Workshop on Development and Cooperation Paths in Latin America

## Prof. Alfredo Luis Somoza

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The workshop aims to bring students closer to those Latin American problems that have strong relevance from an anthropologic, sociological and economic point of view since they derive from historical situations (formation of the family and the mentality relating to gender, or in the case of problems concerning the distribution and use of the land or the formation of cities) or concern the relationships between sectors of the population (as in the case of social inequalities and the relationship with the Afro-descendant minority and with the indigenous communities). The workshop will explore social issues in the light of the analysis of development cooperation projects implemented in the last 20 years by Italian NGOs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the end of the workshop, students will be able to (according to the Dublin Descriptors):

1. Demonstrate knowledge of anthropological and social issues regarding the Latin-American continent.
2. Identify the critical issues in the cooperation and development paths that concern the problems presented in class.
3. Carry out a cooperation project in an area of their choice and apply the multidisciplinary analysis and methodological instructions taught by disciplines such as anthropology and sociology.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Ethno-political and social issues in Latin America: from the ancient pre-Columbian civilization to the current order.
2. The indigenous and Afro-descendant problem in Latin America: culture, environment, and politics. The season of indigenous rights, the struggle against racism and discrimination against Afro-descendants. Development projects in favour of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. Focus on Brazil.
3. The female problem: from family configuration to the relationship between genders, to child poverty, to feminicide. Topics and aspects of cooperation in relation to women’s issues and childhood. Focus on Central America.
4. Land, peasant world and extractivism in Latin America and the Caribbean: environmental, political and participation issues. The Latin American rural world. The strategic raw materials for globalization. Agricultural cooperation. Focus on Mercosur.
5. The urban question: violence, coexistence, recovery and redevelopment projects of urban environments, prominence of grassroots groups, citizen participation. The drug and consumer market, and social consequences. Development cooperation projects on converting the drug market and urban regeneration. Focus on Colombia.
6. The international relations of Latin America. The difficult relations with the USA, the ambiguous relations with the EU, the new relations with China. The Italian development cooperation and the bilateral cooperation in Latin America.

***READING LIST***

1. Rouquie’ Alain*, L’America Latina*. Bruno Mondadori, Milan 2000.
2. The material will be provided during the course and the classroom and personal work will be based on it.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The workshop requires students to be interactive. The workshop will present case studies and documents on which reflection will be carried out. Analyses, testimonies and completed cooperation projects will be presented. Students will be asked to personally investigate what was presented in the workshop.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam will focus on the discussion of the cooperation projects developed by the students. The final mark will take into account the following elements: understanding the fundamental issues covered; competence in applying an interdisciplinary approach to the cooperation project presented;

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As it is an introductory workshop, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. However, students are expected to show interest and intellectual curiosity for the Latin-American world. Students are also encouraged to read the documents in the original language (especially Spanish and Portuguese).

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.