



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

Span 632  
Neoliberalism in Latin American Cinemas  
Fall 2021  
TR 11-12:15

COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. N. Bermúdez-Barrios, PhD.**

**OFFICE HOURS** *Zoom link and password will be provided on D2L, TR 15:30-16:20*

**E-MAIL:** *nbermude@ucalgary.ca I will respond to e-mails within 48 hs during weekdays.*

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** *N/A*

**DESCRIPTION**

Description: This course explores the representation of the political and socio-economic model known as neoliberalism. Films focusing on immaterial labour, the market, private neighbourhoods, social relations, among other concerns, will be used to discuss cinematographic technique, genres, social and film theory. This course relies on close and attentive reading and examination of academic texts, both in English and Spanish, the careful and timely critical viewing of films, and the planning and completion of daily activities both individually and in group.

**OBJECTIVES**

Moving away from restrictive literary and content-based studies of cinema, this course will pay attention to film theories and techniques. Likewise, the study of neoliberalism and its impacts will help to situate Latin-American cinemas in a globalized economic and political order. Concurrently, the social spaces generated by neoliberalism and the correlates of gender, ethnicity, social class, affect, among others, will also be explored. These guiding objectives are also closely linked to the acquisition of visual literacy.

**OUTCOMES**

Al final del curso podrás describir, analizar y evaluar la conexión entre conceptos teóricos y el contenido y la estructura formal de recientes filmes de varios países latinoamericanos. También podrás entender los contextos nacionales, regionales y transnacionales necesarios para comprender la discusión sobre el impacto del neoliberalismo. Asimismo, obtendrás las herramientas para estudiar y discutir los temas de los filmes dentro de sus contextos, analizar sus técnicas, hacer investigación bibliográfica y enfocarte en las preguntas principales, debatir con el resto de la clase, estar al tanto de tus procesos de aprendizaje, hacer un film de un minuto en el cual usar las técnicas y habilidades aprendidas, lo mismo que una crítica cinematográfica y un video-ensayo de análisis.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Reading and studying all material is mandatory. Titles, urls, and due dates are reflected on the syllabus. Search in the library or as indicated by typing the full title.

- ✚ Kane, Brian. *Sound Unseen: Acousmatic Sound in Theory and Practice*. Oxford University Press, USA, 2014. <https://ca1lib.org/>
- ✚ Course syllabus printed out.
- ✚ Downloaded or printed rubrics for all activities found on D2L.
- ✚ Downloaded or printed electronic articles and other texts.
- ✚ Films on the syllabus. You can purchase them online. Make sure they are subtitled. Watching, taking notes, and analyzing these films is mandatory.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates.



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- A current and updated web browser.
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external).
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone.
- Zoom
- Adobe reader.
- Word with Spanish keyboard and dictionary activated.
- A cell phone with a camera, any video application, and cables to upload audio and/or videos onto D2L.
- Video editing software
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled.
- Stable internet connection.

#### RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

These textbooks can be found at zlibrary <https://ca1lib.org/>

- ✚ Corrigan, Timothy, and Patricia White. *The film experience: An introduction*. Macmillan, 2012.
- ✚ Lynch-Johnt, Barbara A., and Michelle Perkins. *Illustrated Dictionary of Photography: The Professional's Guide to Terms and Techniques for Film and Digital Imaging*. Amherst Media, 2008.
- ✚ McClennen, Sophia A. *Globalization and Latin American Cinema: toward a New Critical Paradigm*. Springer, 2018. Found on zlibrary <https://ca1lib.org/>

#### COURSE NOTES

- *Important dates.*

The class will be conducted on TR 11-12:15. Discussions, student moderation, etc., will be carried out daily, starting the second week. For all due dates, see the syllabus on D2L. Print out the syllabus for the first day of class Tuesday, Sep. 7. No meetings on Thursday, Sep. 30 (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation) and Nov. 7-13. Classes end on Thursday, Dec. 9.

- *Guidelines for submitting assignments, and expectations for writing quality.*

It is expected that all assignments will follow the rubrics on D2L (use them as a guide) and will be completed on or before the due date. For written work, only word and pdf formats will be accepted. Your work must be posted onto D2L. Identify your files with your last name. Unidentified files will lose 10 points for each day an identified copy is not posted, until day 5 when an automatic grade of F will be applied.

- *Policy in case of missed or late assignments.*

Extensions will be granted only in cases of extenuating circumstances; neither other work, unawareness about class activities, nor lack of attendance constitute an extenuating circumstance.

- *Attendance and participation.*

Attendance, organic discussions, film technique activities, moderation, etc, will count towards the grade for attendance and participation. Attendance at all course meetings, and planning and preparation of assignments in advance of class is expected. For successful participation, each 75 minutes of class time will require 4 hours of studying, totaling at least 8 hours of homework per week, including viewing films, taking notes on their themes and techniques, reading material, learning theoretical and other concepts, answering guiding questions, preparing for organic discussions, thinking, and recording analytical and critical comments, questions, writing, and working on your assignments. It is also expected that students will engage in an escalating and reflective learning process.

- *Class etiquette.*

No eating. Cell phones, and or headphones are only to be used if needed for the class. Multitasking is a myth that I do not condone. The same rules apply to the lab.

- *Guidelines for Zoom meetings and use of technology (other than guidelines mentioned in last section).*

Zoom links and passwords will be provided on D2L for office hours. Familiarize yourself with Zoom and the use of D2L in advance. We may also use urls and online applications for the completion of interactive tasks.



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- *Media policy.*

You are required to post mp3 and mp4 audio and video onto D2L in response to assignments. Identify your files with your last name. Unidentified audio or video will lose 10 points for each day an identified copy is not posted, until day 5 when an automatic grade of F will be applied.

- *Course evaluation procedure*

Self-, peer, and TA evaluations, alongside the use of evaluation procedures as stated on rubrics will be observed. See below for more details.

## **ASSESSMENT**

**Learning Assessment and Evaluation procedure** (For successful assignment completion, find and use all rubrics on D2L)

- ✚ Participation 38%

Class discussion is the lifeblood of the course—it is how we both create and share new knowledge. Some discussions will be in small groups, others in the full class, but we will have some discussion every day. Many of our discussions will be primed by either in-class or out-of-class writing, including freewriting, discussion prompts, response papers, and reflective pieces. Students are expected to participate fully and contribute thoughtfully and meaningfully to class discussions. Periodically throughout the semester you will receive feedback on your class participation. **Grade breakdown:** students' questions on D2L discussion forum (6%); discussion moderation (7%); crítica cinematográfica (6%); sound theory presentation (10); online activities (9%).

- ✚ Bibliografía anotada 12%

Find bibliographic information on the movie assigned to you and annotate it, i.e., provide a summary of each entry along with your own evaluation of the content and form. All entries will follow *MLA 8 ed.* specifications—links on D2L-, as well as the rules appearing on the rubrics and ancillary material on D2L.

- ✚ Learning portfolio 10%

At the end of the course, you will be asked to submit a learning portfolio in which you will reflect upon the changes in your thinking about economics, politics, and Latin-American films, their themes, techniques, and any idea discussed in the class. Everything you are asked to write as part of homework assignments is eligible for inclusion in your portfolio. In addition, everything your fellow students comment in this course, every reading you do for this course and every analysis and learning your lab interactions produce are eligible for inclusion in your portfolio, provided you react to them in a meaningful and thoughtful way. Use it also to self-evaluate your learning. Date your entries. You should make entries at least twice a week, but certainly every time you have a pertinent thought that you want to remember, new vocabulary, an insight that grows out of your film watching, or an observation you make based on assignments and activities, whether in or out of class. The learning portfolio is about the broad picture and the development of abilities to connect theories, synthesize knowledge, and apply information to your own analysis. Your success with this final assignment will depend in large measure on your continuous effort throughout the semester. This is not a course in which you can put off work, think about it later, copy and paste (plagiarize), or cram and do well. Keep an eye out for topics that really engage you early on and pursue them in your writing.

- ✚ Aprendizaje vivencial 10%

Interview a Spanish-speaking film director or another film crew member. Alternatively, find a 'making of' video of one of the films of the course. As a third option, find an online lecture on any film technique by Lucrecia Martel or another Spanish-speaking director from Latin America. If uncertain, ask the professor.

- ✚ Filmminuto 10%

The goal of this project is to choose a theme or content, use film technique, your imagination, and playfulness to produce a 60-second short video. Rubric and sample on D2L.



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#### ✚ Video essay 20%

In the latter part of the semester, students will undertake a multidisciplinary research project and present it as a 8–10-minute video essay. The goal of the project is to study, examine, and interpret a film using concepts studied in the course (such as transnationalism, new cinema, genre, globalization, etc), film techniques, and relevant material from disciplines such as economics, political science, cultural studies, etc. In addition to completing preparatory steps along the way, each student will be required to make a brief oral presentation on your research. More information about this assignment will be made available during the semester. Refer to the rubrics and links to samples of video essays on D2L.

The timely completion of all assignments, in addition to respecting and following all procedures and rubrics, is necessary to pass this course.

#### **GRADING SCALE**

A+=100; A=93-99; A- =86-92; B+=81-85; B=76-80; B- =71-75; C+=67-70; C=62-66 C- =58-61; D+=54-57; D=50-53; F<53%

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

#### **INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

#### **Academic misconduct**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>, and <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.



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#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

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

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [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).

#### **INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.