



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**IDENTITIES IN LATIN AMERICAN FILM
LAST 401.01
Fall 2015**

Location: CHE212 on Thursdays Class Time: 2:00 – 4:45

INSTRUCTOR 'S NAME and E-MAIL: Dr. Elizabeth Montes Garcés, montes@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS: CHD 324 MW 14:00 – 15:00 & by appt
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403-220-3832

COURSE DESCRIPTION : This is an interdisciplinary course which will focus on the way the concept of *identity* is constructed in terms of nation, gender, ethnicity, and class in contemporary Latin American cinema. The films we will view throughout the course will be analyzed using theoretical concepts brought forth by Latin American and American intellectuals, such as Walter Mignolo, Stuart Hall, Néstor García Canclini, and Richard Schechner.

OBJECTIVES: The main objective of this course is to provide students with a set of strong conceptual and analytical skills to help them achieve greater proficiency in both research and writing.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES:

Test	20%
Paper 1 (Analysis of a film sequence)	15%
Class Participation	10%
Discussions on D2L	10%
Oral Presentation	10%
Detailed Outline	10%
Paper 2	25%

There is no final examination

FILMS TO BE STUDIED IN THIS COURSE:

Even the Rain. (Spain, Mexico, France) Dir. Icíar Bollaín (2010)
Bolivia. Dir. Israel Adrián Caetano. (Uruguay-Argentina) (2005) (Available on YouTube)
Madeinusa. Dir. Claudia Llosa. (Peru) (2007)
Esmeralda Comes By Night. (Mexico) Dir. Jaime Humberto Hermosillo (1999)
Thursday Night Widows. (Argentina) Dir. Marcelo Piñeyro. (2010)

Even the Rain will be screened in class. All the other films are available at the Media Library in TDFL. Please make sure you make reservations to watch the films way in advance of the class discussions.

GRADING SCALE:

A+ = 100-96 A = 95-91 A- = 90-86 B+ = 85-81 B = 80-76 B- = 75-71
C+ = 70-67 C = 66- 62 C- = 61-58 D+ = 57-54 D = 53-50 F = 49%

The official grading system (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) will be applied for the calculation of the final mark.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Sikov, Ed. *Film Studies: An Introduction.* New York: Columbia University Press, 2010. Auto-delivered wirelessly on www.amazon.com

RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

Books placed on reserve at the TDFL under LAST 401 or SPAN 499

CLASS ATTENDANCE

To derive the utmost benefit from class instruction, attendance is essential. Attending class is extremely beneficial since it allows students to interact and participate in class discussions. The instructor should be informed of any reason for a prolonged absence. A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at his or her own discretion may transfer the percentage weight for a test to another test. The instructor will either make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student or will request a Physician/Counselor statement form. Missed tests and assignments with no legitimate reason will be given a grade of F. The instructor will not prepare make-up tests or assignments.

CLASS ETIQUETE:

A. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to watch the films on their own and read the articles or book chapters assigned on the class schedule. Class participation marks are assigned based on the level of preparedness students have in class.

B. CLASS DISCUSSIONS

Students are required to select one question per topic from the ones posted by the instructor on D2L and post their answers by the following deadlines:

Discussion 1	<i>Even the Rain</i>	September 25th
Discussion 2	<i>Bolivia</i>	October 2nd
Discussion 3	<i>Esmeralda</i>	October 9th
Discussion 4	<i>Madeinusa</i>	November 6th
Discussion 5	<i>Widows</i>	November 20th

Please be aware that students will not be allowed to post their answers after the deadline setup on D2L. Answers shouldn't exceed a paragraph (maximum 50 words).

TEAMWORK ("Blended Learning")

Students ought to organize themselves in groups of 4 and undertake the following tasks:

A. ANALYSIS OF A FILM SEQUENCE

Select a film different from the ones studied in class. The professor will post a list of possible films you may select. The group will choose a sequence that you consider the most important in the film and analyze it. Based on the analysis, prepare:

B. A PAPER 1

Write a 5-page paper on the analysis of the sequence. The paper should be a coherent analysis of the sequence and should include a thesis statement, three key points, and a conclusion. **Deadline: October 30th.**

C. FINAL PROJECT

Select another film from the list provided by the instructor or continue working with the same film you have chosen for the analysis of the sequence. Get together with the members of your group and discuss any topics for possible further analysis. You must find at least three or four different topics corresponding to the number of members of the group. For example, if the group has chosen the Argentinean film *The Aura*, one member of the group may want to analyze the sound effects while another should work on the use of focalization. All group members should work on the oral presentation as a team, however the outline and the final paper must be written individually.

The Final Project includes:

1. ORAL PRESENTATION (Group Presentation) 15%

The group will prepare an oral presentation outlining the results of their research. The power point presentation should include: brief biographical information on the film director as well as his/her filmography, the plot summary, a list of the aspects analyzed in the film, the theoretical approach used in the analysis, the conclusions, and the bibliography.

The professor will post a sign-up list so students are able to select the date for their final presentation. Failure to attend class with no legitimate reasons and make the oral presentation on the date the group has signed up for will result in an F. Please consult D2L to find the criteria to evaluate oral presentations.

2. DETAILED OUTLINE FOR PAPER 2

The outline should include the following: research question, thesis statement, theoretical approach, main topics to be developed, tentative conclusion, bibliography, and a 100-word abstract. Submission deadline: **November 9th**.

3. PAPER 2 (**Individual**)

Submit a 5-8 page paper analyzing the film you have selected. Submit your papers via email to montes@ucalgary.ca. Students should follow the MLA Formatting and Style Guide to write papers and cite sources. Please check <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> for further information.

Delays in the submission of assignments and papers will be penalized by deducting 10% of the mark per day. Submission deadline for both the PowerPoint and Paper 2: **December 8th**.

TEST

The test is a comprehensive evaluation of the films and the material discussed in class. The test includes a section on identification of quotes taken from the theoretical articles assigned in the course, analysis of clips taken from the films, and essay questions.

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. 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.

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 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.

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.

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/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>