

Elizabeth Schwall
History 300-0-26/Humanities 370-4/Dance 355-20
DANCE, RACE, AND NATION IN LATIN AMERICA
Office Address: TBD
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Day/Time: TTH 12:30 - 1:50 p.m.
Email Address: elizabeth.schwall@gmail.com
Maximum Enrollment: 30

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines the histories of Latin American dances and their relationship to developing notions of race and nation in the region. It studies the historical emergence and transformation of categories like "indigeneity," "blackness," and "whiteness" and how dance practices became associated with these identifications. It also traces dance developments in relation to nation-state formation and social stratification. In short, it explores a paradox: How did dance serve as a source of local cohesion *and* division by underscoring shared culture as well as racial, gender, and class hierarchies? Weekly readings move forward chronologically from the fifteenth century to present day.

AREA OF CONCENTRATION: Americas

TEACHING METHOD: Seminar

EVALUATION METHOD: Two response papers, one midterm, and a final

GRADING BASIS: Student option

READING LIST: Readings (book excerpts and articles) will be made available in a course packet from Quartet Copies

NOTES: Attendance at first class is mandatory

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: Elizabeth Schwall is a Historian of Modern Latin America and the Caribbean and the Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Dance Studies at Northwestern. Her current work examines the social and cultural history of dance and politics in twentieth-century Cuba, especially the relationship between cultural producers, audiences, and the state. A Graduate Research Fellowship from the Cuban Heritage Collection at the University of Miami, a Mellon Traveling Fellowship from Columbia University, summer research grants from the Institute for Latin American Studies at Columbia University, and the Doris K. Quinn Foundation Dissertation Fellowship supported her dissertation research and writing in Cuba, the United States, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. She has contributed book reviews to *Dance Research Journal*, *New West Indian Guide/ Nieuwe West-Indische Gids*, and *Cuban Studies* (forthcoming), as well as entries to the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism* and *Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Biography*. She has also written on current Cuban dance developments for *Cuban Art News*. Her broader interests include performance in the Americas, cultural diplomacy during the Cold War, the relationship between anthropology and artistic production, and the histories of migration and community building through art.