

LAST 211: Latin America: People, Places, and Popular Culture
University of Calgary
Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Jose M. Gordillo

Classes: Monday, Wednesday, Friday (3:00 – 3:50)

Classroom: ST 127

Office: SS 615

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday (4:00 – 4:50) or by appointment.

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Course description:

“Does Latin America really exist?” This is the initial and intriguing question we must face when we start reading the course textbook. After all, the author argues, Colombian or Mexican schoolchildren learn their own Colombian or Mexican history, not a generic “Latin American” history. Therefore, “Latin America” would seem to be an abstraction, perhaps more useful to people outside the region. Nevertheless, he concludes, underlying commonalities among the peoples of the nineteen countries make it meaningful to speak of Latin America.

In this course we will explore how peoples in Latin America make sense of their places and cultures, by grasping their historical commonalities. Therefore, an introduction to Pre-Colonial, Colonial, and Modern Latin American history will allow us to consequently learn, review, and debate on four analytical topics: Urban Challenges; Agriculture: Food and Farmers; Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants; and Changing Gender Roles.

In order to address these topics, we will use academic articles, films, literature, and documentaries. Groups of students will deliver oral presentations and a short individual article review will be requested. Students will also write reviews on two films, on a woman’s diary, and on two documentaries. Finally, we will wrap-up the course content by addressing some contemporary economic, political, and cultural challenges that Latin American peoples are currently confronting.

Course Text Book:

- Berryman, Phillip. **Latin America at 200. A New Introduction.** University of Texas Press, 2016.

Literary Reading.

- Maria de Jesus, Carolina. **Child of the Dark: The Diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus.** Signed Classics, 2003.

Selected readings:

- Selected readings are academic articles and books chapters to be used for oral presentations and review purposes. These readings will be on reserve in the library or posted in D2L.

Recommended Reading:

- “Writing a journal article review.” Retrieved from: <https://academicskills.anu.edu.au/node/492>

Course Assignments and Grading:

Midterm	10%	October 28
Oral Presentation	10%	
Film Review (2)	20%	
Literary Review	10%	
Documentary Review (2)	20%	
Article Review	10%	
Final Exam	20%	TBA by Registrar

You must complete all assignments to pass the course

- **Midterm and Final Examinations:**

Both the midterm and the final examinations are comprehensive. They will include material from the textbook, lectures, oral presentations, and in-class discussions. The midterm examination will be held in class on **October 28**. The final examination will be held during the examination period (**December 12 - 22**), at the time and place to be scheduled by the registrar.

- **Oral Presentation.**

Oral presentations will be delivered in groups of 3-4 students. Each group will orally present an assigned article or a book chapter from the selected readings list. During the oral presentation session (30 minutes), the group will describe the article or the chapter’s content and identify its central idea. The articles and chapters in the list will be either posted on D2L, or on one hour reserve at the library. The group and the individuals’ performance in the oral presentation sessions will be evaluated by the instructor.

- **Film Review.**

Students will watch and discuss in-class, two films on urban and gender violence. Based upon a questionnaire addressing central topics of both films, students will write short film reviews.

- **Literary Review.**

Students will read a female favela dweller’s diary in Brazil. Based upon a questionnaire, which addresses some social issues described in the diary, students will write a short literary review.

- **Documentary Review.**

Students will watch and discuss in-class, two documentaries on popular dance and food. Based upon a questionnaire, students will write short documentary reviews.

- **Article or Chapter Review.**

Each student will write an individual review on the article or chapter addressed in her/his oral presentation. A guide for writing an article review can be found in the recommended reading web link.

Oral Presentations Schedule:

Group 1	Urban Challenges	Class 8 (09/28)
Group 2	Urban Challenges	Class 9 (09/30)
Group 3	Urban Challenges	Class 10 (10/03)
Group 4	Agriculture: Food and Farmers	Class 15 (10/17)
Group 5	Agriculture: Food and Farmers	Class 16 (10/19)
Group 6	Agriculture: Food and Farmers	Class 17 (10/21)
Group 7	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants	Class 22 (11/02)
Group 8	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants	Class 23 (11/04)
Group 9	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants	Class 24 (11/07)
Group 10	Changing Gender roles	Class 28 (11/18)
Group 11	Changing Gender roles	Class 29 (11/21)
Group 12	Changing Gender roles	Class 30 (11/23)

Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments

(Readings must be finished for the week on which they are assigned)

WEEK 1:

Conquest and Colonial Order. Forging New Nations.

Class 1 (09/12):

Introduction.

Class 2 (09/14):

Achievements of early Americans. Conquest and settlement.

Class 3 (09/16):

Colonial society: economy, governance, religion.

Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 10, p. 154-169.

WEEK 2:

Forging New Nations. The Zigzag Path to Democracy and Development.

Class 4 (09/19):

Seeking order and progress. A revolution and the rise of nationalism.

Class 5 (09/21):

Cuba in the 1960's. Under the military boot.

Class 6 (09/23):

Central American agony. Deb crisis and globalization.

Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 11 and 12, p. 170-209.

WEEK 3:

Urban Challenges.

Class 7 (09/26):

Lecture: Urban Challenges.

Class 8 (09/28):

Oral Presentation: Group 1.

Class 9 (09/30):

Oral Presentation: Group 2.

Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 2, p. 19-36.

WEEK 4:

Urban Challenges.

Class 10 (10/03):

Oral Presentation: Group 3.

Class 11 (10/05):

Film (1) Exhibit.

Class 12 (10/07)

Film (1) Exhibit.

WEEK 5:	Agriculture: Food and Farmers.
Class 13 (10/12):	Film (1) Discussion.
Class 14 (10/14):	Lecture: Agriculture: Food and Farmers. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 3, p. 37-50.
WEEK 6:	Agriculture: Food and Farmers.
Class 15 (10/17):	Oral Presentation: Group 4.
Class 16 (10/19):	Oral Presentation: Group 5.
Class 17 (10/21):	Oral Presentation: Group 6.
WEEK 7:	Agriculture: Food and Farmers.
Class 18 (10/24):	Documentary (1) Exhibit.
Class 19 (10/26):	Documentary (1) Discussion.
Class 20 (10/28):	MIDTERM EXAM.
WEEK 8:	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.
Class 21 (10/31):	Lecture: Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.
Class 22 (11/02):	Oral Presentation: Group 7.
Class 23 (11/04):	Oral Presentation: Group 8. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 7, p. 98-115.
WEEK 9:	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.
Class 24 (11/07):	Oral Presentation: Group 9.
Class 25 (11/09):	Documentary (2) Exhibit.
WEEK 10:	Changing Gender roles.
Class 26 (11/14):	Documentary (2) Discussion.
Class 27 (11/16):	Lecture: Changing Gender Roles.
Class 28 (11/18):	Oral Presentation: Group 10. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 8, p. 117-133.
WEEK 11:	Changing Gender roles.
Class 29 (11/21):	Oral Presentation: Group 11.
Class 30 (11/23):	Oral Presentation: Group 12.
Class 31 (11/25):	Literary Discussion: "Child of the Dark".
WEEK 12:	Changing Gender roles.
Class 32 (11/28):	Film (2) Exhibit.
Class 33 (11/30):	Film (2) Exhibit.
Class 34 (12/02):	Film (2) Discussion.
WEEK 13:	Twenty-First-Century Challenges.
Class 35 (12/05):	Combating Crime and Corruption.

Class 36 (12/07): Bodies and Minds.
Class 37 (12/09): Goods and People Crossing Borders.
Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 15, 16, and 17, p. 251-317.

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. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

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.

Departmental Twitter Handle @ucalgaryhist - For departmental updates and notifications

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:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd 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.

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 on reserve at the library. 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.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

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). 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/.

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.

Other Useful Information:

Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, 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/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>

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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