change by the instructor with sufficient notice to the class.

Assignments

Discussion Board (2)	20%
Exams (2)	30%
Critical Creative Project	40 %
Attendance and Participation	10%

Discussion Board

Students will respond to a discussion prompt and to peers who post on the topic. Discussion boards will be completed with *Canvas*.

Exams

There will be two exams consisting of multiple choice, multiple responses, true/false, and short essay questions.

Critical Creative Project

For the aesthetic project, students will create an *ofrenda* (offering), present their work, and submit an essay related to course materials from weeks 8 and 10.

Attendance

The course is scheduled to meet in person twice a week. You are expected to attend every class on time. However, you are allowed three unexcused absences, without any penalty. After three unexcused 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 absent. If you miss a class, contact me immediately to discuss the class material and assignments.

COVID Related Measures

Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should prioritize their health and that of their peers. This may require that one refrain from participating in face-to-face instruction. Students under quarantine are expected to notify the instructor, contact a peer for the missed materials, and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.

Participation

Students should attend class prepared to discuss the material. This includes understanding the argument and main claims as well as any critiques and/or questions you have. This will support class participation. Participation will be evaluated by a variety of opportunities such as short in-class quizzes, asking questions, class participation, small group discussions, and office hours presence.

Late Assignments

Late assignments are not generally accepted. However, I understand life happens, so, I do make exceptions for excusable reasons that include your health and a family member's health. Exceptions do not include computer errors, work schedules, or simply forgetting an assignment. Permission to submit late work requires we speak so I can determine an alternative submission date with penalty. After an absence, you should contact me within 48 hours.