

ETHN 119 - Race in the Americas

Spring 2008 - Syllabus

Prof. Denise Ferreira da Silva

Office. Hours:

Tues (3:00 - 4:30 p.m.) @ 225 Social Sciences Bldg (Ethnic Studies)

Weds (1:00 - 2:30 p.m.) @ 8 Gildred Latin American Studies Bldg (CILAS)

Or by appointment

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will overview national responses to the current global economic and legal program. More particularly, we will examine how they have affected black and indigenous populations in Latin America. We will privilege the effects of neoliberal policies - constitutional reforms, liberalization of the markets, etc - upon four Latin American countries' (Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Bolivia) political-economic and political-symbolic landscapes. This will allow us to explore the relationship between recent rearrangements of the global stage and the reconfiguration of racial subaltern and economic dispossessed subjects vis-a-vis this reconfiguration of the nation-state's legal and social structures.

#### EVALUATION

Participation - 20%

Mid-Term (take home) - 40%

Final Exam (take home) - 40%

#### Due Dates

Mid-term - May 7

Final - June 11

#### SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

April 2 - Introduction

April 9 - The Global Stage: The global context of racial subjection in Latin America

## BRAZIL

April 16: Overview of Brazil's racial ideology and the economic reforms of the past 20 years or so, and of its impact on black and indigenous Brazilians.

April 23: A portrait of contemporary racial movements, with a particular emphasis upon land struggles and deployment of cultural identity

## COLOMBIA

April 30: Overview of the effects of the liberalization of the economy upon Colombian society, and a discussion of how violence related to drug trafficking, the FARC's activities, and paramilitary groups impact black and indigenous Colombians

May 7: A portrait of how economically dispossessed Colombians of color organize in face of racial subjection and the pervasive violence

## MEXICO

May 14: Overview of the historical and current conditions of indigenous Mexicans, and of the effects of Free Trade accords upon Mexican economically dispossessed population, especially indigenous peoples, workers, and women.

May 21: A portrait of how the Zapatista struggle and Mexican workers' against the neoliberal agenda.

## BOLIVIA

May 28: Overview of the historical symbolic and economic subjection of Bolivia's indigenous peoples and peasants, with a particular attention to the effects of the neoliberal programme implemented during the past 20 years or so.

June 4: A portrait of the recent changes in Bolivia's political landscape, with an attention to the emergence of indigenous peoples as a powerful political actor, and the election of Evo Morales.

Readings available at [ETHN119-Spring2008.html](http://ETHN119-Spring2008.html)