

## LALS 1: Introduction to Latin American and Latino Studies Summer 2015 Session 1

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### Course Description

This course is designed as a general introduction to important topics in the study of Latin America and Chicana/os and Latina/os in the U.S. The material will be presented in chronological order but our narrative will begin in the mid-twentieth century. The course will focus on the relationship between the U.S. and Latin America, Latino politics in the U.S., revolutions and social movements, political economy as well as contemporary issues in the U.S. and the recent shift to the left in Latin America. While the material is presented chronological order, students will be asked to think critically about the present and its relationship to the past. The course also utilizes novels, memoirs and documentary films in order to give students the opportunity to get an understanding of different socio-cultural contexts.

### Assigned Course Materials

#### Books to purchase:

Lisa Garcia Bedolla. *Latino Politics*.

Select a novel or memoir from this list:

Isabel Allende – *The House of the Spirits*  
Julia Alvarez – *In the Time of the Butterflies*  
Omar Cabezas – *Fire From the Mountain*  
Gioconda Belli – *The Country Under my Skin*  
Manuel Puig – *Kiss of the Spider Woman*

All other readings are provided in the course reader.

\*All of these (with the exception of *Fire From the Mountain*) are available at the Literary Guillotine in downtown Santa Cruz.

### Course Requirements:

Informed attendance at all classes is required. “Informed attendance” means that students have done the reading for that day and therefore have a sense of what will be covered in lecture. Classes will also include quizzes, activities and discussions with classmates as well as film screenings. There is no way to “make up” a missed class since it is a collective activity that cannot be recreated in another setting.

1. Film and Documentary Responses: Write a one page response to each of the films that we watch outside of class. Provide your reaction to the films and relate them to the class material (either readings or lectures). Due dates for out of class film responses can be found in the schedule of readings below.

2. Midterm and Final exam: At the end of the third and fifth week of the course there will be a 3-4 paper due on a particular theme of the course. Essay questions and prompts will be provided at least a week ahead of time.
3. Final Project: Choose a novel or memoir from the list above to read for the quarter. The final essay, due at the end of the quarter, should be 5-6 pages and should discuss how the themes from class appear in the book. More information will be provided in class.

**Grade Distribution:**

Attendance and Participation	20%
Midterm Essay	20%
Film Responses and Quizzes	15%
Second Essay	20%
Final Project	25%

**Academic Policies and Resources:****Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

If you have any additional needs within the classroom, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and give it to me in person within the first week of the quarter. See <http://drc.ucsc.edu/> for more information on the qualifying criteria and the general process.

**Academic Integrity:**

Any form of academic dishonesty plagiarism will be met with a failing grade and referral to the university for further discipline. As always, consult the following website if there is any question as to what constitutes plagiarism: [http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic\\_integrity/undergraduate\\_students/](http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/).

**Citation and Documentation of Sources in Papers:**

Please choose one of the two following ways citing academic work for this course: (1) parenthetical or in-text citations and (2) footnotes. For the in-text system the department follows the *Modern Language Association* (MLA). For footnotes, the *Chicago Manual of Style*. The style guides for the two systems can be found on the Politics website at <http://politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/citation.php>.

**Late Policy:**

Given the short nature of summer session courses late work will not be accepted unless there are exceptional circumstances.

**Learning Support Services:**

Learning Support Services helps students find the resources they need to succeed academically. While there is no tutor specifically designated for this course, there are writing tutors available to all students; you should consider trying to use this service as you prepare to turn in the required paper. Learning Support Services are free of charge.

For more information, please see: <http://www2.ucsc.edu/lss/>

**Participation in Lecture and Discussion:**

Apart from active participation in lecture and discussion there are two specific rules that I will be enforcing this quarter.

1. Bring physical copies of the readings to class every day and have them out and ready during discussions. It will be difficult to refer to the reading during discussion (and convince me that you have done the reading) if you do not have a physical copy with you.
2. There will be no laptops (or tablets or phones) allowed in class. New studies show that students learn best when they listen carefully and take notes by hand instead of typing everything they hear in lecture.

## Schedule of Readings and Meetings

### Week 1: Introduction: Race, Power and Identity

Monday June 22:

Gloria Anzaldúa. "The Homeland, Aztlán" from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (11 pages)

Juan Flores. "The Latino Imaginary: Dimensions of Community and Identity" from *Tropicalizations: Transcultural Representations of Latinidad* (10 pages)

Lisa García Bedolla. "Introduction" from *Latino Politics* (13 pages)

Wednesday June 24:

Eduardo Galeano. "The Invisible Sources of Power" from *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent* (36 pages)

#### In-Class Documentaries:

Viva la Causa (1995) Dir. Elizabeth Martínez

Hidden in Plain Sight (2003) Dir. John Smihula

### Week 2: Latin America and Latinos in Political and Historical Context

Monday June 29:

Cecilia Menjivar and Nestor Rodriguez. "State Terror" and "Operation Condor" from *When States Kill: Latin America, the U.S., and Technologies of Terror* (44 pages)

Wednesday July 1:

Lisa García Bedolla. "Mexican Americans," and "Puerto Ricans," from *Latino Politics*. (82 pages)

[Optional Reading] Lisa Garcia Bedolla. "Cuban Americans" from *Latino Politics*. (31 pages)

#### In-Class Documentaries:

When the Mountains Tremble (1983) Dir. Pamela Yates.

Palante, siempre palante!: The Young Lords (1996) Dir. Iris Morales

Out of Class Viewing: *The Motorcycle Diaries* (Film response due Monday July 6)

### Week 3: Revolution in the Air

Monday July 6:

Richard Gott. "Introduction," "The Capture and Death of Che Guevara" and "Epilogue: Defeat of the Revolution?" from *Guerrilla Movements in Latin America* (42 pages)

Julio Cortázar. "A Sovereign People," and "Nicaraguan Sketches" from *Nicaraguan Sketches* (19 pages)

Wednesday July 8:

Ernesto Chávez. "Birth of a New Symbol: The Brown Berets' Gendered Chicano National Imaginary," from *Generations of Youth* (17 pages)

Gloria Anzaldúa. "Movimientos de rebeldía y culturas que traicionan" from *Borderlands/La Frontera* (12 pages).

Elizabeth Martinez. "Walking with Cesar" from *De Colores Means All of Us* (9 pages)

### **Midterm essay due Wednesday July 8**

#### In-Class Documentaries:

Chicano! History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement. (1996) Pt. 3: Taking Back the Schools

Out of Class Viewing: *Cesar Chavez* (Film response due Monday July 13)

### **Week 4: Neoliberalism as Restoration**

Monday July 13:

William Robinson. "Promoting Polyarchy in Latin America: The Oxymoron of 'Market Democracy'" (23 pages)

Wednesday July 15:

Patricia Zavella. "Latinos in the USA" (13 pages)

#### In-Class Documentaries:

*A Place Called Chiapas* (1998) Dir. Nettie Wild

*Granito de Arena* (2005) Dir. Jill Freidberg

### **Week 5: The Current Landscape: Social Movements and Progressive Governments**

Monday July 20:

William Robinson. "Transformative Possibilities in Latin America" (18 pages)

Guillermo Delgado-P. "The Making of a Transnational Movement" Richard Stahler-Sholk. "Autonomy and Resistance in Chiapas." Raúl Zibechi. "Worker-Run Factories: From Survival to Economic Solidarity" from *Dispatches from Latin America* (33 pages).

Wednesday July 22:

Lisa García Bedolla. "Conclusion: The Context of Latino Migration and Mobilization" from *Latino Politics* (15 pages)

### **Second Essay due Wednesday July 22**

#### In-Class Documentaries:

*South of the Border* (2009) Dir. Oliver Stone

*The Take* (2004) Dir. Avi Lewis

### **Final Project due Friday July 24**