This is a Pass-Fail course aimed at uniting an academic experience with a service-immersion trip to Nicaragua. Enrolment is limited to participants in the Nicaragua service-immersion trip, May 13-23, 2009.

Requirements:
1. Attendance at all meetings is required. The class meets every Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 pm.

2. There are no required exams. Each student will be asked to read selected materials and to prepare a short presentation and paper on some aspect of Nicaraguan culture, history, politics, health, education, or related topic.

Required Readings:
Various documents as assigned, especially from the web site below; this site will be referred to as CGE Readings. Please read the assigned material before the class date so that you are able to participate in discussion of the topic.

http://www.augsburg.edu/global/its/pretrip/ereader/nicaragua.html

THE CLASSROOM IS A NO-CELL-PHONE ZONE. PLEASE TURN OFF ALL THINGS THAT RING, BEEP, OR OTHERWISE MIGHT INTRUDE.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is your obligation to be fully aware of the Boston College policies on academic honesty. ANY violation may subject the offender to severe penalty, including course failure. If you are not familiar with the Boston College policy on academic honesty, see the Boston College Bulletin, or on the web at:

http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity
Below is a "working" syllabus. We may add or delete readings as the semester goes on.

Calendar:

Week 1 - January 14 - Introduction

Week 2 - January 21 - Mandatory meeting with Health Services

- Review the "Health & Safety Information" from the CGE web site, above.

**CGE Readings: NOTE: To navigate the CGE Readings, look in the right-hand column (Current Issues in Nicaragua); most of the readings will be from this section. NOTE ALSO the middle column (Current Issues in Latin America); many of these articles, while not particular to Nicaragua, are of general interest for Central America. Read any of these that might interest you.

"Country cooperation strategy" - World Health Organization data on Nicaragua, found at: [http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccsbrief_nic_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccsbrief_nic_en.pdf)

"Health situation analysis and trends summary: Pan American Health Organization data on Nicaragua, found at: [http://www.paho.org/English/DD/AIS/cp_558.htm](http://www.paho.org/English/DD/AIS/cp_558.htm)

Week 3 - January 28 - Politics & History (1)

Read: Booth, *Understanding Central America*, Chs. 3 and 5; and Kinzer, *Overthrow*, Ch. 3 and pp. 98-100.

Week 4 - February 3 - Politics and History (2)

**CGE Readings:**

"Intellectuals condemn authoritarian Ortega"

"Is a softer side of Ortega emerging?"

"The mouse that roared"

The film *Under Fire*, a Hollywood story of the Sandinista revolution, will be shown this week on BC cable channel 53. As Hollywood movies go, it's not bad.

Week 5 - February 10 - Mass Movements for Revolution: 1960s-1990s

Read two handouts:

- “The Historic Program of the Frente Sandinista Liberacion Nacional, 1969”
- Archbishop Oscar Romero, "Last Sermon"
Week 6 February 17 - Globalization
Handout:
Xavijer Gorostiaga SJ “Nicaragua: Struggling to Survive and the Global Market Place”

CGE Readings:
"Belts tightening in Nicaragua"
"NGO official describes food crisis in Central America"
"Spanish hotel "confiscated" by Nicaragua"
"Nicaraguan market matures"

Week 7 February 24 – Liberation Theology
Handouts:
Pablo Richard “Liberation Theology in the New International Context”
Maria Lopez Vigil, “The Church of the Poor in Nicaragua: A New Appraisal”
Jesuits of Latin America “For Life and Against Neo-Liberalism”

The film Walker will be shown this week on BC cable channel 53. You might want to read, from the CGE site, the article "Three Questions."

Week 8 March 3 – Spring break – No class

Week 9 March 10 - Education
CGE Readings:
"One for the books"
Handout: "San Juan Declared Free of Illiteracy"

Week 10 March 17 - Religion, Culture and Art
CGE Reading:
"Champion of the Garifuna Culture"

Week 11 March 24 - Nicaragua-US relations
CGE Reading:
"Empire of liberty"
"Former Nicaraguan Official Wins U.N. Assembly Presidency"
"Ortega leads anti-US critique at Latin American food summit"
"Some Leaders Reject US Drug War"
"The Sandalistas who never left"
"U.N. leaders wrong on rights"
Handout: Brentlinger, unpublished work

The film Burn will be shown this week on BC cable channel 53.

Week 12 April 1 – Nicaraguans in Boston (Guest speaker(s))
**GROUP RETREAT, MARCH 27-29**

Week 13 April 8 - EASTER WEEKEND – NO CLASS

Week 14 April 15 – Human Rights

*CGE Reading:*

"U.S. Slips in Peace Rankings"
"What is colonization?"

Week 15 April 22 – Agriculture & Environment

*CGE Reading:*

"Belts tightening in Nicaragua"
"Damages in Dole case are reduced"
"Who suffers from climate change?"

Week 16 April 29 - LAST DAY OF THE CLASS. We leave for Managua two weeks from today!

**Supplementary Readings:**


This is a solid academic work, an excellent introduction to the history and politics of Central America.

Read Chs. 3 and 5.


Brown, Timothy C. *Causes of Continuing Conflict in Nicaragua: A View from the Radical Middle*.

F 1528 .B778 1995

A 44-page booklet that offers the interesting (quirky?) thesis that the "revolution" and its aftermath are continuations of struggles among traditional Nicaraguan oligarchic families.


E98.E85 G65x 1991

Read esp. pp. Ch 1 and pp. 144-173
   Gaspar was a parish priest in San Juan del Sur. This small book is an interesting introduction to Gaspar, and to the Sandinista era, especially as it affected the area around San Juan del Sur.

   Read Introduction and Chs. 1-2.

   The first edition is in O'Neill: F1528 .K57 1991; the second edition is on order.

   Read Ch. 3 and pp. 98-100.
   E744 .K49 2006

   F1528.M882

Plunkett, Hazel. *Nicaragua in Focus*, In Focus Guides, 2002.
   (A small, short, non-academic introduction to various aspects of Nicaragua—its people, politics, and culture.)

   Read the Prologue, Introduction, and Ch. 1.

   ISBN: 0805053115