

Dear Faculty members

The BSW committee has developed a new elective for the BSW program

Given the overdue agenda of providing knowledge about Latin America and matters concerning globalization, the BSW program plans to offer an elective on Latin American issues. It will be offered as an online compressed class.

**Why online?:** This course lends itself to online teaching since students will have to be active discussants on a daily basis and avid readers, particularly using the Internet and information from the less conventional media. We also hope to bring into the “classroom” a number of Latinos throughout the state, and when possible from Latin America, that could otherwise be prohibitive in a face-to-face course.

**Why compressed?** – Eight weeks plus a final: There is a strong push by our campus administrators, particularly our IUPUI Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of the Faculties, to offer compressed courses. At the same time, knowing that a course is compressed from the time that it is designed, will keep its rigor, and challenge the designer to plan from the very beginning how to accomplish the course objectives in a shorter period of time.

The approved description and objectives by the BSW committee are as follows:

### **Latin American Issues in a Global Society**

This course is designed for students interested in international issues, particularly in Latin America. This course focuses on selected current socio-cultural-political and economic issues that impact this region of the Americas. Particular attention will be given to the neoliberal policies that swept Latin America in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries and the impact of these policies on people’s welfare. It will focus on the rise of social movements and regional alliances that have emerged to advocate for the rights and wellbeing of individuals, communities, and countries of this awaking giant of the south.

As a result of having completed the requirements of this course, the students will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Understand the premises of the Global North and Global South.
2. Describe social development and social change within the cultural and political background of Latin America.

3. Analyze the range of challenges faced by Latin American countries at the national and international levels.
4. Analyze economic markets, international agreements, immigration and other social forces that impact local communities.
5. Analyze the effects of discrimination, economic deprivation, political marginalization, globalization, and oppression upon various indigenous communities.
6. Identify the main characteristics of community organizing by examining vulnerable communities in selected Latin American countries.
7. Analyze the impact of social movements, including those led by women, the unemployed, workers, and the landless.
8. Analyze the impact of technology on the lives of Latin American people.
9. Identify values and ethics in the disciplines represented in the classrooms that can promote global change.

**Possible selected readings from:**

Fletcher, B., Jr., & Gapasin, F. (2008). *Solidarity divided. The crisis in organized labor and a new path toward social justice*. Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press.

Healy, L. M. (2008). *International social work. Professional action in an interdependent world*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

Klein, N., & Lewis, A. (2004). *Sin patron. Stories from Argentina's worker-run factories*. Chicago, Illinois.

Queiro-Tajalli, I. (2008) *South America*. In T. Mizrahi and L. Davis (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Social Work* (20<sup>th</sup> ed.), New York: Oxford University Press and the National Association of Social Workers.

Queiro-Tajalli, I., & Campbell, C. (2002). Resilience and violence at the macro level. In R. R. Greene (Ed.), *Resiliency. An integrated approach to practice, policy, and research* (pp. 217-240). Washington, DC: NASW Press.

Sitrin, M. (Ed.) (2006). *Horizontalism. Voices of popular power in Argentina*. Oakland, CA: AK Press.

Stiglitz, J. E. (2007). *Making globalization work*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

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Online readings and numerous readings in Spanish for students fluent in Spanish.