SYLLABUS

Dress in Latin America
Fall 2015, M period 5 (11:45-12:35) & W periods 4-5 (10:40-12:35)

Instructor: Eleanor Laughlin, Visiting Assistant Professor
Office: FAC 113
Email: elaughlin@ufl.edu
Office hours: M period 6 (12:50-1:40) or by appointment

Course Description
This course examines the roles of costume and textiles in displaying individual and group identity during the colonial and independence periods in Mexico and Peru, and additional selected regions of Latin America when possible. Although fashion has often been dismissed as ephemeral, this course posits that clothing played an important role in society, as a means of colonial control, as a form of resistance, and as an expression of identity in the public forum. Within the Latin American context, questions surrounding costume raise important issues associated with modernity itself including: class, gender, consumer culture in an era of global capitalism, and the rise of resistance to royal authority based upon Enlightenment principles.

This course will explore the following questions: How was class defined visually in the colonial period in Latin America? What role did costume play in the stratification of the classes? How was it used to express power both before and after the Wars of Independence? How has clothing been studied by scholars? How have artists and moderns engaged with costume?

We will examine clothing as a form of visual culture and visual language, which lends itself to conscious revival. We will consider evidence of repeated allusions to previous eras/issues through costume and explore the social and historical settings of these examples. Costume will be addressed as a cultural marker that speaks to the politics of race and gender. Ways in which people play with socially accepted and established notions of race and gender through clothing choice will also be considered.

Assigned readings will focus on paintings, prints, and photographs primarily from Mexico and Peru, and from other regions of Latin America whenever possible. Although the course will begin with and repeatedly return to an art historical foundation, some reading from the fields of philosophy, history, gender/cultural studies, in addition to those from art history will be required.

Course Objectives
To be conversant on the social issues of colonial and post-colonial Latin America, through the ways in which non-dominant groups chose to embody their own identities. In this course, there will be an emphasis on the discussion of assigned readings and the concepts presented therein, and on close examination of visual examples.

Required Readings & Reserves (Electronic and otherwise)
Readings will be available in a variety of forms. One book requires purchase:

Some articles/chapters will be available online via electronic reserve (ARES) ([https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/](https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/)) and/or through UF’s Canvas interface. Some texts may also be on reserve in the Fine Arts Library.

**Course Format**

Our time together will be spent in a variety of ways. There will be a traditional lecture component during which I will introduce new images and ideas that enhance or further extend those presented through readings. There will also be a field trip and small, as well as large, group discussions of the assigned readings and selected images. It is essential that students keep up with the assigned readings in order to participate appropriately. If I find that students are not reading the material assigned, I reserve the right to add additional written summaries to be completed on a weekly basis and to become part of the final grade.

**Requirements:**

This course has information available through UF’s e-learning website, called “Canvas.” The syllabus, handouts, assignments, and images for exams will be available there.

A passing grade requires completion all of the requirements of the course listed below. The final grade is comprised of the following elements:

**Grading**

- Attendance and Participation 10%
- Quizzes (3) 15%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%
- Critical Responses to Sources 25%

**Additional information**

Students with special needs applicable to the requirements for this course should notify me as soon as possible either after class or via email. The student must also be registered with the Office for Student Services, P202 Peabody Hall, (352) 392-1261, in order to determine appropriate accommodations.

If you find yourself experiencing a high degree of stress or struggling with personal issues, please be aware that counseling services are available on campus:

University Counseling Services/ Counseling Center  
301 Peabody Hall  
P.O. Box 114100, University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611-4100  
Phone: 352-392-1575  
Web: [http://www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu)

**Words of Caution**

Assignments turned in late will be marked down one letter grade each week. Papers turned in late will be marked down one letter grade for each day, unless I have approved – in advance – your
extenuating circumstance. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade. Passing requires completion all of the requirements of the course listed above.

**Dates**

September 7: NO SCHOOL – LABOR DAY
September 9: Class Trip to the Harn Museum
September 10: Harn Museum Night
September 23: HESCAH Talk at the Harn, “History and Glamour”
September 23: Quiz
October 14: Quiz
October 21: Midterm Exam
November 11: NO SCHOOL – VETERAN’S DAY
November 25: NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
December 9: Quiz
December 18: Final Exam, 12:20-2:30 pm FAC 201

**Assignment Schedule**

**Week 1:** **August 24:** Introductions, course overview, regions, and sources  
**August 26:** Readings

**Week 2:** **August 31:** Some Background  
**September 2:** Readings

**Week 3:** Panamanian Molas as Markers of Tradition and Transition  
**September 7:** NO SCHOOL: Labor Day  
**September 9:** Visit to the Harn

September 10
Attend the Harn Museum Nights celebration of the exhibition, “Patterns Past and Present: Arts of Panama.”

**Week 4:** **September 14:** Discussion of Harn Museum Trip  
**Readings**  
**September 16:** Placing Race and Class in Latin America  
**Readings**

**Week 5:** **September 21:** Textiles in the Early Colonies  
**September 23:** QUIZ and Readings

**September 23:**  
Attend HESCAH talk at the Harn, “History and Glamour”
Week 6: **September 28:** Casta painting and colonial Mexico  
**September 30:** Readings

Week 7: **October 5:** Costume in Colonial Peru  
**October 7:** Readings

Week 8: **October 12:** Reforms in Bourbon Mexico  
**October 14:** QUIZ and Readings

Week 9: **October 19:** Catch Up Day  
**October 21:** Midterm Exam

Week 10: **October 26:** Independence and Re-vision  
**October 29:** Readings

Week 11: **November 2:** Costumbrismo  
**November 4:** Readings

Weeks 12 & 13: **November 9:** Nationalism and the Rotating Gaze through the case of the China Poblana  
**November 9:** CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPERS DUE  
**November 11:** NO SCHOOL – VETERAN'S DAY  
**November 16:** Readings  
**November 18:** Reading

Week 14: Discussion Week: The Changing Fashion Scenes in Postcolonial Argentina and Peru  
**November 23:** Readings  
**November 25:** NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15: The Case of Frida Kahlo’s Costumbrismo  
**November 30:** Movie screening in class: *Frida*  
**December 2:** Frida Kahlo and Evita  
**Readings**

Week 16: Discussion Week: Cuban Masculanisms and Final Thoughts  
**December 7 & 9:** Readings  
**December 9:** QUIZ

December 18: 12:30-2:30 pm: **Final Exam**