

Introduction to Latin American Studies

LAST 201.1

Samford University, Fall Semester 2008
MWF 10:30am-11:45am Room: DBH 217

“Latin America is very fond of the word hope. We like to be called the continent of hope. Candidates for deputy, senator, president, call themselves candidates of hope. This hope is really something like a promise of heaven, an IOU whose payment is always being put off. It is put off until the next legislative campaign, until next year, until the next century.”

...*Pablo Neruda*

Contact Information

Professor: Dr. Barry Robinson
Office Hrs: MWF 9:00am-10:00am, TR 2:00pm-3:00pm, or by appt.
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Course Description and Objectives

Interdisciplinary introduction to the literature, drama, religion, philosophy, and fine arts of Latin America. Taught in English. Successful completion fulfills the general education humanities requirement. This is a required core course for the Latin American Studies major and minor.

Required Readings

- Alma Guillermoprieto, *The Heart That Bleeds: Latin America Now* (Vintage, 1995).
- Peter Winn, *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*, Third Edition (University of California Press, 2006).
- Selected additional readings provided in class or through Blackboard.

Assignments and Grading

20%	Class participation and attendance
10%	News Items / Music / Images
10%	Principles and Problems lists & Blackboard discussion threads
20%	Quizzes
15%	3 Reflection papers
<u>25%</u>	Final Exam
100%	

I. Class participation and attendance (20%)

Success in this course depends upon faithfully attending class, completing the assigned readings, and participating productively in discussion of the issues we'll be considering. [See attendance policy below]. You should read carefully and come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material.

II. News items / music / images (10%)

Students will be assigned to a group representing a particular region of Latin America. Before class each Monday (with a few exceptions) students will post a link to a news item, image, or a piece of music (mp3 file or lyrics) from their region that relates to that week's topic. Students will be prepared to discuss the item during Monday's class.

III. Principles and Problems lists /Blackboard discussion threads (10%)

While viewing videos or movies in class, students will compile a list of Principles (generalizations about Latin America or one of its regions) and Problems (questions raised by the film or other course materials). Before class on Monday, students will post their lists in the designated Blackboard discussion thread, and comment on other students' postings.

IV. Quizzes (20%)

At the beginning of the semester, students will complete a Map Quiz covering the countries, capitals, and major land features of Latin America. Students will also be quizzed regularly on assigned readings to test for reading comprehension and assess student engagement with the course texts.

V. Reflection Papers (15%)

Students will write three 4 page reflection papers. Outside research is encouraged but not necessary. Two papers will focus on select Guillermprieto readings, and one will review an assigned film (or another film with permission of the instructor). Each paper is due one week after the assigned reading or film, but at least one paper must be submitted by October 22nd. Papers will be submitted electronically through Blackboard. Students have the option of replacing one paper grade with a fourth reflection paper.

VI. Final Exam (25%)

Students will write a final exam on Monday, December 8th at 10:30am, covering the entire course. The format will include both short answer/multiple choice questions and essay responses. It will include a recapitulation of the Map Quiz.

Grading Scale

A	93.0 - 100%
A-	90.0 - 92.9%
B+	87.0 - 89.9%
B	83.0 - 86.9%
B-	80.0 - 82.9%
C+	77.0 - 79.9%
C	70.0 - 72.9%
C-	73.0 - 76.9%
D+	67.0 - 69.9%
D	63.0 - 66.9%
D-	60.0 - 62.9%
F	00.0 - 59.9%

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend every class session. Any absences will affect your participation grade. Additionally, more than 4 total absences will result in a grade of FA. Exceptions will only be made in the event of a serious illness or emergency in which the student provides documentation from the Dean's office requesting an exception to the policy. Unless prior arrangements are made with the professor, it will be the student's responsibility to determine what was missed during their absence and to arrange for any necessary remediation.

Academic Integrity:

The Statement on Academic Integrity outlined in the Student Handbook on pp. 118-119 governs all work done in this course, written or otherwise. In all cases students are expected to present original work, or to properly acknowledge information gathered from other sources. Please refer to your copy of the Student Handbook for a more complete discussion of the importance of academic integrity. If in doubt about a particular issue, consult the professor.

Accommodation

Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting Disability Support Services located in Counseling Services on the lower level of Pittman Hall, or call #726-4078. A faculty member will grant reasonable accommodations only upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

* The professor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at his discretion at any time during the semester.

Fall Semester 2008 - Important Dates

- August 25 Classes begin
- August 26 University Convocation
- August 29 Last day to add or drop a course(s) without FINANCIAL penalty
- September 1 Labor Day Holiday; no classes meet
- October 10 Last day to withdraw from a course without ACADEMIC penalty
- October 20-21 Fall Break; no classes meet
- Oct 22-Nov 21 Registration for Jan Term and Spring Semester
- November 13 Last day to withdraw from ALL courses w/ no ACADEMIC penalty
- November 26-28 Thanksgiving Holidays; no classes meet
- December 5 Classes end
- December 8 -11 Final Examinations
- December 13 Commencement

Course Schedule

Aug. 25 Introductions	Aug. 27 Latin America: Definitions and Terminology	Aug. 29 NO CLASS MTG – Study for Map Quiz
Sept. 1 NO CLASS - LABOR DAY	Sept. 3 <i>Americas</i> 1-38 (A View from the South)	Sept. 5 MAP QUIZ
Sept. 8 News/ Music Latin America: Periods of Change	Sept. 10 <i>Americas</i> 39-85 (Legacies of Empire)	Sept. 12 VIDEO – Garden of Forked Paths - Argentina
Sept. 15 News/ Music <i>Guillermoprieto</i> 119-150	Sept. 17 <i>Americas</i> 245-284 (Children of the Sun)	Sept. 19 VIDEO – Capital Sins - Brazil
Sept. 22 News/ Music TBA	Sept. 24 <i>Americas</i> 285-322 (A Question of Color)	Sept. 26 MOVIE - Central Station - Brazil
Sept. 29 News/ Music MOVIE - Central Station	Oct. 1 <i>Americas</i> 415-464 (The Magical and the Real)	Oct. 3 TBA
Oct. 6 News/ Music <i>Guillermoprieto</i> 287-316	Oct. 8 <i>Americas</i> 365-414 (The Power and the Glory)	Oct. 10 VIDEO – (Miracles are not enough)
Oct. 13 News/ Music <i>Guillermoprieto</i> 151-177	Oct. 15 Review	Oct. 17 VIDEO – (In Women’s Hands)
Oct. 20 NO CLASS - FALL BREAK	Oct. 22 <i>Americas</i> 465-517 (Sovereignty)	Oct. 24 TBA
Oct. 27 News/ Music <i>Guillermoprieto</i> Colombia	Oct. 29 <i>Americas</i> 518-578 (Making Revolution)	Oct. 31 MOVIE – <i>The Revolution will not be Televised</i>
Nov. 3 News/ Music <i>Guillermoprieto</i> 47-67	Nov. 5 <i>Americas</i> 209-244 (Continent on the Move)	Nov. 7 VIDEO – (Continent on the Move)
Nov. 10 News/ Music <i>Guillermoprieto</i> 237-258	Nov. 12 NO CLASS – MOVIE <i>Motorcycle Diaries</i>	Nov. 14 NO CLASS – MOVIE <i>Motorcycle Diaries</i>
Nov. 17 News/ Music <i>Guillermoprieto</i> 259-286	Nov. 19 <i>Americas</i> 579-632 (North of the Border)	Nov. 21 TBA
Nov. 24 News/ Music TBA	Nov. 26 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	Nov. 28 NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING
Dec. 1 News/ Music The Future of Latin America?	Dec. 3 <i>Americas</i> 633-646 (Epilogue)	Dec. 5 Review for Final
	FINAL EXAM: Dec. 8th, 10:30am	