LATIN@ RELIGIOUS THOUGHT

This course examines the themes and issues involved in the construction and description of Latin@ religious thought. We will consider a trajectory of ideas/concepts leading to contemporary expressions by Latin@ scholars of religion, theologians, writers working to uncover the meanings of U.S. Latin@ religion and spirituality. While the origin of western religious thought resides in the North Atlantic archive of ideas, questions, categories and modes of rationality, this course attempts to locate Latin@ notions of religious thought via alternative routes of influence (in the context of, and in relationship to the dominant forms of religious thought and theology). The texts, lectures and discussions are meant to be suggestive and “constructive” in the sense that what constitutes a distinctly Latin@ religious thought is still currently an open question. The main work of the course is the discussion of texts/ideas (i.e., this not a lecture course) and the interrogation of what constitutes “Latin@ religious thought.”

Requirements

- Attendance/active participation: 10%
- Take Home Midterm: 25%
- Five writing responses on the reading: 25%
- Term paper: 40%

Texts (in order of assignment)

A Course Reader available at GrafikArt, 6550 Pardall Avenue, Isla Vista
Schedule of Topics

**Week 1**

January 6 – Introduction, Syllabus, Questions, Ideas, Definitions, Issues

**HISTORY & CONTEXT**

January 8 – The Indigenous / Nahua Cosmovision

*Florentine Codex*

Book 7:3 – The Birth of the Fifth Sun
Book 3:1 – The Birth of Huitzilopochtli
Book 2:24 – The Feast of Toxcatl

**Week 2**

January 13 – Nahua Ways of Knowing / Being

Sylvia Marcos, “Embodied Religious Thought: Gender Categories in Mesoamerica”
Inga Clendinnen, “Aesthetics”
James Maffie, “The Centrality of Nepantla in Conquest-Era Nahua Philosophy”

January 15 – Old Ideas/ New World: Iberian Religious Thought

Diego Durán, “The History of the Indies of New Spain”
Michelle González, “Seeing Beauty within Torment: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Baroque in New Spain”

**Week 3**

January 20 – Colonial Clashes

The Dialogues of 1524

Miguel Leon-Portilla, “The Spiritual Conquest: Perspectives of the Friars and the Indians”
J.J. Klor de Alva, “Martin Ocelotl: Clandestine Cult Leader”

January 22 – Colonial Sacred Synthesis / Guadalupe

“Nican Mopohua”
THE MODERN PERIOD

Week 4
January 27 – Latino History at the End of Colonialism / The Cosmic Race
José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*

January 29 – The Cosmic Race
José Vasconcelos, *The Cosmic Race*

LATIN@ CHRISTIAN THEOLOGIES

Week 5
February 3 – Community and Liberation
Roberto Goizueta, *Caminemos con Jesús*, Preface – page 100

February 5 - Beauty? Liberation?
Roberto Goizueta, *Caminemos con Jesús*, page 101 to end

Week 6
February 10 – Latina Theological Responses
Ada María Isasi-Díaz, Mujerista Theology: A Challenge to Traditional Theology”
María Pilar Aquino, “Latina Feminist Theology: Central Features”
Daisy Machado, “The Unnamed Woman: Justice, Feminists, and the Undocumented Woman”

February 12 – Latin@ Pentecostal Praxis: No Longer Waiting for Heaven?
Elizabeth Ríos,”The Ladies are Warriors’: Latina Pentecostalism and Faith-Based Activism in New York City”
Rudy Busto, “In the Outer Boundaries’: Pentecostalism, Politics, and Reies López Tijerina’s Civic Activism”
CHICANA RELIGIOUS BODY/THOUGHT

Week 7
February 17 – The (Re)Turn to the Indigenous
   Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*

February 19 – Queer Epistemologies?
   Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*

Week 8
February 24 – Religion, Politics, & Community
   Cherrie Moraga, “Heroes and Saints”

February 26 Religion, Politics, & Community
   Cherrie Moraga, “Heroes and Saints”

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES / TRENDS

Week 9
3.03 – Afro-Caribbean Ways of Knowing
   Mercedes Cros Sandoval, “Afro-Cuban Religion in Perspective”
   Edwin Aponte, “Metaphysical Blending in Latino/a Botanicas in Dallas”

3.05 The DeColonial Move(ment)
   Ramón Grosfoguel, “Transmodernity, Border Thinking, and Global Coloniality:
   Decolonizing Political Economy and Postcolonial Studies”

Week 10
3.10 – (Re)Visions in Latino Religion and Religious Thought
   David Carrasco, “America’s Americas: The Brown Millennium, Three Archés and the
   Ecumenopolis”
   José Argüelles, “My 33-Year Search for the Maya”
   Archaeology”
   Cherrie Moraga, “Codex Xerí: El Momento Histórico”
3.12 - Final Discussion and Summarizing / Assessment

Papers due: End of last class, Thursday 12 March