

**SYLLABUS**  
PHI 4050  
**Latin American Philosophy**

Dr. Sergio Gallegos  
Fall 2014

Office: Central Classroom 307J

Office Hours: T & Th 11:30 to 2PM and by appointment

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**Required Texts:**

J. Gracia and E. Millán-Zaibert (eds.) *Latin American Philosophy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Prometheus Books. (Indicated below in the reading schedule with the abbreviation GM)

S. Nuccetelli and G. Seay (eds.) *Latin American Philosophy: An Introduction with Readings*. Pearson. (Indicated below in the reading schedule with the abbreviation NS)

P. Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Bloomsbury Academic.

In addition to these required texts, other required readings (indicated on the reading schedule below by \*) will be made available on Blackboard or will be sent by e-mail.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course aims to offer an overview of Latin American Philosophy. In light of this, we will be concerned throughout the course with discussing a number of central questions regarding the nature, the history and the scope of Latin American Philosophy as well as some of the central issues and problems addressed by Latin American philosophers. In particular, we will address during the course the following questions: What is Latin American philosophy? Can Pre-Columbian ways of thinking be categorized as philosophy? Is Post-Columbian Latin American Philosophy just an off-shoot or reflection of Western Philosophy or is it an original form of thinking? Can we meaningfully talk of Latin American Philosophy given the huge ethnic and national diversity as well the widespread social and economic disparities that Latin America exhibits? How have events such as the Spanish Conquest or the Independence wars influenced philosophical thinking in Latin America? What views do Latin American philosophers have on feminism and women's rights? Is there such a thing as a Latino/Latin American identity? What role should philosophy have according to Latin American philosophers in the struggles for liberation?

This is an advanced course in comparative philosophy designed to introduce students to certain philosophical issues and problems that arise in the history and current practice of philosophy in Latin America. This course covers fundamental questions such as the abovementioned ones. Important cultural achievements, in the form of original and complete works, will be emphasized. (The course satisfies the requirement of the System area for the Philosophy Major).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. a. Identify central philosophical topics and problems, especially within the context of the Latin American tradition.

- b. Apply key terminology and technical vocabulary that is used in philosophical works of Latin American origin, in particular crucial concepts such as self, identity and liberation.
  2.
    - a. Criticize possible answers and proposed techniques for answering some philosophical problems that arise in the context of Latin American history.
    - b. Suggest and consider alternate solutions that may involve either the reformulation or the rejection of the questions under consideration.
  3.
    - a. Appreciate the relevance of Latin American currents of thought to understand how Latin American philosophers have tried to address several problems of philosophical nature.
    - b. Critically address, both orally and in writing, some of the main questions that have shaped and continue to shape debates in Latin American Philosophy.

### **Grading for the Course:**

First research paper (6-10 pages): Due October 8<sup>th</sup> (30% of your grade)

Take-home exam: October 29<sup>th</sup> (20%)

Second and final research paper: (6-10 pages) Due Final's Week (30%)

First week assignment: (5%)

In-class presentation (details to be discussed): (10%)

Class participation: (5%)

Grades will be determined as follows:

A: 94-100

A-: 90-93

B+: 86-89

B: 84-85

B-: 80-83

C+: 76-79

C: 74-75

C-: 70-73

D: 60-69

F: 0-59

### **Important policy changes in grading**

#### **1. WITHDRAWING FROM THE COURSE**

##### **Withdrawal (W):**

- The Withdrawal (W) notation is assigned when a student officially withdraws from a course via [ConnectU](http://www.msudenver.edu) after the drop deadline (census date) and before the withdrawal deadline posted in the [2014-15 Academic Calendar](http://www.msudenver.edu/events/academic/): <http://www.msudenver.edu/events/academic/>. Deadlines differ proportionally for courses offered during part of a semester, including late-start and weekend courses. Students should refer to the Student Detail Schedule via [ConnectU](http://www.msudenver.edu) to review drop and withdrawal deadlines for individual courses. When a student withdraws from a course, no academic credit is awarded. The course remains on the student's academic record with a "W" notation and counts toward the student's

attempted hours. The course is not calculated in the student's GPA or quality points. After the withdrawal deadline, students may not withdraw from a course and will be assigned the grade earned based on the course syllabus.

**Administrative Withdrawal (AW):**

- The Administrative Withdrawal (AW) notation is assigned when a student, or representative, requests to be withdrawn from a course due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. When the "AW" notation is assigned, no academic credit is awarded. The course remains on the student's academic record with an "AW" notation and counts toward the student's attempted hours. The course is not calculated in the student's GPA or quality points.

Students may request an administrative withdrawal from the [Office of the Registrar](#) after the drop deadline (census date) posted in the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar. Deadlines differ proportionally for courses offered during part of a semester, including late-start and weekend courses. Students should refer to the Student Detail Schedule in [ConnectU](#) to review drop deadlines for individual courses.

Although requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, examples include the death of an immediate family member, serious illness or medical emergency, or other life-altering event. The student must provide supporting documentation to substantiate the request.

Students who request an administrative withdrawal may also request a tuition refund by filing an [Undergraduate Tuition and Fees Appeal](#) through the [Office of the Bursar](#).

- This policy is included in the online University Catalog in the Academic Policies and Procedures section:

<http://catalog.msudenver.edu/content.php?catoid=13&navoid=502>

## 2. INCOMPLETE POLICY

The Incomplete (I) notation may be assigned when a student, who was achieving satisfactory progress in a course and who had completed most class assignments, is unable to take the final examination and/or did not complete all class assignments due to unusual circumstances such as hospitalization or disability. Incomplete work denoted by the Incomplete "I" notation must be completed within one calendar year or earlier, at the discretion of the faculty member. If the incomplete work is not completed within one year, the "I" notation will convert to an "F." Students must have completed at least 75% of the course work to qualify for consideration for an incomplete. The student must be passing the course in order to be granted an incomplete. The course counts toward the

student's attempted hours, does not count toward earned hours, and is not calculated in the GPA or quality points until a grade is posted.

Determination of eligibility does not guarantee that an incomplete will be granted. Students who do meet the qualifications may request an incomplete from the faculty member who is teaching the course. The decision to grant an incomplete is up to the faculty member or at the department chair's discretion. The decision to grant an incomplete as an accommodation based on a student's disability shall be made by the faculty member or the department chair, if the faculty member is not available, in consultation with the Director of the Access Center.

If an incomplete is granted, the student and instructor should fill out and sign an Incomplete Agreement form to clarify what the student needs to do to complete the course.

Graduating seniors may not graduate with an "I" on their MSU Denver academic record if:

- The course in which the "I" was assigned is required for graduation, or
- a "D" or "F" assigned for that course would result in an overall GPA less than 2.00.

In order for an "I" to be changed to a letter grade, the incomplete work must be completed for the course for which the student originally registered. The student should NOT re-enroll for the same course, unless intending to retake the entire course. In this case, the student will pay tuition and fees.

### **3. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense at the University because it diminishes the quality of scholarship and the learning experience for everyone on campus. An act of Academic Dishonesty may lead to sanctions including a reduction in grade (up to and including a permanent F for the course), probation, suspension, or expulsion. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism, submitting the same paper or work for more than one class, and facilitating academic dishonesty. For definitions and more information, see the Student Engagement and Wellness website:

<http://www.msudenver.edu/studentengagementandwellness/studentconductandconflictresolution/services/studentconductservices/academicintegrity/academicdishonesty/> .

**If you engage in any kind of academic dishonesty (even unwillingly) in an assignment, this will immediately result in a failing grade for the assignment in question and may bring further sanctions. If you have any doubts or questions regarding what kind of sources you**

**may use for your assignments or how you should use them, I strongly encourage you to discuss them with me in advance.**

**4. MSU DENVER POLICY STATEMENT ON SEXUAL HARRASSMENT, GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Title IX addresses sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination and sexual violence. Sexual violence includes attempted or completed rape or sexual assault, as well as sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism, exhibitionism, verbal or physical sexuality-based threats or abuse and intimate partner violence. Title IX is helpful as it aims to create educational environments absent from all forms of sex discrimination. Students may report incidents in which the alleged perpetrator is a student to the Deputy Title IX Coordinator/Assistant Dean & Student Conduct Officer by calling 303.556.3559 or by going to Tivoli 311.

If the alleged perpetrator is an MSU Denver employee, visitor to campus or a non-student, please report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator/Executive Director of Equal Opportunity & Assistant to the President, by calling 303.556.4746 or by visiting the Student Success Building, #440.

Students who wish to make a criminal report of an incident should contact Auraria Police by calling 303.556.5000 or 911 on campus or other appropriate law enforcement agency if the incident occurred off campus.

**5. MSU DENVER POLICY STATEMENT ON STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Metropolitan State University of Denver is an equal opportunity employer; applications from minorities and women are particularly invited. Metropolitan State University of Denver does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation or disability in admissions or access to, or treatment or employment in, its educational programs or activities. Inquiries concerning the University grievance procedures may be directed to the designated MSU Denver officials. Inquiries concerning Title VI and Title IX may be referred to:

Dr. Percy Morehouse, Jr.  
MSU Denver Office of Equal Opportunity  
Campus Box 63, P.O. Box 173362  
Denver, CO 80217-3362  
Ph: 303-556-4746

Inquiries concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or 504 may be referred to:

Mr. Lloyd Moore  
Faculty & Staff ADA Coordinator  
MSU Denver  
Campus Box 47  
P.O. Box 173362  
Denver, CO 80217-3362  
Ph: 303-556-8514

Mr. Steve Monaco  
Student ADA Coordinator  
Ph: 303-556-3881

Mr. Greg Sullivan  
Director Access Center  
MSU Denver  
Campus Box 56  
P.O. Box 173361  
Denver, CO 80217-3361  
Ph: 303-556-8387

Otherwise, all inquiries may be referred to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 1244 Speer Boulevard, Denver, CO 80204, 303-844-3723.

## **6. CLASS ATTENDANCE ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Students at MSU Denver who, because of their sincerely held religious beliefs, are unable to attend classes, take examinations, participate in graded activities or submit graded assignments on particular days shall, without penalty, be excused from such classes and be given a meaningful opportunity to make up such examinations and graded activities or assignments provided that advance written notice that the student will be absent for religious reasons is given to the faculty members during the first two weeks of the semester.

Nothing in the paragraph above shall require MSU Denver faculty members to reschedule classes, repeat lectures or other ungraded activities or provide ungraded individualized instruction solely for the benefit of students who, for religious reasons, are unable to attend regularly scheduled classes or activities. However, presentations, critiques, conferences and similar activities involving individual students shall be scheduled to avoid conflicts with such students' religious observances or holidays provided that reasonable advance notice of scheduling conflicts is given to faculty members. Because classroom attendance and participation is an important aspect of learning, MSU Denver

students should not register for courses if regularly scheduled classes or activities routinely conflict with their religious observances or holidays (e.g., conflicts resulting in weekly absences for an entire semester). Any MSU Denver student who believes that an MSU Denver faculty member has violated this policy is entitled to seek relief under Section V of the MSU Denver Equal Opportunity Grievance Procedure.

## **7. STUDENT EMAIL POLICY**

Electronic communication (i.e., email and personal portal announcements) is a rapid, efficient and cost-effective form of communication. Consequently, reliance on electronic communication is expanding among students, faculty, staff and administration at MSU Denver. Because of this increasing reliance and acceptance of electronic communication, forms of electronic communication have become in fact the means of official communication to students, faculty and staff within MSU Denver. This policy acknowledges this fact and formally makes electronic communication an official means of communication for the University.

For more details on the Electronic Communication Policy, visit

[http://www.msudenver.edu/handbook/generaluniversitypolicies/#Electronic\\_Communication\\_Policy](http://www.msudenver.edu/handbook/generaluniversitypolicies/#Electronic_Communication_Policy)

### **Important notes regarding written assignments:**

Students are responsible to submit assignments on time. Written assignments must bear the name of their author, have their pages numbered and be stapled.

Students are required to submit a hard copy of their assignments. Electronic submissions will only be allowed for purposes of providing proof of timely submission, but will not be considered as fulfilling the assignment. It is the responsibility of students to provide a hard copy of their assignments to the instructor at their earliest convenience.

In case of late submissions, I reserve the right to accept the assignment. In addition, if I accept a late assignment, a grade deduction will be applied (a full letter grade per day).

### **Important notes regarding timeliness and attendance:**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you do not respond to your name being called, you will be marked absent.

If you show up late, it is your responsibility to remind me at the end of class to modify the record from “absent” to “late”. No changes will be allowed subsequently.

Constant absences and lateness will impact your final grade. Any three instances of lateness will be considered an absence. After three absences, your final grade will drop a full letter grade. After six absences, you will fail the course.

In case of absence, you are responsible for the material covered during the class period missed.

### **Classroom Behavior Policy:**

Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will be identified, warned and, if it continues, penalized appropriately. Respectful and non-disruptive behavior includes:

\*Coming to class on time and not leaving early; informing Dr. Gallegos if you must leave early

\*Coming to class prepared; being prepared means carefully reading the material by the assigned date. **Even if you have difficulty with it, still engage with the material**

\*Asking thoughtful questions based on lecture, readings, and discussion

\*Talking during class only when called upon or during class discussion by raising your hand.

\*Keeping class discussion on topic rather than talking about your neurotic boss, dog, boyfriend, or girlfriend

\*Not eating in class, though it is acceptable to drink water or coffee

\*Listening to Dr. Gallegos or your classmates, and not your iPods, etc.

\*Putting your cell phone on vibrate, and if you forget, not answering it if it rings during class; **No texting!!!** (I have to put this in bold because some students will still do this despite this warning; **if you do this, you will be immediately asked to leave**).

\*Not using your tablets or computers in classroom for non-class purposes (internet surfing, Facebook, etc.).

\*Not reading the newspaper, magazines, or other coursework

\*Not behaving in ways that threaten or disparage other students or Dr. Gallegos

\*Staying awake and paying attention during class

**\*If you are not prepared to do the above, stay home!**

### **Reading Schedule:**

Philosophy can be very difficult reading. Take your time to slowly and carefully read the material by the following date (if this becomes too unwieldy, we'll modify it):

Week 1: The nature of Latin American Philosophy

(\*) Carlos Pereda, Latin American Philosophy: Some Vices.

(\*) Guillermo Hurtado, Two Models of Latin American Philosophy.

Week 2: Is Latin American Indigenous thought Philosophy?

Introduction to Chapter 1 (NS) and Florentine Codex (NS)

Miguel León-Portilla, The Birth of Philosophy among the Nahuas (NS)

Week 3: Latin American Philosophy and the Spanish Conquest

Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda. Prologue to the members of the congregation (NS)

Bartolomé de las Casas. In defense of the Indians (GM)

Movie: Selection of Cabeza de Vaca (1992)

Week 4: Independence and Democracy in Latin American Philosophy

Simón Bolívar, The Jamaica letter and Address at Angostura (GM)



Juan Bautista Alberdi. Bases and Starting Points for the Organization of the Nation (NS)

Movie: Selection of El Siglo de Las luces (1982)

Week 5: Positivism in Latin America

(\*) Auguste Comte, A General view of Positivism, chapter 1

Arturo Ardao, Positivism in Latin America, (NS)

Week 6: The nature of man in Latin American Philosophy

Francisco Romero, Theory of man (GM)

Risieri Frondizi, The Nature of the Self (GM)

Week 7: Wealth and poverty in Latin America

Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, Physical aspect of the Argentine Republic (GM)

José Martí, Our America (GM)

Movie: Selection of The Motorcycle Diaries (2004)

Week 8: Latin American Identity I

José Martí, My Race and José Vasconcelos, The Cosmic Race (GM)

(\*) David Abalos, The Search for Latino Identity

Movie: Yo soy Alcántara (2005)

Week 9: Latin American Identity II

Jorge Gracia, What makes Latinos who we are? (GM)

Linda Alcoff, Is Latino/a identity a racial identity? (GM)

Week 10: Latin American Feminism I

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Response to Sor Filotea and Poem 92 (GM)

(\*) G. Anzaldúa, La herencia de Coatlicue from *Borderlands*

Movie: Selection of Como agua para chocolate (1992)

Week 11: Latin American Feminism II

(\*) G. Anzaldúa, La conciencia de la mestiza from *Borderlands*

(\*) Ofelia Schutte, Engaging Latin American Feminists today

Week 12: The role of Latin American Philosophy

Leopoldo Zea, The Actual Function of Philosophy in Latin America (GM)

Arturo Andrés Roig, The Actual Function of Philosophy in Latin America (GM)

Week 13: Philosophy of Education in Latin America I

P. Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Chapter I

P. Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Chapter II

Week 14: Philosophy of Education in Latin America II

P. Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Chapter III

P. Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, Chapter IV

**Final note:** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. In case this happens, you will be notified by e-mail.