



**SCMS 440A**  
**NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE**

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**SYNONYMOUS COURSES:**

- (a) replaces Soc 440A  
(course #)
- (b) cannot take Soc 440A/LAS 440 for further credit  
(course #)

**SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:**

**TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)**

LAS 440 Coursepack

Torres, Carlos Alberto, 1992, The Church, Society, and Hegemony: A critical Sociology of Religion in Latin America, New York: Praeger.

**OBJECTIVES:**

A student who successfully completes the course should have developed:

- greater knowledge of historical patterns of development of religion and society in Latin America
- a critical appreciation of substantive religious debate
- an increased understanding of the interplay of material and ideological social forces

**METHODS:**

A combination of lectures, discussions, AV presentations, and library research.

**STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:**

Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	30%
Research paper	30%
Participation	10%

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**COURSE CONTENT**

This is a sample class schedule for the course:

Week 1: Pre-Columbian societies and religious beliefs

Week 2: Religion in the reconquest of the Iberian peninsula — The nature of feudal Catholicism

Week 3: Religion in the conquest of the New World

Week 4: Religious debate on the new territories and their inhabitants — de las Casas, etc.

Week 5: Religion in the colonial period — syncretism, religion and politics, the expulsion of the Jesuits, etc.

Week 6: Religion in the struggle for independence and as a conservative force in independent Latin America

Week 7: The philosophical bases of early 20<sup>th</sup> c. revolutions — Mexico, Sandino, Martí

Week 8: The development of liberation theology — Vatican II, Medellin, philosophical content, social context

Week 9: Liberation theology in practice — Christian base communities, Delegates of the Word, social activism

Week 10: Catholicism and Marxism — Ernesto Cardenal, etc.

Week 11: Religion and revolution in Central America — splits in the church, a conservative pope, Romero, FSLN ministers

Week 12: Protestant evangelism — class and ideology, Guatemala

Week 13: Christianity in the 1990s — the social role of the church after the upheavals of the 1980s

Week 14: The survival of pre-Columbian beliefs as a social basis for resistance — Zapatistas, Amazonian peoples