GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
Dr. Emelio Betances

Spring 2013
Meeting times on MWF from 10:00 - 10:50 at Glatfelter Hall 316.
Office hours M and W from 2 to 5 p.m.
Office Location: Sociology trailer number 4
Email: ebetance@gettysburg.edu
Final exam: Thursday, May 9 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Society and Politics in Latin America: A Case Study of the Dominican Republic, Soc/LAS 267

GENERAL OBJECTIVES:

A study of historical, social and political development of the Dominican Republic. The course seeks to explain the tensions between dictatorship, democracy, social development, and international migration. These factors are seen in the context of capitalist development and the nation’s re-insertion into globalization.

1. Learning Goals for Students

- Recognize the Importance of Comparative Historical Analysis
- Understand the Legacy of the Authoritarian Tradition and the Difficulties it has created to develop a Democratic Regime.
- Appreciate the role of the Catholic Church in Dominican society.
- Recognize the impact of international immigration in the making of the Dominican Society past and present.

2. Goals for the course

- Explore the geographical, cultural, and historical context of Dominican development
• Explore the influence of Catholicism in Dominican political culture
• Recognize the influence of colonialism and neocolonialism in the making of the Dominican Republic
• Understand how the forces of globalization undermine development of a small nation sbookstate

Requirements: Supervised students’ work

1) Paper proposal: In preparing a proposal students must read five journal articles, look for at least 6 books on the their topic of study and read portions of a book or two to help them elaborate the proposal. They will also consult with the instructor on the process of elaborating the proposal = 10 hours.
2) Attend a library workshop for one hour instruction given by a librarian = 1 hour.
3) Attend two lectures or activities of the Latin American Studies Program = 3 hours.
4) Researching and writing a 15-page research paper includes: reading 5 to 6 books, re-reading the five research articles gathered for the proposal, consulting with the instructor on the framing of the research questions and other research related issues, writing a draft of the paper, taking it over to the College’s Writing Center, and editing the final copy = 20 hours.
5) Reading the novel (see instructions below) = 6 hours
6) Writing the review includes reading three reviews published in academic journals, drafting the paper, and taking it to the Writing Center. Finally, students will edit the final copy = 5 hours.

Total = 45 hours.

CLASS PARTICIPATION, ATTENDANCE, AND READINGS

This course is taught in a seminar format. This means that students must come prepared for every class. Class participation is an integral part of this course
and crucial for its successful completion. The instructor will ask questions about the readings in class, which might embarrass students who do not come prepared. Students must keep in mind that class participation must be meaningful. Attendance is mandatory. Students will be allowed one unexcused absence. Additional absences will have a negative impact on the grade. Sports events will not qualify for excused absences. Student must buy a memory stick to save their work as they go along. Computer failure the night before work is due will not be acceptable. Finally, it is advisable that students check their syllabus prior to planning their social activities.

All examinations must be taken as scheduled and assignments must be delivered on specified dates (See section on Important Due Dates). Make-up examinations may be provided for students with an official excuse. Should a student know that she/he will be absent on the day of an examination, she/he must discuss this with instructor as soon as possible. In case of unforeseen absences (illness or another emergencies), students must notify the instructor promptly, preferably before or on the day of the examination is scheduled.

THE RESEARCH PAPER

The research paper proposal is the first step in preparing an excellent paper. In their proposals students must explain why they have chosen a given topic, give a brief description of the project, and provide at least two important research questions about their subject of study. Proposals must include a preliminary bibliography on the topic selected for the research paper.

Consultations with the instructor will be useful to choose and define topics, discuss the appropriate theoretical framework for the research questions and select bibliographical references. The instructor will hand out a series of topics during the first week of classes so that students will have chosen their topics
prior to attending a library workshop arranged for the class. They will also receive a list of academic websites focusing on Latin American affairs.

It is expected that students will read at least three journal articles or portions of a book or two prior to writing their proposals. Student must check the course website at the College library, where they can find a list of recommended academic journals.

The paper must include a bibliography and proper references. Papers must have 15 full pages, title, introduction, body, and conclusion. Students must number all the pages and sign the honor code at the end of the paper. Finally, they might want to consult with the Writing Center at the CUB (extension 7574) to ensure the use of proper grammar and excellent organizational mechanics.

In the final version of their research papers, students must demonstrate that they have actually read at least three journal articles and consulted no less than 5 to 7 books.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BOOK REVIEW.

A book review is not a book report. A book report tells us what the book says. A review seeks to put the work under discussion in the larger context of the literature and how effectively the author communicates his/her arguments to the readers. Summarizing the content of the book is important, but it should not take more than 2 pages. The real task is to think about the book, how it relates to this course, and what it means.

Two-third of the review must focus on the following areas: 1) Why did Urania Cabral return to the Dominican Republic and what is her relationship with Trujillo? 2) What caused the plotters of the assassination to organize
and kill the dictator? 3) How does this novel relate to the main topics discussed in class? 4) What is your evaluation of this novel and why you hold such evaluation? These four questions are not necessarily separate, but you must address them. Take time to read this novel, think about it as you read it and try to summarize it in your own words. Avoid lengthy quotes.

This review must have 10 double-spaced pages. It must include a title page, indicating the title of the book, author’s name, your name, date, course and instructor’s name. Please number on the pages. Good grammar and correct spelling are essential. Consult with the Writing Center on the second floor of the CUB. This review must include a bibliography and proper references.

In preparing their work, students should consult journals that specialize in Latin American literature. A number of journals can be found in the College library. The MLA (Modern Languages Association) or Lanic web sites can be useful. Go to the site, type the name of the novel and you will find the latest reviews. These reviews will enable you to understand the novel better. Preferably, students will read reviews prior to reading the novel.

GRADING POLICY:

Research paper proposal: 5
Examination 1: 20
Examination 2: 25
Research paper: 25
Review of novel: 15
Films, lectures, and Class participation: 10

IMPORTANT DUE DATES:

Handout topics for research paper, 1/27
Research workshop at the Library, 2/1
Research paper proposal, 2/15
Mid-term examination, 3/1
Discussion of Vargas Llosa’s novel, 3/22
Critical Review of Vargas Llosa’s novel, 4/5
Latin American Lecture: 2/4. Other lectures TBA
Final exam: Thursday, May 9 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Vargas Llosa, Mario. The Feast of the Goat, a novel.
The following items will be provided by the instructor. Do not buy them.


PART 1: THE FORMATION OF THE MODERN STATE AND SOCIETY


Week 2: 1/28 - 2/1: Merchants and the Emergence of the Modern Dominican State. Betances, chapters 2, 3, and 4. (Library research workshop instructional Room (Room 20) in basement of the College Library on 2/1).

Week 3: 2/4 - 2/8: The U.S. Military Occupation (1916-1924) and the Emergence and Development of the Trujillo Dictatorship. Research workshop is scheduled in the Library’s instructional room No. 20. Betances, 5 and 6. Lecture by Mara Loveman on “Racial Classification and the State in Latin America” will be on 2/4 at 6:30 p.m. (Location TBA).


PART II: EARLY STAGES IN THE TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY


MID-TERM EXAMINATION: 3/1

Spring Recess begins March 8 at 5 p.m. and ends March 18 at 8 a.m.


PART III: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND POWER POLITICS

Week 10: 4/1 - 4/5: The Development of the Dominican Catholic Church, Betances, chapter 1, 2 and 3. Critical Review of Vargas Llosa is due on 4/5.


PART IV: A SOCIETY BETWEEN IMMIGRATION AND EMMIGRATION

