

## **Spring 2006 Courses:**

### **Courses in LACS:**

#### **Latin Am 351: Myths, Types, and Stereotypes: Latinos in Hollywood**

Instructor: Beatriz Badikian-Gartler

The depiction of Latinos by Hollywood has gone through a remarkable trajectory: from bandits to lovers, from merely background figures to central protagonists. Paradoxically, there were more Latino characters on the screen during Hollywood's Golden Age (1930 - 1950) than today, despite our political and social enlightenment and our political correctness. Today, Latino actors, and more so actresses, find fewer and fewer roles. Furthermore, American audiences still don't differentiate between nationalities and sub-cultures within Latin America and the Spanish-speaking world of the United States. In this course we will study the trajectory of Latinos and Latinas on/in film (and television) in the United States. To this effect, we will read and discuss relevant essays and watch films as they correspond to the written materials. The course will be organized chronologically in order to work against a historical/political/sociological background since our main focus will be the representation of Latinos in the media and its corresponding evolution.

### **Courses in Other Departments:**

#### **Af Am 342: Comparative Slavery**

Instructor: Sherwin Bryant

Traces slavery from Antiquity to late eighteenth-century "America". In it we interrogate the lived experiences of slave laborers throughout Latin America, the Caribbean, and the territories that became the United States. Highlighting the legal, economic, and religious basis for slavery, we chart the rise of slavery in the New World, exploring the similarities and salient differences between the experiences of the enslaved across time and space. Our principal objective will be to complicate existing notions about what slavery was and what constituted a slave society.

#### **Af Am 348: Africans in Colonial Latin America**

Instructor: Sherwin Bryant

Explores the history of African-descended people throughout Latin America during the period from 1492 to 1800, emphasizing the varied experiences of slavery and freedom, the emergence of race and colonial categories of difference, and the gendered lives of racialized colonial subjects.

#### **Anthro 390: Contemporary Andean Societies**

Instructor: Emma Cervone

The legacy of the colonial past still informs and shapes social and political relations in different countries of the Latin American region. The course analyzes the complexities that derive from this legacy in the societies of the Andean region where the presence of native populations has significantly shaped the imagination of national identities. Although traditionally the study of the Andes has focused on the highlands, the course readings address Andean societies as a whole by pointing at the interconnections and the asymmetrical relationships among coastal, highland and lowland regions. By examining racial, ethnic and gender ideologies and constructions, the course explores the way indigenous and afro-descent people, mestizos (mixed blood people) and women of different socio-cultural backgrounds attempt to redefine the conditions and constraints that have relegated them in a position of second class citizenship.

#### **Hist 369: Development and Inequality in Modern Latin America**

Instructor: Brodwyn Fischer

TuTh 2-3:20 Parkes 224

This class is a critical historical examination of the various models of economic development adopted by Latin American countries over the course of the 20th century, exploring the cultural, social, political, and economic roots of such policies and the impact of their practical application on the lives of the region's poorest and most marginalized populations. Through case studies focused mainly on Brazil, Bolivia, Guatemala, and Mexico, the course seeks to highlight the disjuncture between theory and practice that has left many Latin American countries

increasingly unequal even as they have become more "developed," and to understand the social, cultural, and environmental consequences of 20th-century development policies. Course materials will include film, autobiography, and primary source documents, as well as academic texts.

**Span 211: Icons, Legends and Myths in Latin America**

Instructor: William Castro

MWF 11-11:50 Kresge 2-301

Diverse representations of historical, literary, and popular figures in Spain, such as the conquistador, the dictator, the gaucho, Simon Bolivar, Che Guevara, Evita, La Malinche, and Carlos Gardel. Focus on forms of representation such as films, documentaries, musical theater, biography, narrative fiction, poetry, and commercial art.

Prerequisites: 201-1 or 201-2; 202-1 or 207; 202-2 (may be taken concurrently).

**Span 231: The "New" Latin American Narrative**

Instructor: Lucille Kerr (taught in English)

TuTh 12:30-1:50 Kresge 2-301

Emphasis on novels and short fiction from the Latin American "Boom" of the 1960s and 1970s, with attention also to important precursors and recent trends. Focus on works by writers such as Isabel Allende, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Carlos Fuentes, Gabriel García Márquez, Manuel Puig, Severo Sarduy, Luisa Valenzuela. Readings and discussion in English. No prerequisites.

**Span 395: Special Topics in the Literatures of Latin America**

Instructor: Luz Horne

TuTh 12:30-1:50 Univ Hall 118

Advanced study of topics in the literary traditions of either Latin America or Spain. Possible topics include intellectual history, transatlantic exchanges, the short story, literature of the fantastic, feminist traditions, hybrid cultures, history and fiction. Prerequisite: 1 course chosen from 250-0, 251-0, 260-0, 261-0. May be repeated for credit with different topics.

**Span 395: Special Topics in the Literatures of Latin America, "Crime Fiction and Film in Contemporary Latin America"**

Instructor: William Castro

MWF 1-1:50 Kresge 2-301

Focused predominantly on post-Cold War literature and film, this course explores the social, political, ethical, and cultural dimensions of representations of crime and/or criminals from a Latin American perspective. Our focus will be on the possibilities that such representations offer for challenging, redressing and/or obviating the abysmal asymmetries of power, wealth and access that characterize current neo-liberal globalization processes throughout Latin America and beyond.

**Theatre 369: Latin American Theatre: Repression and Resistance**

Instructor: Ana Puga

TuTh 3-4:20pm, Theatre & Interpretation Center East Conference Room

While theater and politics are always inextricable, in twentieth-century Latin America the connections between those two realms have been particularly fraught with tension and even violence. This broad survey introduces students to some of the major historical and theatrical events in each of four countries: Mexico, Cuba, Chile, and Argentina. We will discuss each play both on its own aesthetic and historical terms, and also analyze it in relationship to readings in theory and politics. To what extent do critical concepts such as "theatre of the absurd" and "epic theatre" illuminate Latin American drama and performance practice? To what extent do such concepts prove inadequate?