(PALAS 362) Latin American Cultures and Civilizations
Liria Evangelista, Ph.D
Universidad de Belgrano
Program in Argentine and Latin American Studies
Course Syllabus 2013

Course information
M – W 1:00- 2:30 PM // Room 10-6
Instruction in English

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Course description
Since its discovery until the present, Latin America has been imagined and conceived as the “New Continent”, a place for utopia, but also as a space of uneven modernity and extreme forms of violence. The course explores distinctive cultural aspects of Latin America by looking at the ways it has been represented in readings spanning from the diaries written by Christopher Columbus to the texts of the Cuban Revolution, the iconography of Peronismo, or the recent debates on Neoliberalism, Globalization and Populism. Drawing on essays, but also on short-stories, paintings, photographs, and films, the course addresses a set of questions that lie at the heart of how one thinks about Latin America. What is expected from “Latin America”? What were the different “ideas” that Latin America embodied? What are the forms of “Latin American” culture? How are the different “cultures” connected? The purpose of the course is threefold: to introduce students to problems central to Latin America, to familiarize students with a variety of non-fictional writings in Spanish, such as essay, chronicle, journalism and documentary films, and to sharpen student’s skills as analytical readers.

Course requirements
Following UB policies, students need a minimum of 75% of attendance to be in good standing for the final exam. Sliding the ID card is the only way to track attendance. Students are expected to do close readings, participate in class, and do one oral presentations in pairs or in groups of three. During the semester, students will write two short (2-3 pages) papers. The requirements also include a midterm and a final comprehensive exam. In addition to this, each student will be expected to make a significant contribution to the classroom dialogue. As part of this, students will be asked to bring two specific comments regarding the required readings in order to discuss in class.
Any student caught plagiarizing will be given a “no credit” for all courses taken in the semester.

As part of the course requirements, the students will have to visit the Evita Museum in the assigned week (see academic calendar below).

**Grading Policy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation (1)</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Essay (2) (2 pages)</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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For a better understanding of the comparable table for grading: check the conversion table for the numerical scale (in orientation kit packet).

**Unit 1. “Discovering the New Continent”: Early Images of Latin America**

**Monday, March 11**

The ideas of Latin America. Presenting the course.

1. Christopher Columbus. “Letter to Luis de Santangel”

**Wednesday, March 13**

The “New World”: Accounts of the Discovery and the Conquest


**Week 2.**

**Monday, March 18**


**Wednesday, March 20**

7. ----. “Cortés and Montezuma”
8. Great pre-Columbian civilizations (chapters from the *Popol Vuh: The Sacred Book of the Ancient Quiche Maya* and the Origin of the Aztecs)

Oral presentations will be assigned.

**Week 3. Colonial Encounters and its Consequences**  
**Monday, March 25**

**Oral presentation** on Bartolomé de las Casas.

**Wednesday, March 27**

**Oral presentation** on Eduardo Galeano. *The open veins of Latin America*

**Week 4. Revisiting the Conquest**  
**Monday, April 1**  
National Holiday / No class

**Wednesday, April 3**  
Werner Herzog. *Aguirre, the wrath of God* (screening in class)  
Students have to write the first short paper / Prompt by email.

**Unit 2. Founding New Nations and the Idea of Latin America**  
**Week 5.**  
**Monday, April 8**

**Short Paper is due**

**Wednesday, April 10**  
13. José Martí “Our America”.  
**Oral presentation** on Simón Bolívar and José Martí.

**Week 6. Civilization and Barbarism**  
**Monday, April 15**
**Oral presentation.**

**Wednesday, April 17**

Film. María Luisa Bemberg. *Camila* (screening in class).

**Week 7. Re-writing the “Foundational Fictions”**
**Monday, April 22**

Oral presentation on Jorge Luis Borges.

**Wednesday, April 24**

17. Octavio Paz. “The sons of La Malinche”.
18. Oswald de Andrade. “Cannibalist Manifesto”.

**Unit 3. The Arrival of Masses into Public Life**
**Week 8. Images of the Mexican Revolution and the Cuban Revolution**
**Monday, April 29**

19. Vasconcelos, José. *The cosmic race* (selection)
20. Juan Rulfo. “They gave us the Land”.
Oral presentations on Mexican Muralists / Rulfo/ Villa

**Wednesday, May 1.**

Holiday / no class.
Walter Salles, *Motorcycle Diaries* (screening in class).

**Week 9. Guevara and the effects of the Cuban Revolution**
**Monday, May 6**

21. Ernesto Guevara. “Historical exception or vanguard in the anticolonial struggle”.
Oral presentation on Che Guevara
22. Fidel Castro. “History will absolve me” (excerpts).

**The aesthetics of Peronism**
**Wednesday, May 8**

25. Julio Cortázar, “House Taken Over”. 


**Week 11.**
**Monday, May 13**
Visit to the Evita Museum

**Wednesday, May 15**

**Mid Term Exam**

**Unit 4. From Dictatorships to Neoliberalism**
**Week 12. Dictatorships in the Southern Cone**
**Monday, May 20**

Debate on *The hour of the furnaces.*
28. The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo / Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sanchez
Patricio Guzmán. *The Battle of Chile* (Chile, 1977) / excerpts.

**Short paper on Evita is due**

**Wednesday, May 22**


**Week 13.**
**Monday, May 27**

**Unit 5. Latin America towards the 21 Century: The Problems of Globalization**

35. Ejército Zapatista. “Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle”

**Oral Presentation** on the Zapatistas.

**Wednesday, May 29**

**Week 14. The year of 2001 in Argentina / A new face for Latin America**
**Monday, June 3**

**Final Paper consultations**

**Wednesday, June 5**

Review in class.

**Week 15**

**Monday, June 10.**

Final exam.

**Wednesday, June 12.**

“Final Grade Sheet and signature of Hoja de situación (attendance is mandatory)”.
Bibliography


Marysa Navarro. “Evita, una de las primeras desaparecidas políticas de Argentina.” (JSTOR)

- - -. “Wonderwoman was Argentine and her Real name was Evita.” Canadian Journal of Latin American & Caribbean Studies 24. London: 1999. 133.


Perón, Eva. In My Own Words (La razón de mi vida).

Plotkin, Mariano. “May Day and 17 of October: Political Rituals and Peron´s charisma” and The Fundacion Eva Peron, in Mañana es San Perón: A Cultural History of Peron’s Argentina. Delaware: Scholarly Resources, año. 39-82.
Savigliano, Marta. “Evita: The Globalization of a National Myth” (Jstor)
Free Online Information Technology Courses. Information technology is the study and practice of utilizing computers and other communication systems to transmit, organize, access, and manipulate data. Information technology is a broad term that is used in several industries, including in the business, engineering, and medical fields. Because the study of information Course information. If you wish to spend a semester or two at DTU (within the framework of Erasmus or a bilateral agreement), you can choose between doing regular courses or project work. Regular courses. If you are interested in studying a semester of regular courses, you will be asked to select a group of courses that interests you and meets the requirements of your home institution. Before searching the course catalogue, please be advised that