

For Fall 2008 Courses

Courses in LACS:

LACS 251: Introduction to Latino Studies

Instructor: Beatriz Badikian Gartler

This interdisciplinary class will explore the varied experiences of Latinas/os in the United States, past and present. Drawing from the disciplines of anthropology, history, literature, women's studies, media studies and ethnic studies, this class will examine the historical roots of Latina/o subgroups Chicana/o, Puerto Rican, Cuban and Central American. We will explore questions of immigration/transnationalism, family, gender, class, race, political economy, language and sexual identity in relation to public policy and Latina/os' struggles for place and power in American cities. While the course assumes a shared ethnic identity label of "Latina/o," its approach is fundamentally comparative in order to understand both the importance of group identity, and the histories that shape this identity, while simultaneously recognizing the multiplicity of U.S. Latina/o experiences.

LACS 351: Topics in Latino Studies: Latino Images in the Media

Instructor: Beatriz Badikian Gartler

The image of Latinos/Latinas in the media - be it Hollywood films, television sitcoms, or newspapers -- has gone through a remarkable trajectory that often, if not always, includes some form of stereotyping. In this course we will study the trajectory of Latinos and Latinas in and on the media in the United States. To this effect, we will read and discuss relevant essays and watch films and other visual texts as they correspond to the written materials as well as watch and discuss television programming. The course will be loosely organized chronologically in order to work against a historico/politico/sociological background, although our focus will be the last few decades of the 20th century and the first years of the 21st.

Courses in Other Departments:

Art Hist 369-0: Latin American Art and the Cold War

Instructor: Ana Maria Reyes

This course explores artistic production in Latin America during the Cold War, focusing on the period between the 1950s and the 1970s. The course begins by briefly reviewing the influence on the artistic vanguards of Spanish and Portuguese-speaking America by both Mexican muralism and Joaquín Torres-García's constructive universalism. We will study the development of geometric abstraction, concrete, and kinetic art, neofiguration, political graphics, and conceptualism in relation to a Cold War political framework, such as the impact of the Cuban Revolution and the rise of numerous dictatorships throughout the continent. Special attention will be placed on contrasting interpretations of artistic roles in society. Central to this inquiry will be the analysis of primary sources, such as contemporaneous art criticism and artist's manifestoes.

Anthro 330-0: Peoples of the World: Roots & Margins of Latin America

Instructor: Mary Weismantel

Ethnography and comparative study of a regionally or historically associated group of cultures or a type of community defined in ecological, ideological, or other terms. May be repeated for credit.

Dance 140-0: Cultural Forms: Flamenco

Instructor: Joel Valentin-Martinez

This course gives the student the opportunity to learn different ethnic dance forms (sections offered on different ethnic dance forms). Some forms offered in the past include, Flamenco, Indian Dance, and African Dance. This course is not offered every quarter, and may not be offered each year.

English 378: Studies in American Literature: Chicanos and Chicanas at War

Instructor: John Alba Cutler

Chicanos died in larger numbers proportionately than any other racial or ethnic group during the American war in Viet Nam, a fact often referred to by leaders of the Chicano nationalist movement. This course will examine the significant body of literature thematizing the experiences of Mexican Americans caught up in what Fredric Jameson has called our first "postmodernist war." How do Chicano experiences in Viet Nam compare and contrast with those of previous generations of Mexican Americans, especially World War II veterans? Does warfare destroy any hope of authenticity rooted either in identity or experience? How does Chicana literature respond to aggressive forms of masculinity cultivated during warfare?

Hist 305-0: Immigration in American History

Instructor: Josef Barton

How did American society change the 75 million or so newcomers who arrived between 1680 and 2000? And, more importantly, how did immigrants make possible fundamental transformations in American history? This course takes up these questions in a historical account of three great American immigrations: the first immigration, from 1680-1812, created a diverse America; the second immigration, from 1820 to 1920, made possible the emergence of an industrial society; and the third immigration, from 1945 to the present, shaped a global American nation.

Hist 367-0: The History of Modern Brazil

Instructor: Brodwyn Fischer

This course examines the modern history of Latin America's largest, most populous, and most economically powerful nation. In particular, we will seek to understand the historical roots of several striking aspects of modern Brazilian society; its remarkable, but uneven and environmentally destructive, rush towards economic modernization; its radical social and economic inequalities; its racially and culturally hybrid national identities; and its constant -- and frequently troubled -- quest for effective democracy and universal citizenship. Though the course is not explicitly comparative, we will make frequent reference in discussion to the ways in which Brazilian society has sought to meet -- sometimes more effectively, sometimes less -- the same economic, social, legal, and political challenges that have shaped the history of United States. Topics examined will include: populism and military rule; industrialization and economic development; the

construction and evolution of racial and ethnic identities and the myth of "racial democracy"; nature, economy, and society; gender, sexuality, and national identity; and the importance of popular culture in Brazilian national life.

Portuguese 111/112-1: Intensive Portuguese

Instructor: Vera Teixeira, Ana Williams

This is the first quarter of a three-quarter course sequence which emphasizes spoken Brazilian Portuguese. In one academic year, this rapid study of language covers the content of a traditional first and second year language acquisition sequence. Students must register for 111 and 112 each of the three quarters, and each quarter receive two credits for six hours of in-class contact time and two hours of independent laboratory work per week. Successful completion of 111/112-3 fulfills the WCAS foreign language requirement.

Portuguese 201-0: Reading and Speaking

Instructor: Ana Williams

This intermediate course proposes to expand mastery in reading and speaking Brazilian Portuguese through select cultural videos, readings of literary '*cronicas*', periodicals and the Internet. Offered in Fall Quarter only. Prerequisite: 111/112-3 or placement.

Portuguese 303–0: Topics in Advanced Portuguese: Representative literary texts in 20TH Century Brazilian Literature

Instructor: Vera Teixeira

This is an advanced review of grammar concepts and idiomatic use of spoken and written Portuguese language. It deals with a variety of topics in the context of Brazilian culture, history, literature, and current events. May be taken more than once for credit if on a different topic.

RTVF 351-0: National Cinemas: Mexican Cinema

Instructor: Ilene S. Goldman

This course offers a historical, critical, and theoretical survey of Mexican cinema. We will look at the specific political, social, economic, technological, and aesthetic factors that have influenced the shape and character of Mexican cinema since the silent era. We will trace the evolution of Mexico's film industry, star system, and genres, focusing on key filmmakers, films, and moments in the rich history of Mexican film. We will explore the notion of a "national cinema," and how the history of filmmaking in Mexico might put into question this very classification.

We begin the course with the silent era, discussing the arrival and reception of film to Mexico, including the institutions that arose to support national cinema production. In the middle part of the course we will thoroughly explore the so-called Golden Age of Mexican Cinema, paying particular attention to the aesthetic, thematic and industrial constructs that transformed this national cinema into a cinema for the entire continent. In the last part of the course, we will look at the deterioration of the industry after WWII, the exploitation and political films of the 1960s and 1970s, and the reemergence Mexican industrial filmmaking since the mid-1980s. Our discussions will include the importance

of women filmmakers, the effect of globalization, and the international profile of contemporary Mexican Cinema.

Integral to our discussions throughout the term will be the changing nature of Mexican politics and economics, technological advances, and filmmaking practices.

Spanish 201-0: Conversation on Human Rights: Latin America

Instructor: Penny Nichols Fahey

Students in Spanish 201-0 explore the theme of Human Rights in the Southern Cone Region--specifically Chile and Argentina from the 1970's to present day through the study of literature: poetry, essay, short story, novels and plays, as well as historical readings and film. Students participate in both formal and informal conversation with the additional aim of mastery of the subjunctive mode--all of which seeks to increase their translingual and transcultural competence as per the recent MLA report on second language acquisition. Readings include works by Cortázar, Dorfman, Skármeta, Timerman, Partnoy, Isabel and Violeta Parra and others. Films range from *Machuca* and *La historia oficial* to *Burnt Oranges*. The course includes both individual and group presentations on the cultural and historical impact of the military coups of the 70's, subsequent dictatorships, the repercussions of these regimes--with particular emphasis on human rights violations--and the eventual restoration of democracy.

Spanish 202-0: Conversation on Current Topics: Mexico and USA

Instructor: Heather Colburn

Through examination and analysis of the Mexican presence in the United States in the late twentieth/early twenty-first centuries, students develop advanced (ACTFL, 1999) oral proficiency in Spanish, with a focus on persuasive discourse. Texts examined throughout the course include *La casa en Mango Street*; the permanent exhibition "Mexicanidad" at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen; current journalistic readings on immigration in the United States; the PBS-produced video *La Sexta Sección* and the poetic film *I am Joaquín*; various paintings by Chicano/a artists such as Wayne Alaniz Healy, Passi Valdez and Frank Romero, among others. Students participate in various in-class debates and formal presentations (individual and in group), as well as keep a journal in Spanish regarding the themes discussed throughout the quarter.

Spanish 204-0: Reading and Writing the Art of Protest

Instructor: Anna Diakow

Second course of sequence designed to develop writing skills and structures through analysis of socially committed art. Emphasis on cultural analysis and development of longer essay. Prerequisite: Spanish 203-0. These courses MUST be taken in sequence. Spanish 204-0, among other cultural topics, includes Mexican art: - el muralismo mexicano and its relation to the Mexican Revolution. The course will also include the Chilean Protest Song ("La nueva canción chilena") and its response to the political and social issues.

Spanish 207-0: Spanish for Heritage Speakers

Instructor: Jeannie Jacob

A course for heritage speakers without formal instruction in Spanish that emphasizes writing, syntax, and formal modes of the language. Please contact Jeannie Jacob (j-jacob@northwestern.edu). Offered in Fall 2008 only.

Spanish 211-0: Icons, Legends, and Myths in Latin America

Instructor: Maria Alejandra Uslenghi

This course aims to familiarize students with diverse Latin American key historical figures, as well as cultural myths and legends, and engage them in a critical discussion on Latin American culture at large. It will focus on diverse representations of historical, literary, and popular figures such as la Malinche, Simón Bolívar, Frida Kahlo, Che Guevara, contemporary social movements like “Madres de Plaza de Mayo,” and cultural expressions like music of tango and bolero. We will approach these through a set of problems and topics including: conquest and violence, ‘mestizaje’ and cultural translation; Latin American independence; the myth of the revolutionary; social movements and women; literature and dictatorship. Course materials will include films, literature, essays, visual arts, and music.

Spanish 230: Margins and Centers in Latin American Literature and Culture

Instructor: Emily Maguire

Much of Latin American cultural production has been consistently concerned with the question of national identity. Latin American writers and artists have sought to define what constitutes national (or regional) culture, and to identify or describe national subjects. At the same time, Latin American literature is rich in its representation of marginalized subjects - indigenous peoples, people of African descent, women, and the poor among them. This course will explore the treatment of these (and other) marginalized subjectivities in twentieth-century Latin American narrative and film. We will examine the roles that race, class, gender, and geography play in articulating alterity, and will ask how the representation of these particular marginalized subjects have helped to configure more centralized notions of Latin American identity.

Course readings will include work by José María Arguedas, Rosario Castellanos, Miguel Barnet, Teresa de la Parra, Aluisio Azevedo, Clarice Lispector, Arturo Islas and Junot Díaz, among others. Evaluation will be based on class participation, quizzes, and three short papers.

Spanish 260: Literature in Latin America before 1888

Instructor: Yari Pérez Marín

Survey of pre-Hispanic, colonial, and Romantic traditions in Latin America. Focus on authors and texts such as Popul Vuh, Cristóbal Colón, Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, and Martín Fierro.

Spanish 261-0: Literature in Latin America since 1888

Instructor: Lucille Kerr (sec 20), Estelle Tarica (sec 21)

Survey of the modern period, including modernismo, the historical avant-gard, 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, and Elena Poniatowska.

Spanish 340-0: Colonial Latin American Literature

Instructor: Yari Pérez Marín

Major texts and writers of the early colonial period, including chronicles of discovery and conquest from both indigenous and Hispanic sources. Works by authors such as Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, Hernán Cortés, Bernal Díaz del Castillo, Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala, Bartolomé de las Casas, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, and Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora.

Spanish 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, and Rodolfo Walsh.

Spanish 361-0: Violence and Representation in Latin America

Instructor: Emily Maguire

This course will explore the responses of Latin American artists, writers and cultural critics to violent political ruptures and institutionalized violence in Latin America during the 20th and 21st centuries. We will ask how these cultural texts seek to remember, convey and/or intervene in structures of political repression, economic domination and psychological abjection. Course materials will focus on three particular geographic and historical contexts: the Cuban Revolution of 1959, the Southern Cone military dictatorships of the 1970's and 80's, and the contemporary drug wars in the Andes and along the Mexican-US border. Works studied will include films, music, visual art, poetry, and short prose. Evaluation will be based on class participation, short writing assignments, quizzes (in the form of in-class writing on assigned texts), and a final research project.

Spanish 395-0: The Novel and the Native Text in Latin America

Instructor: Estelle Tarica

Native American texts have been a rich source of inspiration for Latin American novelists. This course will examine the novel *Hombres de maíz* (1949), by Nobel Prize author Miguel Angel Asturias, and the Maya Book of Council, the *Popol Vuh*, a sixteenth-century Quiché text whose origins date to the pre-conquest period. The first part of the course will be dedicated to reading the *Popol Vuh* and understanding its history and poetry. The second part of the course will be dedicated to Asturias's novel, considered one of the most complex and experimental novels of its time in large part because of its engagement with Maya mytho-poetics. Why did Asturias turn to this indigenous voice in shaping his vision of modern Latin America? We will examine the presence of the Maya text in this novel and consider the artistic and ideological frames – surrealism, socialism, indigenism, among others – that Asturias used to guide his approach to the *Popol Vuh*.