

-- Condensed (Draft) Syllabus --

LATM 220: U.S. Latina/o Theology and Ministry

Prof. Christopher Tirres,
Santa Clara University
T, 6-9 p.m.

NOTE: As this is a new course that is currently under construction, the following information is intended to give students a snapshot of the course's main questions and overall orientation.

DESCRIPTION

This course explores the historical and theological development of Latina/o theology in the United States, beginning with its Latin American roots. Special attention will be given to the themes and approaches of U.S. Latina/o theologians, with a focus on their implications for ministry. The five modules of the course build upon each other in a way that parallels the pastoral paradigm of “see-judge-act-reflect.” In their final project, students will integrate and apply insights from this course into their own pastoral contexts.

TEXTS

Students are highly encouraged to obtain hard copies of the following books (new or used) to aid the process of active reading and direct notations in the text. That said, if students prefer to use an electronic versions, all of the following texts (with the exception of one) can be accessed as free e-books through SCU's library system.

- Aponte, Edwin. *¡Santo!: Varieties of Latino/a Spirituality* (e-book)
- De La Torre. *Liberation Theology for Armchair Theologians* (e-book)
- Elizondo, Virgilio. *The Future is Mestizo* (e-book)
- Gonzalez, Michelle. [*Embracing Latina Spirituality: A Woman's Perspective*](#)
- Isasi-Díaz, Ada María. *La Lucha Continues* (e-book)
- Matovina, Timothy and Hosffman Ospino, *Reflexiones: Hispanic Ministry* (e-book)

ASSIGNMENTS

Every week, students will respond to short prompts before class, engage in small and large group in-class discussions, and occasionally serve as a class leader and/or reporter. Short reflection papers (3-5 p. each) will be due at the end of weeks 2 and 7. A final paper (5-7p, due week 11) will serve as a complement the student's final slide-deck presentation in week 10. Papers may be written in English or Spanish (or Spanglish).

Tentative Schedule (subject to revision)

WEEK	MODULE	QUESTION, DESCRIPTION, and READINGS	Pastoral Focus
1-2	Module 1:	<p>“Latine faith”: Initial Impressions</p> <p><i>What is it, and in what myriad ways do people express it?</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Aponte, Edwin. <i>!Santo!: Varieties of Latino/a Spirituality</i> (e-book); Michelle Gonzalez, <i>Embracing Latina Spirituality</i></p>	“See”
3-4	Module 2:	<p>Latine Faith in Historical Perspective: New World Contact through the Preferential Option for the Poor (1492-1970s, and beyond)</p> <p><i>What does Latine faith look like when viewed through a historical lens? How can the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching and other relevant documents help us better to “judge” how we “see” Latine faith?</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u> De La Torre, Miguel. <i>Liberation Theology for Armchair Theologians</i>; Selected Readings from Catholic Social Teaching (Vatican II and beyond)</p>	“Judge”
5-8	Module 3:	<p>Contributions from U.S. Latine Theology (1983-present)</p> <p><i>How do the contributions of U.S. Latine theologians help shed light on the spiritual gifts of U.S. Latine communities of faith?</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Elizondo, Virgilio, <i>The Future is Mestizo</i> (e-book); Isasi-Díaz, Ada María, <i>La Lucha Continues</i> (e-book); María Pilar Aquino essay (PDF), and other select authors.</p>	“Judge”
8-9	Module 4:	<p>Hispanic Pastoral Interventions: The <i>Encuentros</i> and the Synod on Synodality</p> <p><i>How can our informed interpretations (which can be both sympathetic and critical) of recent statements about synodal processes help us to sharpen our pastoral approaches to Latine communities of faith?</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Matovina and Ospino, <i>Reflexiones: Hispanic Ministry; For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission (North American Final Document for the Continental Stage of the 21-24 Synod)</i> (PDF)</p>	“Judge”
9-10	Module 5:	<p>Final Project Presentations: <i>How can this course help you and those you serve in your current pastoral/ministerial context?</i></p> <p>Students will design a short workshop that integrates approaches and insights of the course so as to address a challenge with their own context.</p>	“Act/ Reflect”