

**LAST 211: Latin America: People, Places, and Popular Culture**  
University of Calgary  
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Jose M. Gordillo  
Classes: Tuesday, Thursday (11:00 – 12:15)  
Classroom: ES 443  
Office: SS 643  
Office hours: Thursday (12:30 – 1:30) or by appointment.  
Phone: (403) 220-2260  
E-mail: [jmgordil@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jmgordil@ucalgary.ca)

**Course description:**

“Does Latin America really exist?” This is the initial and intriguing question we must face when we start reading the course textbook. After all, the author argues, Colombian or Mexican schoolchildren learn their own Colombian or Mexican history, not a generic “Latin American” history. Therefore, “Latin America” would seem to be an abstraction, perhaps more useful to people outside the region. Nevertheless, he concludes, underlying commonalities among the peoples of the nineteen countries make it meaningful to speak of Latin America.

In this course we will explore how peoples in Latin America make sense of their places and cultures, by grasping their historical commonalities. Therefore, an introduction to pre-colonial, colonial, and modern Latin American history will allow us to consequently learn, review, and debate on four analytical topics: Urban Challenges; Agriculture: Food and Farmers; Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants; and Changing Gender Roles.

In order to address these topics, we will use academic articles, films, literature, and documentaries. Groups of students will deliver oral presentations and a short individual article review will be requested. Students will also write reports on two films, on a woman’s diary, and on two documentaries. Finally, we will wrap-up the course content by addressing some contemporary economic, political, and cultural challenges that Latin American peoples are currently confronting.

**Course Outcomes:**

Through successful completion of this course, the students will:

- Be able to understand the nature and legacy of European colonialism in current Latin American societies and cultures.
- Use diverse sources such as literature, film, documentaries, and written scholarship to assess social and cultural issues in Latin America.
- Articulate the diversity of human experience, including ethnicity, race, language, gender, as well as political, economic, social, and culture structures over time and space in written work, oral presentations, and class discussions.
- Organize and express their thoughts clearly and coherently both in writing and orally.

**Course Text Book:**

- Berryman, Phillip. **Latin America at 200. A New Introduction.** University of Texas Press, 2016.

**Literary Reading.**

- Maria de Jesus, Carolina. **Child of the Dark: The Diary of Carolina Maria de Jesus.** Signed Classics, 2003.

**Selected readings:**

- Selected readings are academic articles and books chapters to be used for oral presentations and review purposes. These readings will be on reserve in the library or posted in D2L.

**Recommended Reading:**

- “Writing a journal article review.” Retrieved from: <https://academicskills.anu.edu.au/node/492>

**Course Assignments and Grading:**

Midterm	10%	<b>October 15</b>
Oral Presentation	10%	
Film Review (2)	20%	
Literary Review	10%	
Documentary Review (2)	20%	
Article Review	10%	
Final Exam	20%	<b>TBA by Registrar</b>

**You must complete all assignments to pass the course**

- **Midterm and Final Examinations:**  
Both the midterm and the final examinations are comprehensive. They will include material from the textbook, lectures, oral presentations, and in-class discussions. The midterm examination will be held in class on **October 15**. The final examination will be held during the examination period (**December 9 - 19**), at the time and place to be scheduled by the registrar.
- **Oral Presentation.**  
Oral presentations will be delivered in groups of 2 or 4 students. Each group will orally present an assigned article, book chapter, documentary, film, or a literary text. During the oral presentation session (15 or 30 minutes), the group will identify its central idea and summarize the text’s content. The articles, book chapters, and documentaries will be posted on D2L. The films will be exhibited in-class. Finally, the literary text must be purchased at the university’s book store. Both the group and the individuals’ performance in the oral presentation sessions will be evaluated by the instructor.
- **Text Review.**  
Each student will write an individual review on the article, book chapter, film, documentary, or literary text addressed in her/his oral presentation. A guide for writing an article review can be found in the recommended reading web link.
- **Film Report.**  
Students will watch and discuss in-class, two films on urban and gender violence. Based upon a questionnaire addressing central topics of both films, students will write two short film reports.

- **Documentary Report.**

Students will watch and discuss in-class, two documentaries on popular dance and food. Based upon a questionnaire, students will write two short documentary reports.

- **Literary Report.**

Students will read a female favela dweller’s diary in Brazil. Based upon a questionnaire, which addresses some social issues described in the diary, students will write a short literary report.

**Oral Presentations Schedule:**

Group 1	Urban Challenges	Class 4 (09/17)
Group 2	Urban Challenges	Class 5 (09/19)
Group 3	Urban Challenges	Class 5 (09/19)
Group 4	Film (1)	Class 8 (10/01)
Group 5	Agriculture: Food and Farmers	Class 9 (10/03)
Group 6	Agriculture: Food and Farmers	Class 10 (10/08)
Group 7	Agriculture: Food and Farmers	Class 10 (10/08)
Group 8	Documentary (1)	Class 11 (10/10)
Group 9	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants	Class 13 (10/17)
Group 10	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants	Class 14 (10/22)
Group 11	Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants	Class 14 (10/22)
Group 12	Documentary (2)	Class 15 (10/24)
Group 13	Changing Gender roles	Class 16 (10/29)
Group 14	Changing Gender roles	Class 17 (10/31)
Group 15	Changing Gender roles	Class 17 (10/31)
Group 16	Film (2)	Class 20 (11/19)
Group 17	Literary Discussion (1)	Class 21 (11/21)
Group 18	Literary Discussion (2)	Class 22 (11/26)
Group 19	Combating Crime and Corruption	Class 23 (11/28)
Group 20	Bodies and Minds	Class 24 (12/03)

**Lecture Schedule and Reading Assignments**

(Readings must be finished for the week on which they are assigned)

<b>WEEK 1:</b>	<b>Conquest and Colonial Order. Forging New Nations.</b>
Class 1 (09/5)	Introduction. Achievements of early Americans. Conquest and settlement. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 10, p. 154-169.
<b>WEEK 2:</b>	<b>Forging New Nations. The Zigzag Path to Democracy and Development.</b>
Class 2 (09/10)	Colonial society: economy, governance, religion. Seeking order and progress. A revolution and the rise of nationalism.
Class 3 (09/12)	Cuba in the 1960’s. Under the military boot. Central American agony. Deb crisis and globalization. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 11 and 12, p. 170-209.

<b>WEEK 3:</b>	<b>Urban Challenges.</b>
Class 4 (09/17)	Lecture: Urban Challenges. Oral Presentation: Group 1.
Class 5 (09/19)	Oral Presentations: Oral presentations: Group 2 and Group 3. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 2, p. 19-36.
<b>WEEK 4:</b>	<b>Urban Challenges.</b>
Class 6 (09/24)	Film (1) Exhibit.
Class 7 (09/26)	Film (1) Exhibit.
<b>WEEK 5:</b>	<b>Agriculture: Food and Farmers.</b>
Class 8 (10/01)	Film (1) Discussion. Oral Presentation: Group 4.
Class 9 (10/03)	Lecture: Agriculture: Food and Farmers. Oral Presentation: Group 5. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 3, p. 37-50.
<b>WEEK 6:</b>	<b>Agriculture: Food and Farmers.</b>
Class 10 (10/08)	Oral Presentations: Oral presentations: Group 6 and Group 7.
Class 11 (10/10)	Documentary (1) Exhibit and discussion. Oral Presentation: Group 8.
<b>WEEK 7:</b>	<b>Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.</b>
Class 12 (10/15)	<b>MIDTERM EXAM.</b>
Class 13 (10/17)	Lecture: Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants. Oral Presentation: Group 9. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 7, p. 98-115. <b>Film (1) Report END DATE, October 18.</b>
<b>WEEK 8:</b>	<b>Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendants.</b>
Class 14 (10/22)	Oral Presentations: Oral presentations: Group 10 and Group 11.
Class 15 (10/24)	Documentary (2) Exhibit and discussion. Oral Presentation: Group 12. <b>Documentary (1) Report END DATE, October 25.</b>
<b>WEEK 9:</b>	<b>Changing Gender roles.</b>
Class 16 (10/29)	Lecture: Changing Gender Roles. Oral Presentation: Group 13.
Class 17 (10/31)	Oral Presentations: Oral presentations: Group 14 and Group 15. Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 8, p. 117-133.
<b>WEEK 10:</b>	<b>Changing Gender roles.</b>
Class 18 (11/05)	Film (2) Exhibit.
Class 19 (11/07)	Film (2) Exhibit. <b>Documentary (2) Report END DATE, November 08.</b>
<b>WEEK 11:</b>	<b>Changing Gender Roles</b>
Class 20 (11/19)	Film (2) Discussion. Oral Presentation: Group 16.
Class 21 (11/21)	Literary Discussion (1): "Child of the Dark". Oral Presentation: Group 17.

**WEEK 12: Twenty-First-Century Challenges.**  
 Class 22 (11/26) Literary Discussion (2): “Child of the Dark”. Oral Presentation: Group 18.  
 Class 23 (11/28) Lecture: Combating Crime and Corruption. Oral Presentation: Group 19.  
 Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 15, p. 251-274.  
**Film (2) Report END DATE, November 29.**

**WEEK 13: Twenty-First-Century Challenges.**  
 Class 24 (12/03) Lecture: Bodies and Minds. Oral Presentation: Group 20.  
 Class 25 (12/05) Lecture: Goods and People Crossing Borders.  
 Assigned reading: Berryman, Chap. 16, and 17, p. 275-317.  
**Literary Report END DATE, December 06.**  
**Text Review END DATE, December 06.**

**Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- **Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.**
- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca), or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Library Block (MLB), call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.
- Registration changes and exemption requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.

**Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

### Writing:

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly referenced.

### Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be dropped into the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) **course name and number**, 2) **instructor**, 3) **your name**, and 4) **your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook*

<https://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history-students-handbook-2019.pdf>

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly

- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works
- Using notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work is reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar, Section K*. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Copyright:**

Instructors in all University of Calgary courses strictly adhere to the Copyright Act regulations and educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, you may be required to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

### **Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

### **Other Useful Information:**

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

*Fall 2019*