



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH, ITALIAN AND SPANISH

Span 641.06: Experimental Latin American Film
Winter 2016

Location: CHC 309 Days: R 2:00-4:45

INSTRUCTOR 'S NAME and E-MAIL: Dr. Bermúdez nbermude@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS : CHD 320; MW 15:00 - 15:50 or by appointment only
TELEPHONE NUMBER : 403-220-8223

DESCRIPTION

This course will examine themes and concepts shaping the discussion about the 'experimental' in cinemas of Latin America. Since this historiography is long and varied, we will concentrate on more recent film samples and will link technical and production characteristics to discussions about burning concerns in Latin American societies.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students should:

- ✓ Have a good grasp of central questions, concepts and debates relevant to a discussion of the 'experimental'.
- ✓ Be able to think critically about film as an art and a technology
- ✓ Feel comfortable presenting results to an audience of peers
- ✓ Be familiar with film technique and critical research tools for essay, and other types of writing
- ✓ Be conversant with a historiography which is still in the making

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES (for detailed information, such as dates and instructions, see the online resource system)

	<i>Weight</i>
Participation	10 %
Group discussion	15%
Film review	10%
Essay Proposal	10%
Scholarly annotated bibliography	10%
Writing exercise	10%
Critical viewing and oral analysis	10%
Research Essay	25%

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 TEXTS

* Filmes: *Silvia Prieto, El aura, Ciudad de Deus*, clips from shorts, documentaries, and foreign cinemas.
Lecturas: en el sistema en línea saldrá una lista y horario de discusión de textos y filmes. Podrás acceder a ellos a través de la biblioteca. Algunos filmes sólo estarán en Youtube. When reading, please think about any connections that you can make between the ideas in the book/articles and the cinematography/production/plot of the film.
*Esta lista es parcial y tentativa y puede cambiar

RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Tompkins, Cynthia *Experimental Latin American Cinema: History and Aesthetics*. 2013. 1st ed.
Millar, Gavin and Reisz, Karel. *The Technique of Film Editing*. 2010

COURSE NOTES

-The information on the course outline handed with this Course Information Sheet and posted on D2L is not binding and can change according to the needs of the class.

- Late assignments and missed tests policy :

1. Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. Los trabajos deben ser entregados a la profesora en clase. Para tu conveniencia, también hay un buzón en el foyer en el tercer piso de Craigie Hall entre el bloque C y el D. Los trabajos entregados allí son recogidos al principio y al final de cada día laboral y reciben un sello con la fecha. **No se aceptan trabajos por correo electrónico o dejados en la puerta de mi oficina.**

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

2. La inasistencia a una actividad resultará en una F, de acuerdo con el punto previo. Los estudiantes cuya

ausencia sea médicamente justificada deberán concertar una nueva fecha para la actividad en la misma semana. De lo contrario se aplicará lo dicho en el punto previo.

3. No planees viajes durante el periodo de clases. Las ausencias pueden tener una repercusión negativa en tu nota final.

- Internet and electronic communication device information

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic devices only for note taking in this course. That being said, the classroom is a space for learning, and I expect that students' behaviour will reflect a shared appreciation for the importance of an open and high-level discourse within the classroom. Towards that end, the use of laptops should be strictly limited to the purposes of taking notes. **Laptops (and all other electronic devices) are expressly prohibited during course screenings.** Likewise, mobile phones and other devices are prohibited at all times. Failure to respect these rules may result in a revocation of your privileges to use devices in the classroom.

- Depending on their abilities, students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours in outside preparation for each class period

COURSE WORK AND GRADING

Participation

10 %

Full marks will be given to students who demonstrate through their participation in class discussions an engagement with the course readings and screenings. Weekly preparation includes careful reading and analysis of film and texts as well as drawing relations between them with respect to themes, techniques, and objectives.

Critical viewing and oral analysis (Feb. 4-11)

10%

Individual students will analyze and present a clip from one of the films studied. The exercise will consist in describing and discussing/presenting the role played by the 'experimental' through costume or lighting or props, etc., in a sequence. The student will also study the significance of the sequence for the whole film.

Film review (Due in class Feb 18)

10% Students are

To write a one page review (250 words) of one of the films of the course or of another Latin American movie or documentary that engages with the 'experimental'.

Essay Proposal (Due in class March 10)

10%

Students will write a brief summary of the primary source (150 words) and a description of the final essay topic (300 words) that will shape the final essay, including 2-3 arguments relevant to the 'experimental' and to themes of the course. (450 words total)

Scholarly annotated bibliography (Due in class March 17)

10%

The annotated bibliography will list the primary source and will reference four to six academic articles in the field of film studies to support the final essay topic. Students are to provide a brief (2-3 sentence paragraph) explanation of the relevance of each article.

Group discussion (March 24)

15%

Students will work in groups to produce a 20-25-minute panel discussion on two readings as they apply to a chosen film. Each member of the group will contribute to the research behind this project by searching and providing meaningful additional information about the theme, film or the historical context, asking engaging questions, and choosing relevant film sequences and techniques to illustrate points and arguments. As the panel is expected to develop into engaging group discussions, students are encouraged to be creative. Readings will be assigned.

Writing exercise (An in-class assignment. Due in class March 31)

10%

Students are to write a solid paragraph or two about one or more of the films studied. The activity will allow students to comment on concepts and issues of the course such as realism, 'experimental,' time image, memory, etc in their association with composition, colour, etc.

Research Essay (Due in class Apr. 7)

25%

This research essay will examine a particular film (or films) in relation to a specific concept(s) or issue(s) from the course readings/lectures and will comprise sequence analyses. Paper length: (MA 3000-3500 words; PhD 3700-4500 words) not including References section.

ATENCIÓN: aunque nuestra biblioteca es bastante completa, debes prever que no encontrarás allí todas las fuentes requeridas y que deberás hacer préstamos interbibliotecarios, los cuales pueden tomar más de tres semanas en llegar. Es tu responsabilidad hacer estos préstamos con suficiente tiempo.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at 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 Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

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.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/SLC>

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

Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.