

Course name: Latin American Cultures and Civilizations

- ✓ *Hours of Instruction per Week: 4*
- ✓ *Total weeks: 15*
- ✓ *Total Hours of Instruction: 60*
- ✓ *Courses transferable to ECTS*
- ✓ *Courses transferable to U.S. System*
- ✓ *Recommendation: Advanced written and spoken English*

Course Description

Since its discovery until the present, Latin America has been imagined and conceived as the “New Continent”, a place for utopia, but also as a space of uneven modernity and extreme forms of violence. The course explores distinctive cultural aspects of Latin America by looking at the ways it has been represented in readings spanning from the diaries written by Christopher Columbus to the texts of the Cuban Revolution, the iconography of Peronismo, or the recent debates on Neoliberalism, Globalization and Populism. Drawing on essays, but also on short-stories, paintings, photographs, and films, the course addresses a set of questions that lie at the heart of how one thinks about Latin America. What is expected from “Latin America”? What were the different “ideas” that Latin America embodied? What are the forms of “Latin American” culture? How are the different “cultures” connected? The purpose of the course is threefold: to introduce students to problems central to Latin America, to familiarize students with a variety of non-fictional writings in Spanish, such as essay, chronicle, journalism and documentary films, and to sharpen student’s skills as analytical readers.

Course Requirements

Following UB policies, students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. Sliding the ID card is the only way to track attendance. Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class, and do one oral presentations in pairs or in groups of three. During the semester, students will write two short (2-3 pages) papers. The requirements also include an midterm and a final comprehensive exam. In addition to this, each student will be expected to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue. As part of this, students will be asked to bring two specific comments regarding the required readings in order to discuss in class. Any student caught plagiarizing will be given a “no credit” for all courses taken in the semester. As part of the course requirements, the students will have to visit the Evita Museum in the assigned week (see academic calendar below).

Grading Policy

- Participation 10 %
- Oral Presentation (1) 15 %
- Midterm 20 %
- Final Exam 35 %
- Short Essay (2) (2 pages) 20 %

Academic Calendar

Week 1

The "New World": Accounts of the Discovery and the Conquest:

The ideas of Latin America. Travellers & Discoverers

Christopher Columbus. "Letter to Luis de Santangel"

Amerigo Vespucci. Account of his first voyage.

Edmundo O'Gorman. The invention of America (selection)

Tzvetan Todorov. The Conquest of America (selection 14-33)

Week 2

Hernan Cortes. "The Second Letter" (excerpts).

Bernal Díaz del Castillo. The conquest of New Spain. (selection).

Week 3

Colonial Encounters and its Consequences

Great pre-Columbian civilizations (chapters from the Popol Vuh: The Sacred Book of the Ancient Quiche Maya and the Origin of the Aztecs) Film. Cracking the Maya Code. Documentary.

J.H. Elliott. "The Uncertain Impact". "Cortés and Montezuma"

John Hemming, "Atahualpa & Pizarro"

Oral presentations will be assigned.

Week 4

Revisiting the Conquest

Bartolomé de las Casas. A short account of the destruction of the Indies. **Oral presentation on Bartolomé de las Casas.**

Werner Herzog. Aguirre, the wrath of God (screening in class). **First short paper** / Prompt by email.

Week 5

Poma de Ayala Nueva Crónica del Buen Gobierno

Simón Bolívar. "Letter of Jamaica".

José Martí "Our America". **Oral presentation** on Simón Bolívar and José Martín. **Short Paper is due**

Week 6

Domingo F. Sarmiento. Facundo. Civilization or Barbarism (Selection). Lucio V. Mansilla "A Visit to the Ranquel Indians" (146-153) **Oral presentation.**

Far away & long ago, (Chapter 7) W.H. Hudson and The Voyage of the Beagle, Charles Darwin (Chapter 6) & from Rough notes taken during some rapid journeys across the Pampas, "The Pampas Indians" & "The Town of Buenos Aires" by Francis Bond Head. **OP on English Travelers.**

Week 7

Film. "Sor Juana" María Luisa Bemberg

Alejo Carpentier: The kingdom of this world

Week 8

Carlos Fuentes. "Land and Freedom: The Mexican Revolution"

Juan Rulfo. "Tell Them Not to Kill me", & "No Dogs Bark". **Oral presentations** on Mexican Muralists / Rulfo/

Memories of Under-development, (T. Gutierrez Alea)

Week 9

Fidel Castro. "History will absolve me" (excerpts).

Miguel Barnet. "Biography of a Runaway Slave" (58-64) Salut les cubains (Agnès Varda. 1963) (27min film) Third Cinema: Julio García Espinosa, "For an Imperfect Cinema" (458-65).

Midterm Exam

Week 10

The aesthetics of Peronism

Daniel Santoro, Manual del niño peronista Julio Cortázar, "House Taken Over". **Oral presentation** on Cortázar.

J.M. Taylor: "The Myth of the Myth". "Queen of Hearts" documentary Rodolfo Walsh, "That Woman". Visit to the Evita Museum. Research and write a short paper on Evita. **Oral presentation** on Walsh

Week 11

Dictatorships in the Southern Cone

Fernando Solanas. The hour of the Furnaces (Argentina, 1968) /discussion.

Patricio Guzmán. Nostalgia of the Light (Chile, 2010) Repression in Chilean Dictatorship.

Week 12

Andres Di Tella. Montoneros (Argentina, 1998) / screening in class. **Short paper on Evita is due**

Finnegan: Silver or Lead: The drug cartel La Familia gives local officials a choice: Take a bribe or a bullet. Ejército Zapatista. "Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle"

Week 13

Invited Guest from the Brazilian Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Lecture about F-H Cardoso, Lula da Silva and Dilma Rousseff's presidencies.

Even the Rain, film by Iciar Bolain... about the Water War in Bolivia.

Week 14

"The Maquiladoras", William Langewiesche.

Film: Lourdes Portillo, Señorita extraviada. Discussion.

Oral Presentation on the Zapatistas & Maquiladoras.

Review in class. Each student should bring a subject she/he feels strongly about.

Week 15

Final exam

Final Grade Sheet and signature of "Hoja de situación" (attendance is mandatory).

Bibliography

- Brennan, Timothy. "The Nation Longing For Form." Nation and Narration. Homi K. Bhabha, ed. London: Routledge, 1990. 44-70.
- Chomsky Aviva et al. The Cuba Reader. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003)
- Cortázar, Julio. "The Gates of Heaven" (comic).
- Elliott, J.H. "The Uncertain Impact" The Old World and the New (1429-1650) Cambridge UP, 1970. 1-27
- Galeano, Eduardo. Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent. New York: monthly Review Press, 1977.
- Gené, Marcela. Un mundo feliz. Imágenes de los trabajadores en el primer peronismo. BA: Fondo/Universidad San Andrés, 2005.
- Gilbert, Joseph and Timothy Henderson, ed. The Mexico Reader. Durham: Duke University Press, 2002.
- Halperín Donghi, Tulio. Contemporary History of Latin America Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.
- James, Daniel. "Perón and the People." Resistance and Integration: Peronism and the Argentine Working Class, 1946-1976. Cambridge UP, 1988. 273-95.
- Kraniauskas, John. "Rodolfo Walsh y Eva Perón: "Esa mujer". Nuevo Texto Crítico 12: (1993): 105-19.
- Levine, Robert M & John Crocitti, ed. The Brazil Reader. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.
- Martínez, Tomás Eloy. Santa Evita. Trad. Helen Lane. New York: Vintage, 1996.
- Marysa Navarro. "Evita, una de las primeras desaparecidas políticas de Argentina." (JSTOR)
- - - -. "Wonderwoman was Argentine and her Real name was Evita." Canadian Journal of Latin American & Caribbean Studies 24. London: 1999. 133.
- Navarro, Marysa, "Evita and the Crisis of 17 October 1945." Journal of Latin American Studies, 12: 1 (Feb. 1980).
- Perlongher, Néstor. "Evita Live" My deep dark pain is love. Ed. Winston Leyland. San Francisco: Gay Sunshine Press, 1983. 53-57.
- Perón, Eva. In My Own Words (La razón de mi vida).
- Plotkin, Mariano. "May Day and 17 of October: Political Rituals and Peron's charisma" and The Fundacion Eva Peron, in Mañana es San Perón: A Cultural History of Peron's Argentina. Delaware: Scholarly Resources, año. 39-82.
- Plotkin, Viviana. Cuerpo femenino, duelo y nación. Un estudio de Eva Perón como personaje literario. BA: Corregidor, 2003.
- Rochfort, Desmond. Mexican Muralists: Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1993.
- Rosano, Susana. Rostros y máscaras de Eva Perón. Imaginario populista y representación. Rosario: Beatriz Viterbo, 2006.

- - - -. "Apuntes para pensar la obra de Daniel Santoro." Políticas del sentimiento. 241-54.
- Santoro Daniel. Manual del niño peronista. BA: La Marca, 2002.
- Sarlo, Beatriz. La pasión y la excepción. BA: Siglo XXI, 2003.
- Savigliano, Marta. "Evita: The Globalization of a National Myth" (Jstor)
- Soria, Claudia. Los cuerpos de Eva: anatomía del deseo femenino. Rosario: Beatriz Viterbo, 2005.
- Soria, Claudia, Paola Cortés Rocca, and Edgardo Dieleke ed. Políticas del sentimiento: el peronismo y la construcción de la Argentina moderna. BA: Prometeo, 2010.
- Starn, Orin et al. The Peru Reader . Durham: Duke University Press, 2005.
- Summer, Doris. Foundational Fictions: The National Romances of Latin America. Berkeley and Los Angeles: U of California P, 1991.
- Taylor, J.M. "The Myth of the Myth" and "The Power of a Woman." Eva Peron: The Myths of a Woman. Oxford: U of Chicago P, 1979. 1-19.