

Fall 2005 Courses:

Courses in LACS:

Latin Am 251-0 Introduction to Latino Studies

Instructor: Beatriz Badikian-Gartler

Introduction to major material and historical themes that have shaped U.S. Latina/o communities, with focus on parallels of colonization, assimilation and cultural resistance, mestizaje, and contemporary expressions of cultural innovation. The course will primarily address Mexican American and mainland Puerto Rican communities, histories, and experiences, stressing commonalities and distinctness of *latinidad* in the United States, discussing Cuban Americans and Central Americans, and examining the role of race, gender, sexuality and sexual orientation in the shaping of Latina/o histories and identities past and present.

Courses in Other Departments:

Anthro 328-0: The Maya

Instructor: Cynthia Robin

What was life like for the ancient Maya people that inhabited what is now Central America? This course examines in detail one of the best-known precolumbian (prior to Spanish conquest in ca. 1500 A.D.) civilizations of the New World: Maya civilization. We will explore how archaeologists use material and textual evidence to understand what life was like in an ancient civilization. Major topics will include ancient Maya social, economic, and political systems, subsistence, and religion. The course focus will be on the achievements of the ancient Maya, but we will also examine the effects of the Spanish conquest of the Maya area and continuing Maya resistance to colonial and post-colonial rule. Archaeology has a crucial role to play in understanding the past, present, and future of the Maya.

Anthro 368-0: Latino Ethnography

Instructor: Monica Russel y Rodriguez

This course will primarily focus on contemporary cultural and political expressions of Latinos living in the US. In order to understand these expressions we will draw from historical accounts, ethnographies, and filmic representations. In a deeper sense, this class examines the origins of ethnology as it interrelates with Manifest Destiny, the categorization of mestizo people, and colonization. Against that historical context that underlies contemporary US Latinos identities, this class reads contemporary ethnographies and ethnographic theories of representation. There will be a field component that will be required that will ask students to engage in some work with or observation of Latino Chicago communities.

Comp Lit 313-0 Studies in Fiction: Caribbean Literatures

Instructor: Yari Pérez-Marín

An overview of the literary traditions in the Spanish, French, Dutch and Anglo Caribbean. Authors include Guillén, C.L.R. James, Carpentier, Fanon, Césaire, Bosch, Naipaul, Kincaid, A.L. Vega, Walcott and Condé, among others. The readings will center on topics such as the literary representation of history, the relationship between race and national identity, and the possibilities for dialogue in a multi-lingual and politically diverse region.

English 368-0 Latino Studies: Codeswitch

Instructor: Amy Carroll

In *Chicano Poetics: Heterotexts and Hybridities*, Alfred Arteaga suggests, “for [Octavio] Paz, the border is a thin one and across it ‘Even the birds speak English’ [...] What is difficult for Paz is to consider a thick border.” In this course, we will explore “thick descriptions” of thickening borders of the Americas. We will address the possibility of a bilingual poetics laterally examining representations of bi- or multicultural subjectivities. Central to our discussion will be the conceit of codeswitching, a linguistic term, which designates a speaker or writer’s facility to move between languages. We will approach codeswitching literally to acquaint ourselves with work that shuttles between Spanish and English. We will approach the term metaphorically to address the hybridity of twentieth/twenty-first century poetry as a genre.

Hist 366-0 Latin America in the Independence Era

Instructor: Frank Safford

This course focuses primarily on the formation of new nations in Latin America during the nineteenth century. As a foundation for understanding this subject, it first will provide a general introduction to the salient patterns in the history of the region in the 18th and 19th centuries. Among the general themes discussed: 1) continuities and discontinuities between eighteenth-century Bourbon rule and the republican regimes of the nineteenth century; 2) the character of social and economic change between 1750 and 1880; and 3) the problems of organizing new republics, given these social and economic conditions. These problems include defining the constitutional structure, obtaining political stability, and pursuing economic growth.

Span 261-0 Literature in Latin America since 1888

Instructor: Jorge Coronado

A survey of the modern period, including modernismo, the historical avant-garde, the “Boom,” and recent literary trends. Authors such as Delmira Agustini, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Rubén Darío, Gabriel García Márquez, José Martí, Pablo Neruda, Cristina Peri Rossi, Elena Poniatowska.

Span 346-0 Testimonial Narrative in Latin America

Instructor: Lucille Kerr

Study of the tradition of testimonial writing in Latin America, with attention to cultural, political, and historical contexts and questions of truth, memory, and subjectivity. Works by authors such as Miguel Barnet, Gabriel García Márquez, Rigoberta Menchú, Alicia Partnoy, Elena Poniatowska, Jacobo Timerman, Rodolfo Walsh.

Span 361-0 Latin America: Studies in Culture and Society

Instructor: Jorge Coronado

Analysis of the history of culture in Latin America with an emphasis on the intersection of politics, society, and literature and on the relationship between literary and visual culture.

Span 380-0 Topics in Film: Introduction to Latin American Cinema

Instructor: Julio Prieto

This course explores the development of different national traditions within Latin American cinema (Mexican melodrama, Brazilian ‘Cinema Novo’, national revolutionary cinema in Cuba, the ‘new’ Argentinean cinema, etc.) While introducing the student to the social and historical context in which specific films were produced, particular attention will be paid, through close analysis of films and related readings, to questions of narrative technique and the construction of national ideologies, the interrelations of cinema and the logic of cultural encounter, issues of gender/genre and the intersection of aesthetics and politics in film discourse.

Span 395-0 Special Topics: Ex-Centric Fictions: Latin American Narratives of the Strange, the Fantastic and the Magic

Instructor: Julio Prieto

This course explores three modern narrative modes that were crucial to the development of Latin American literature and culture in the 20th century. Through detailed analysis of prominent examples of fantastic literature, magic realism and narratives of the strange, we will trace how the notions of magic and fantasy were used to articulate political, cultural and aesthetic projects that originated in what might be called the trauma and the anxiety of the Other a question that lies at the heart of modernity, with complex ramifications in the recent history of Latin America. While examining the sociohistorical context in which specific works were produced, particular attention will be paid, through close textual analysis and discussion of related readings, to questions of narrative technique, the construction of national and regional identities, the dialectics of cultural encounter and the representation of otherness, issues of gender/genre and the intersection of aesthetics and ideology in narrative discourse.