

LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA  
LLS 4920/8926  
Contemporary Topics in LLS: Humanities

Instructor: Andrea Dominguez

Meeting dates and times:

August 24 to October 15, 2010

Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30 – 9:10 pm.

Class meeting locations:

- 1) Assigned UNO classroom
- 2) Film Streams, Ruth Sokolof Theater  
1340 Mike Fahey Street (formerly Webster Street)  
Omaha, NE 68102  
<http://www.filmstreams.org/>

## OVERVIEW

The goal of this course is to unveil the structure of movies as a tool to understand their subtext and to read films critically inside of the social context of each country. In addition the course will show the historical context out of which these films have been emerged. We will watch contemporary fiction (Brazil, Argentina, Colombia), as well as documentaries that scope political landscape (Chile) and drama addressing gender and identity (Cuba).

In conjunction with the nine films we will view in class, we are going to move thematically through five films at CINEMATECA, the biennial showcase of Latin American movies at Film Streams. Students will participate in a pre-show class, the film presentation, and the post-show discussion led by OLLAS faculty.

## CLASSES

**At UNO:** The first hour and a half of each class will be devoted to film screening followed by a discussion. Some movies will have to be finished as homework depending on the length and ensuing debate. Discussions about the film and the historical and political backgrounds will be lead by the professor and students. Students are required to stay for the discussions even when the class films are available elsewhere for viewing.

**At Film Streams:** The class will meet promptly at 6:30 pm on the designated days in a meeting room in Film Streams. (Be sure to allow sufficient time for downtown parking!) After a short discussion including preparation for the film of the day,

students will go to the theater. After the completion of the film, the students will stay and participate in the post-show discussion. During the first class meeting, the students will be given a list of the movies to be viewed at Film Stream.

Graduate students are expected to do additional reading and presentation in a class.

A note for Spanish Majors and Minors: All assignments and consultations with the instructor will be done in Spanish.

## GRADING

**Homework (15%):** Short reading and homework assignments will given regularly.

**Film Analysis (25%):** Every student is required to analyze a film. In addition, if the class size allows it, each student will lead a discussion of one film. Scheduled presenters must meet with the instructor prior to the presentation to discuss which issue the student is considering. It is expected that presenters will watch the film a second time prior to the classroom-led discussion. A 2-page written analysis based on the presentation and discussion will be due by the class following the actual presentation.

**Film Analyses Essays [2] (30% each):** There will be a two 5-7 page analytical essays based on questions distributed. These essays will address the films and readings.

## PASS/NO PASS GRADING

Students taking the class for "P/NP" option are required to attend all class sessions and do all assigned work to receive an overall passing grade for the course.

## GRADES

The following is the letter grade system:

- A range=Excellent. Work of consistently high standard, showing distinction.
- B range=Good. Work showing superiority in such qualities as organization, accuracy, originality, understanding, and insight.
- C range=Satisfactory. Work that fulfills essential requirements in quality and quantity and meets the acceptable standard.
- D range=Passing. Work that falls below the acceptable grade point average standard yet is deserving of credit in the course.

## GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN WORK

All written work must conform to the following standards: typed using 12 pt. font (Times New Roman), 1 1/2-line spacing with 1-inch margins. Direct quotations and references to other works are clearly cited. All written work must include your name, a title, and page numbers.

#### ABSENCES, TARDINESS, LATE PAPERS, MAKE-UPS

The courtesy of alerting the professor to a scheduled absence or lateness is expected. In the event of an emergency absence and/or request for extension on papers (due to personal or family illness) documentation may be requested; make-up work may be assigned at the discretion of the professor. Unexcused lateness and/or absences will affect your grade. To avoid penalization, all extensions must be approved ahead of time.

#### TEXTBOOKS

Shaw, Deborah. *Contemporary Cinema of Latin America, 10 Key Films*. New York: The Continuum International Publishing Group Inc., 2003. ISBN-10 0826414850.

#### ADDITIONAL READING/VIEWING MATERIALS

Additional reading materials will be found on the UNO Blackboard as well as on Reserve and e-Reserve at the Criss Library. Most of the DVDs will be available as 2-hour reserve for in-library viewing.

#### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University holds its students to the highest standards of intellectual honesty and prescribes harsh penalties for academic dishonesty, including plagiarism. The procedures and sanctions for academic integrity are maintained by the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Please see

Undergraduate students

<http://www.unomaha.edu/aandsaffairs/insidepages/aiundergrad.php>

Graduate students:

<http://www.unomaha.edu/graduate/studentrights.php?p=integrity&t=c>

for details.