LAS 3116, Section 521, 3 credits

Latin America Through Film

Summer 2014, Room A217

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: BY APPOINTMENT.


Additional materials: Additional reading materials will be given to students throughout the semester.

Course Objectives: The focus of LAS 3116 is to help students develop an understanding and appreciation of contemporary cultures of Latin America through the study and analysis of films from the region. The students will gain a general understanding of the current state of several Latin American countries through the exploration of important political, economic and societal topics as reflected in the films. Class lectures, discussions and examinations will be based on film showings, readings from the textbook and supplemental material. These elements will allow students to develop an appreciation of the cultural, historical, political, economic and social diversity of Latin America, as well as its cultural and artistic production in terms of film. The class will also grant the opportunity to students to explore the deep and interdependent cultural, historical, political, economic, and social relationships that have existed between Latin America and the United States.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of LAS 3116, students should be able to:

- describe how historical and sociopolitical events allow for cultural diversity in Latin America
- understand Latin American society and culture through the appreciation of films
- develop the ability to form educated opinions about Latin American cultural and artistic diversity
- identify how the historical interactions between the United States and Latin America have impacted both regions
- talk about gender, racial and economic relations in Latin America
- describe the main political and social events in Latin America during the 20th century, and how they have impacted today’s social and political landscape in the region
Warning: Many of the films shown in this course have graphic sexual and/or violent content, as well as foul language and nudity (male and female). The movies have been carefully chosen, as they provide a broad and accurate perspective of Latin American historical and cultural issues. If for any reason you do not want or cannot watch these types of films, this is not a course for you. The professor will NOT modify the content of the course.

Because of unexpected events, sometimes the schedule of assignments or examinations must be modified to spend more time on subjects that are posing challenges. If a change in the schedule is necessary, the instructor will notify the students both in class and by email about the changes, and will post a dated, revised version of the syllabus on CANVAS.

Grades: Grades will be determined according to this formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation, Homework and In-Class Work</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXAMS (3)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL PROJECT</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Percentile Scale:

100-97: A+/ 96-93: A/92-90: A-
89-87: B+/ 86-83: B/83-80: B-
79-77: C+/ 76-73: C/ 72-70: C-
69-67: D+/ 66-63: D/ 62-60: D-
59-0: F

Disclaimer: Grades are neither curved nor rounded up and extra credit is not offered on an individual basis. Opportunities for extra credit will be announced in class.
**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is an essential factor for success in this class. It will be taken immediately when each class starts, and it will be taken into consideration when calculating your Class Participation grade. Anything above 1 unexcused absence will be considered poor attendance. Students are expected to watch ALL of the films in class, unless the instructor and the student have made arrangements to allow the student to watch it at home. Also, please consider this: THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UPS FOR ANY EXAMINATIONS, PROJECTS, HOMEWORKS OR CLASSWORK UNLESS THE STUDENT PROVIDES THE INSTRUCTOR WITH VALID DOCUMENTATION (MEDICAL NOTE, NOTE FROM WORK, REPAIR SHOP BILL, ETC.) ON THE DAY S/HE COMES BACK TO CLASS. Students are completely responsible for whatever material covered in class they happen to miss. Also, students that need to be absent on certain date because of religious reasons must notify the instructor during the first week of class.

**Drop/Add Policy:** With one exception, the instructor cannot add or drop students. The instructor will drop any students who, without previous arrangement, fail to attend the first class meeting. During open registration and the first week, students are able to add the course if it is not full. After the first class meeting, students are responsible for officially dropping any course for which they have enrolled.

**Withdrawal deadlines:** No exceptions to these deadlines are granted.

- May 16th -- Last day to drop without a grade
- June 28th -- Last day to drop with a "W"

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to volunteer responses to the instructor’s questions, demonstrate preparation for class by contributing to class discussions, and offering constructive comments and questions. Class participation points are based the instructor’s observation of a student’s willingness to:

- attend class regularly (less than 1 absence)
- participate in class discussions and peer group work
- turn in homework on time
- respond when called upon
- ask pertinent questions
- make meaningful contributions to the class

**Classwork and Homework:** In order to reinforce classroom learning, it will be necessary for you to study the lesson ahead of time and work on exercises assigned as homework by the instructor. **NO late homework will be accepted.**

**CONDUCT:** Students are expected to behave appropriately, showing respect to their instructor and their classmates. Any rude or disrespectful behavior towards classmates or professor, use of cell phones, eating, computer activities not related to the class, coming late to the class or leaving early, talking while classmates or the professor is speaking will not be tolerated. The expectations for student behavior are based on the Student’s Code of Conduct, which can be accessed here: [http://generalcounsel.usf.edu/regulations/pdfs/regulation-usf6.0021.pdf](http://generalcounsel.usf.edu/regulations/pdfs/regulation-usf6.0021.pdf).

No violations to the Code will be tolerated. (SEE ACADEMIC DISRUPTION)
**Examinations:** Students will take 3 online examinations, which represent 30% of your final grade, and 1 final exam which represents 20% of your final grade. The final exam is also online, but it will include material from the last two films (Mexico) as well from the other films seen in class. **THERE WILL BE NO FINAL EXAM EXEMPTIONS FOR THIS COURSE.** The following examination dates are tentative, meaning that they are subject to change if there are any major changes in our schedule:

- May 29th: Exam 1
- June 17th: Exam 2
- July 1st: Exam 3
- July 15th: Final Exam

**Final Project:** Students will work on a final group project related to a relevant and contemporary Latin American movie not shown in class. Students will receive a document with all the guidelines and instructions needed to perform this task by the 5th week of the semester. The project will count for 30% of the final grade.

**Expectations:** Students are expected to come to class prepared, to thoughtfully contribute to class activities, to be on time, to attend regularly and to seek assistance when needed. In the event that it is necessary to miss class, it is the responsibility of the student to find out what was covered and to learn the appropriate material. Please refer to the attendance portion of this syllabus to review the attendance policy. Students can expect the instructor to come to class well-prepared, to be available during office hours (or by appointment) and to return graded materials as promptly as possible.

**Cell Phone and Laptop/Tablet Policy**

A student’s cell phone must not be a distraction to the student, his or her fellow students, or the instructor. The course instructor requires that the cell phone be put on mute or vibrate mode so that the noise of the phone does not become an interruption. Cell phones must be turned off during test and should not be taken out for ANY reason whatsoever. **NO TEXTING OR PLAYING WITH PHONES DURING THE COURSE OF THE CLASS!!!! The use of laptops or tablets is allowed exclusively for class purposes, and they must be put away whenever the instructor indicates so.**

**USF Sarasota-Manatee Policies and Procedures**

**Religious Observances**

The University recognizes the right of students and faculty to observe major religious holidays. Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class for a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second week of classes.


**Disabilities Accommodation**

Students are responsible for registering with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS) in order to receive academic accommodations. **Reasonable notice must be given to the SDS office (typically 5 working days) for accommodations to be arranged.** It is the responsibility of the student to provide each instructor with a copy of the official Memo of Accommodation. Contact Information: Disability Coordinator: 359-4714; disabilityservices@sar.usf.edu; http://www.usfsm.edu/students/disability/
**Academic Dishonesty**
The University considers any form of plagiarism or cheating on exams, projects, or papers to be unacceptable behavior. Please be sure to review the university’s policy in the USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.
Undergraduate: [http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/)
Graduate: [http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/)

**Academic Disruption**
The University does not tolerate behavior that disrupts the learning process. The policy for addressing academic disruption is included with Academic Dishonesty in the USFSM Undergraduate Catalog or USFSM Graduate Catalog and the USF Student Code of Conduct.
Undergraduate: [http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/)
Graduate: [http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/Academics/Catalogs/)

**Contingency Plans**
In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USFSM to suspend normal operations. During this time, USFSM may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard/Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard/Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USFSM and College websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information. The USF hotline at 1 (800) 992-4231 is updated with pre-recorded information during an emergency.

**Emergency Preparedness**

**Fire Alarm Instructions**
At the beginning of each semester please note the emergency exit maps posted in each classroom. These signs are marked with the primary evacuation route (red) and secondary evacuation route (orange) in case the building needs to be evacuated.

**Web Portal Information**
Every newly enrolled USF student receives an official USF e-mail account. Students receive official USF correspondence and Blackboard/Canvas course information via that address. Therefore it is the student’s responsibility to check their USF email regularly.

**Instructor Copyright**
Students may not sell notes or other course materials.
The following schedule is TENTATIVE, which means that it may be adjusted or amended as the instructor deems necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Introduction/ Cuba after 1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Movie: <em>Una noche</em> Venezuela and the Bolivarian Revolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Movie: <em>Hermano</em> Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Chile under Pinochet/ Movie: <em>NO</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Argentina and the Military Junta/ Movie: <em>Crónica de una fuga</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Exam 2/ Gender Issues in Latin America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Movies: <em>María, Full of Grace &amp; El traspáto</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; July 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Exam 3 / Violence and instability in Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Movies: <em>Amores perros &amp; El crimen del Padre Amaro</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Final Exam and Final Project</td>
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