

**LAST 211.01: Latin America: People, Places and Popular Culture**  
Fall 2015, T TR 11:00-12:15

**Dr. Kathryn Reese-Taylor**  
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**Office: ES 850**  
**Office Hrs: Thursday 9:30-11:00**  
**or by appointment**

**Course Description and goals:**

This course explores the people of Latin America, their landscapes, and their cultures, to provide an interdisciplinary introduction to the region. We reflect on the diversity and cultural dynamism of this exciting region by focusing on their expression in festivals, music, literature, architecture, cinema, visual arts, and cuisine. Attention is paid to Latin American politics, economics, religion and popular social movements in terms of their relevance to contemporary cultural expression. Finally, we consider how Latin America enters into our lives and our spaces as Canadians and Albertans, through our own tourism in the region, and through international migration northward of people from the region.

**Objectives of the course:**

After taking this course, students will

- Know the political geography of Latin America
- Be familiar with the historical origins of the region
- Understand the roots of cultural diversity in the region
- Understand how ethnicity and class are expressed in the cultural diversity of the region
- Be familiar with popular culture and how it provides a space for the performance and negotiation of this diversity
- Understand the linkages between Latin America and Canada
- Have developed an intellectual curiosity about Latin America
- Have improved writing skills
- Have improved reflective and critical thinking skills

**Textbooks and Readings:**

**González, Alfonso**

2011 Landscape and Settlement Patterns. In *Latin America Its Problems and Its Promise, A Multidisciplinary Introduction*, edited by Jan Knippers Black, Westview Press Boulder CO. (Available as an online book through the library).

**Prevost, Gary and Harry Vanden**

2010 *Latin America: An Introduction*, Oxford University Press. (ONLY Chapters 2, 3, and 4). (Available at the UofC Library: material reserved at the Reading Room of the Department of Archaeology).

**Shaw, Lisa and Dennison, Stephanie**

2005 Pop Culture Latin America. ABC CLIO Pubs (available as an online book through the library CREDO Reference).

Course grading consists of a learning EPORTFOLIO containing the following items:

- 1. **Notes (to be posted in your ePortfolio in D2L continually throughout the semester, however, I will check the notes and provide feedback twice during the semester, on 8 Oct & 8 Dec):** **50%**
    - Notes on readings 15%
    - Reaction papers on all audiovisuals seen in class 10%
    - Reflections on class material 15%
    - Other information posted and linked to class themes 10%
  - 2. **Study questions on Gonzalez and Prevost and Vanden chapters posted on D2L on 24 Sept, due 29 Sept)** **10%**
  - 3. **Book report on ethnography (due 20 Oct)** **15%**
  - 4. **Analysis of a creative piece from Latin American (novel, short story, poem, visual art, music including lyrics) (due Nov 20)** **15%**
  - 5. **Final reflection (questions posted on D2L on 8 Dec, due 15 Dec)** **10%**
- 100%**

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: All assignment should be submitted via the e Portfolio in D2L or handed in person to the instructor during class or office hours.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

**Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments posted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

**Grading System**

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99

A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

## **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

Posted on D2L

### **Ethics**

n/a.

### **Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. This applies to material cut and pasted from websites. The material must be cited and, if it is a direct paste, should be presented within quotations marks.

Remember, you must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information**

Class etiquette discourages use of electronic media during lectures. This is distracting to students around you. Also, it interferes with your concentration on the lecture material.

## **Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information**

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

### **Writing:**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

### **Writing Support:**

Need help coming up with a thesis statement? Confused about the proper way to use footnotes? Just want to ask someone about your written assignment for this or any other history class? The Department of History offers small-group and individual writing support for all students registered in a History class from some of our top graduate students. Check with your instructor for the scheduled weekly drop-in times, sign-up for one of the writing workshops, or arrange to meet with our writing tutors individually. More information about this program will be posted on the Department of History web site: [hist.ucalgary.ca](http://hist.ucalgary.ca).

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Copyright:**

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print coursepack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books in the library reserve room. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

### **Red Box Policy:**

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (SS 656). Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of

the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

### **Universal Student Ratings of Instruction:**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI Surveys.

### **Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

### **Other Useful Information:**

Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

*Safewalk and Campus Security*: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

*Freedom of Information*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

*Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

*Safewalk*: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

*Student Union Information:* <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

*Graduate Student Association:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>

*Student Ombudsman Office:* <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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