

GENERAL EDUCATION American University

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND FOREIGN STUDIES, CAS

SPRING 2008 LFS-210.01H M&Th 11:20-12:35

Latin America: History, Art, Literature/A 3:2

(A bi-lingual Gen Ed course; this Honors section taught in English)

I. Instructor: Dr Jack Child, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies, Department of Language and Foreign Studies.

Also Affiliate Professor, School of International Service.

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II. Course statement: This undergraduate General Education course explores the history of Latin America through the words of the writer, the brush of the painter, the pen of the cartoonist, and the lens of the photographer. It will include the Latin (Spanish/Portuguese +Islamic), the African, and the Indigenous cultural heritages in Latin American history, and it will seek to show how these strands have combined to produce a unique Latin American culture. The relationship to Anglo-America, and especially the United States, will also be explored on a cross-cultural basis. The major objective of this course is to study Latin America as a unique culture-area using an interdisciplinary approach (history, art, and literature). History will be the basic discipline used to organize the course; art and literature will be used to illustrate and provide windows of insight into that history with visual and written images. The course relies heavily on educational media (Power Point lectures, videos, CD-ROMs) and new technologies (daily questions and discussions on Blackboard).

III. Relationship to the General Education Program:

Course LFS-210, "LATIN AMERICA: HISTORY, ART, LITERATURE" is a second level course in Cluster 2 (Multicultural Experience) of Curricular Area 3 (the Global and Multicultural Experience), in the University's General Education Program. This dimension of the curriculum is designed to create an informed understanding of our interdependent world and to foster greater intercultural awareness and communication. Courses in this area seek to develop an understanding of non-Western cultures and traditions. They also address both timeless and newly emergent issues of international relations, and provide students with new forms of cultural diversity and its effects on the interaction of peoples and states. In order to complete Curricular Area 3 with course LFS-210, "LATIN AMERICA: HISTORY, ART, LITERATURE", you must have previously completed one of the following foundation courses in Area 3: ANTH-110: Culture: The Human Mirror OR LIT-150: Third World Literature OR RELG-185 Forms of the Sacred: Religions of the East OR SIS-140 Cross-Cultural Communications OR SOCY-110 Views from the Third World.

The rationale for the linkages to each foundation course is as follows:

ANTH-110: Culture- Human Mirror: the course examines the contribution various Latin American cultures have made to the pluralism of the contemporary world (including the US).

LIT-150 Third World Literature: the course uses Latin American literature as a key element.

RELG-185 Forms of the Sacred: Religions of the East: I cant think of any except a comparative approach.

SIS-140: Cross-cultural Communications: the course emphasizes the unique features of various Latin American cultures and how they relate to other cultures.

SOCY-110 Views from the Third World: Examines those parts of Latin America that are "Third World".

IV. Course requirements and evaluation:

a. **Mid-term exam** (worth 15%), on Monday, 3 March.

b. **Final exam** (worth 20%). Monday 5 May, 11:20 to 1:50.

c. **Oral/written report** (worth 15%, written portion due Monday 14 April). You will prepare an oral report using Power Point software on a topic selected from a list I will provide. You may also suggest a topic for my OK. Your oral presentation (worth 5%) should last 10-15 minutes. The 8-10 page written report is worth 10%, and is due Monday 14 April.

d. **Short reaction paper** (approximately 4-5 pages) on your individual visit to the Museum of the American Indian (emphasizing Latin America). Worth 10% and due Thursday, 7 February.

e. **Book report** (5%) on "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel García Márquez. Discussion on Thursday 24 April. Written report (approx 4-5 pp.) due the same day. Focus on your reaction to it, not a plot summary.

f. **Reading check** (20%). Instead of unannounced quizzes on the daily readings, every Thursday we will have a brief written "reading check", covering the assignments for the week.

g. **Computer exercises.** The course uses a Blackboard site which includes the class Power Point lectures and an optional daily discussion question: your answers and comments on these questions will earn you extra credit.

h. **Participation grade** (15%). This grade will be based on how much and how well you participate in class by making comments, asking and answering questions, and joining in the class dialogue. Attendance will affect this grade, since if you are not present you obviously cannot participate. The participation grade includes brief written exercises in connection with class simulations.

i. **The writing assignments:** as I am sure you know, the General Education Program stresses writing skills. You will have several opportunities to use these writing skills in the written assignments described above, which will be graded on the basis of content as well as style, organization, grammar, etc. I expect these assignments to be typed, and in compliance with the standards set out in the College Writing courses you have taken. There will be one grade for content and one for form. You may resubmit your paper if your "form" grade is low. The course's teaching assistant will provide you with guidance and comments on your paper, but does not grade your paper (that is my responsibility as instructor of record). In this digital age research is relying more and more on the Web; however, traditional paper resources continue to be essential and rewarding. Your papers must have a balance of digital and paper resources. Wikipedia is a more reliable source than Google, but you should carefully evaluate the source and look for possible bias or misinformation.

j. **Attendance policy:** I expect regular attendance, but I understand that you may be absent from time to time for various reasons (please keep me informed). You are responsible for making up all the work you miss. An unreasonable number of absences (especially if unexplained) will inevitably affect your participation grade.

k. **Late work** will be penalized unless you obtain my permission in advance. I will approve Incomplete contracts only in exceptional cases.

l. **Academic integrity.** As scholars, we are all held to the University's Academic Code of Ethics. Dishonesty in exams and quizzes, and plagiarism (presenting the words or ideas of others as yours) will not be tolerated. Exams and reading checks are "closed book". All papers are individual work, although I encourage you to discuss and share sources prior to writing. We assume you are familiar with the Academic Integrity Code, and have visited the Academic Integrity web site: <http://www.american.edu/academics/integrity/index.htm>.

m. **Videos.** In the "Study assignments" which follow, you will find a series of video tapes listed. These are optional, and they serve to add a rich visual dimension to the course. You can see these video tapes at your convenience in the Library's Media Services (basement).

n. **"Community Service Learning Project".** You have the optional opportunity of doing a Community Service Project (LFS-294) in connection with this course. This would earn you one credit, Pass/Fail, for a total of 40 hours of approved field work over the semester in the local Hispanic community. A written journal is due Monday 28 April. For more info: www.american.edu/ocl/volunteer/sl/cslp/cslpcontract.html

o. **Extra credit project.** Complete an 8-10 page reaction or research paper, Ask me about this possibility after the Mid-term exam, especially if you are weak in other graded portions of the course, such as participation. Due on Monday 28 April.

p. **Assistance.** If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please consult with me early on. A wide range of services is available to support you. **The Academic Support Center** (x3360, MGC 243) offers study skills workshops, individual instruction, tutor referrals, and services for students with learning disabilities. **The Counseling Center** (x3500, MGC 214) offers counseling and consultations regarding personal concerns, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources. **Disability Support Services** (x3315, MGC 206) offers technical and practical support and assistance with accommodations for students with physical or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability and might require accommodations in this course, please obtain a letter from DSS or LS early in the semester. I will try to reduce time pressure on exams and reading checks by giving you all the time you want. The questions on the Blackboard site provide a useful review for exams and should also contribute to a lowering of exam anxiety. Further, formats for the mid-term and final exam are on the Blackboard site.

V. Required texts, available at the Campus Store; prices are for New/Used:

All the texts are also on Library Reserve.

Jack Child, Latin American History through its, Art and Literature, Acton, MA: Copley Textbooks, 2007.

\$24.60; earlier photocopied versions are fine, but need some new chapters.

Pat McNees, ed., Contemporary Latin American Short Stories, 2nd edition, 1996, \$14/ \$10.50 used.

Gabriel García Márquez, Love in the Time of Cholera (Not in the Campus Store).

VI. Recommended texts:

Edward Sullivan, Latin American Art in the Twentieth Century, 2000, \$39.95/ \$30.00 used (call #4033)

Stryker-Post, Latin America 2007, \$16.50. Earlier versions are OK, but somewhat outdated.

Child, Jack, Miniature Messages: The Semiotics and Politics of Latin American Postage Stamps (call #5712);

Also available in Blackboard "Assignments" in two versions: with and without visuals. Check both.

<u>Assignments</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Child:</u> <u>(LAHAL)</u>	<u>Latin America</u> <u>2007</u>	<u>Sullivan:</u> <u>Art</u>	<u>McNees:</u> <u>Stories</u>
1 M 14 Jan	No assignments: course introduction and administration			
2 Th 17 Jan	1,2 Geography		Intro	206-222 (Fuentes: The Doll Queen)
3 Th 24 Jan	3 Pre-Col: Maya	LA Today		116-130 (Carpentier: Journey-Source)
4 M 28 Jan	4 Aztecs, Incas	Early		132-135 (Paz: the Blue Bouquet)
5 Th 31 Jan	5 The Encounter	Conq -Indep		136-145 (Cortázar: Letter-Young Lady)
6 M 4 Feb	6 Conq Mexico	Venezuela	Venezuela	46-53 (Gallegos: Peace on High)
7 Th 7 Feb	7 Conq PeruChile	Costa Rica	Museum paper due	196-204 (Rulfo: Talpa)
8 M 11 Feb	8 "The Defender"	Dominican Rep	Dominican Rep	78-87 (Bosch: Two \$ Worth of Water)
9 Th 14 Feb	9 Baroque	Brazil	Brazil	88-93 (Amado: Sweat)
10 M 18 Feb	10 Indep,Neoclass	Ecuador	Ecuador	60-76 (Icaza: Big Precipice)
11 Th 21 Feb	11 NeoclassForge	Uruguay	Uruguay	292-299 (Benedetti: Gloria's Sunday)
12 M 25 Feb	12 Civ,Barbarism	Chile	Chile	184-194 (Bombal: The Tree)
13 Th 28 Feb	13 Romanticism	Colombia	Colombia	164-69 (Télliez: Just Lather, That's All)
14 M 3 Mar	1-13	MID-TERM EXAM: REVIEW ALL PREVIOUS MATERIAL		
15 Th 6 Mar	14 Costumbrismo	Honduras	Central America	30-38 (Lugones: Yzur)
16 M 17 Mar	15 Pos,Real,Nat	Bolivia	Bolivia	348-361 (Puig: A Meeting)
17 Th 20 Mar	16 Modernismo	Nicaragua	Central America	22-28 (Darío: Case of Señorita Amelia)
18 M 24 Mar	17 US emerges	Panama	Central America	370-379 (Agustín: Mourning)
19 Th 27 Mar	18 Mexican Rev	Mexico	Mexico	154-158 (Arreola: I'm Telling Truth)
20 M 31 Mar	19 Natl,Eth,Wom	Peru	Peru	328-346 (Vargas Llosa: Sunday)
21 Th 3 Apr	20 Guat ref/rev	Guatemala	Central America	54-59 (Asturias: Legend of "El Cadejo")
22 M 7 Apr	21 Cuban Rev	Cuba	Cuba	322-326 (Fuentes: Honor Cleaned)
23 Th 10 Apr	22 CentAm:War	El Salvador	Cent Am	362-368 (Castillo: Ernesto's Mother)
*24 M 14 Apr	23 Evita	Argentina	Argentina	40-45 (Quiroga: Flamingoes)
	Also scan Child, Miniature Messages, Ch. 6: Argentina Written Project due			
*25 Th 17 Apr	24 1982 Falk/Mal	Argentina	Argentina	104-115 (Borges: Death, Compass)
	Also scan Child, Miniature Messages, Ch. 7, Falklands/Malvinas			
26 M 21 Apr	24 1982 Falk/Mal	Paraguay	Paraguay	160-163 (Roa Bastos: The Vacant Lot)
27 Th 24 Apr	25 Antarctica	Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico	270-81 (Marqués: Island in Manhattan)
	Scan Child, Miniature Messages, Ch. 8, Antarctica. Book report due on "Love in the Time of Cholera"			
28 M 28 Apr	25 Antarctica	US-LA	Chicano	224-32 (García M: Balthazar Afternoon)
	Also scan Child, Miniature Messages, Ch 9, Other Miniature Messages			
29 M 5 May	FINAL EXAM, 11:20 to 1:50			
30 Sunday 4 May,	6:00 PM Final Exam Part II at "Casa Mayo" (see page 147 of the Child text)			

Note: for the two class days marked with an asterisk (14 and 17 April) Dr Child will be teaching an all-day seminar in SIS/LFS. We will conduct classes virtually these days using Blackboard. More info to follow.

Some optional videos (Library basement - Media Services; check their guides to videos):

The Mayas (VHS 5676) The Incas (VHS 4956).Art and Revolution in Mexico (VHS 740);

The Yankee Years (VIC 417, part 1); Castro (VIC 417, pt 2).