

LATM 220: U.S. Latina/o Theology

Spring 2023

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Meeting times: Thursdays online meeting (6:00 pm – 9:00 pm.) Dates: 4/6; 4/13; 4/20; 4/27; 5/4; 5/11; 5/18; 5/25; 6/1; 6/8.

Location: Via zoom

Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

This theological and pastoral course provides an interactive environment wherein students engage core concepts and praxis of Latina/o Theologies. Students will learn the ways in which Latina/o theologies engage in critical and faithful reflections from a multicultural identity in light of Latino communities particular social, historical, cultural, and ecclesial circumstances. Students will be invited to reflect upon their pastoral ministries in light of Latina/o theological contributions. Aside from weekly readings and discussion preparation, students are responsible for a final research paper and presentation.

Course Learning Objectives

1. Students will learn major points in the historical development of Latina/o Theologies (Hispanic Theology) in the US.
2. Students will reflect on social location and religious experience of the Latino communities and develop a basic understanding and appreciation of Latina/o Theologies' contextual roots and main concepts.
3. Students will describe and address cultural differences in Christian practice. (5B)
4. Students training for Hispanic ministry will develop an understanding of the mutually beneficial engagement between pastoral praxis and theological reflections, as an important component of their pastoral work.
5. Students will integrate their core theological competencies in their chosen area of concentration. (1B)

Required Books

Books are expensive. I have tried to ensure that the cost associated with this course will not be prohibitive. Therefore, I only list as "Required Books" those from which we will be reading numerous selections. I list as "Recommended Books" those from which we will read limited selections that will also be available on Camino.

- Elizondo, Virgilio. *The future is Mestizo: Life Where Cultures Meet*. Niwot, CO: University Press of Colorado, 2000.
- Espín, Orlando O. *The Faith of The People: Theological Reflections on Popular Catholicism*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1997.
- Isasi-Díaz, Ada María. *En la Lucha/In the struggle: Elaborating a Mujerista Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress; Northham: Roundhouse. 2004. 10th-anniversary ed.
- Montovina, Timothy and Ospino, Hosffman, *Reflexiones: Hispanic Ministry*, New York, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2021
- Articles and chapters available on Camino

Course Requirements

1. Class sessions will consist of both dialogical lectures and discussions in an attempt to understand the substantive concerns of Latina/o Theology, its contributions, and pastoral implications. The discussion will be based on the readings and reflections papers. The lectures will be a response to the questions raised in the reflection papers.
2. In preparation for the discussion sessions, each will prepare a reflection paper (double-spaced, 12-point font). Each student is only responsible for four (4) reflection papers throughout the quarter. Upload paper to Camino by Wednesday at noon. Each reflection paper should cover all the readings assigned to that particular week; for example, for week two, your paper should discuss Elizondo, Virgilio. *The future is Mestizo*. Use the following structure as a guide:
 - Key Insight:** I was surprised to learn that . . . (one paragraph developing your understanding of the central learning that you will take from these readings.)
 - Critical question:** I am still wondering . . . (one sentence in the form of a question)
 - Implication:** I have been challenged to . . . (one paragraph of personal/ministerial growth)
3. At least one presentation during the quarter, based on the reflection paper for that week. The goal of this exercise is to present a number of basic themes so as to facilitate the discussion.
4. Each student can choose for their final project one of the following options:
 - a. Write a research paper (10-12 double-spaced pages). Research papers should be aimed at further exploration of an author cover in class.
 - b. Write a 10-12 double-spaced pages monography exploring a single subject as treated by at least four (4) authors analyzed in class.

- c. Write a 10-12 double-spaced pages pastoral project that will help advance pastoral work. A pastoral project should include the following parts: 1) Contextual background; 2) theological framework using the authors discussed in class; 3) Objectives and results; 4) Methodology; 5) Implications.

Expectations

1. Each student is expected to read with understanding the assigned readings.
2. Each student is expected to be a co-creator of the course by being an active contributor to the discussion sessions and by preparing a thoughtful reflection paper each week.
3. Each student must complete the final project.

Zoom Policy

- Arrive on time and attend for the entire session.
- Engaged attendance is expected.
- Keep your video on so that your engagement is visible (Videos can be turned off if you are experiencing bandwidth issues, have a temporary interruption, or have made other arrangements with the instructor.)
- Keep your microphone muted, unless speaking.
- The use of video-conferencing software to record or replace in-person attendance is not allowed, except in exceptional circumstances, with the permission of the instructor and Program Director.
- Zoom presentations, images, or recordings may not be reproduced or redistributed

Evaluation procedure

1. Regular attendance and active participation in the discussions. (20%)
2. The quality of 4 weekly reflection papers (20%)
3. The quality of the presentations (20%)
4. Final project (40%)

Scale

94.0-100	A	87.0-89.9	B+	77.0-79.9	C+
90.0-93.9	A-	83.0-86.9	B	73.0-76.9	C
		80.0-82.9	B-	70.0-72.9	C-

Recommended books

Aponte, Edwin David. ¡Santo! Varieties of Latina/o Spirituality. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2012. New \$11.70/used \$11.19

Empereur, James and Fernández, Eduardo. 2006. *La Vida Sacra: Contemporary Hispanic Sacramental Theology*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Espín, Orlando O.(ed) 2005. *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Latino/a Theology*. Hoboken: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Facio, Elisa and Lara, Irene, (eds)2014. *Fleshing the Spirit: Spirituality and Activism in Chicana, Latina and Indigenous Women's Lives*. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press.

Fernández, Eduardo C. 2000. *La Cosecha: harvesting contemporary United States Hispanic Theology (1972-1998)*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press.

Hayes-Bautista, David E. 2017. *La Nueva California: Latinos from Pioneers to Post-Millennials*. Oakland, California: University of California Press.

Ospino, Hosffman (ed). 2010. *Hispanic ministry in the 21st Century: Present and Future = El Ministerio Hispano en el Siglo XXI: Presente y Futuro*. Miami, Fl: Convivium Press.

Schedule

History of Latinas/os and Latina/o Theologies

Week 1:

April 6: **Course Overview:** Syllabus review, expectations, introductions

Latinas/os in the US: David E. Hayes-Bautista, “America Defines Latinos,” 1-24; and Latino Post-Millennials Create America’s Future, 185-202 in *La Nueva California. Latinos from Pioneers to Post-Millennials*.