

Rhodes College
Department of History

Course Title: **History of Latin America Through Feature Film**

Term: Fall, 1998

Instructor: Mike LaRosa

Office: Clough 311

Hours: M 8-9 am; T, Th 8-9:30 am

Phone: 843-3656--office; 725-9865--home

Course Description: This course is designed as an introduction to historical trends and issues that have shaped Latin American society and culture. Through films produced in the US, Latin America and Europe, lectures and readings, students will be able to critically evaluate Latin America's evolution from the colonial period (c. 1521) to the present.

Books:

There are five books available for purchase at the college bookstore. The "Winn" book will serve as our primary text for this course.

Burns, E. Bradford.	<i>The Poverty of Progress.</i>
Esquivel, Laura.	<i>Like Water for Chocolate.</i>
Guillermoprieto, Alma.	<i>Samba.</i>
las Casas, Bartolome de.	<i>Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies.</i>
Winn, Peter.	<i>Americas.</i>

Format:

Students are expected to attend all films during the Monday evening viewing hour (7-10 pm). Tuesday's class will be a "lecture" format and Thursday's class will be dedicated to debate and discussion of the week's film and/or topic.

Expectations:

Students should plan to attend all classes and viewings. Each student is required to turn in four four page essays on a given topic during the semester. Additionally, students will keep a journal to be collected at the instructor's discretion. Also, student's will work in pairs (chosen by the instructor) to "present" a film to the class. A final "project" will be handed in whereby class participants are invited to design their own "syllabus" for a course on Latin American history through film, either feature or documentary. There are no exams or quizzes in this course.

Grading:

The final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Four essays: 50 percent
Final Project: 25 percent
Presentation/journal: 25 percent

Detailed film, reading, paper and lecture schedule:

Week One: Introduction to course
Reading, Winn, chapter 1.

Week Two: 31 Aug.

Monday: Film, "Bananas" by Woody Allen
Lecture: Stereotyping Latin America and Latin Americans.

Week Three: 7 Sept.

Monday: No class...Labor Day.
Lecture: The Spiritual Conquest of Latin America (Tuesday) and A Brief
introduction to the History of Colonial Latin America (Thursday).
Reading, Winn, chapter 2

Week Four: 14 Sept.

Monday: Film, "The Mission."
Lecture: Jesuits, Indians, and las Casas...
Reading: las Casas--entire text.

Week Five: 21 Sept.

Monday: Film, "Burn!" by Gilo Pontecorvo
Lecture: Slavery, economics and Latin American independence
Reading: Start Burns. **First paper due on Thursday 24 Sept.**

Week Six: 28 Sept.

Monday: Film, "Camila" by Maria Luisa Bemberg.
Lecture: Patriarchy, institutions and dissenting women in 19th century
Argentina.
Reading: Finish Burns. Winn, chapter 9.

Week Seven: 5 Oct.

Monday: Film, "Like Water for Chocolate."
Lecture: Mexico in Revolution.
Reading: *Like Water for Chocolate*

Week Eight: 12 Oct.

Monday: Film, "Black Orpheus."
Lecture: Carnival and social space in Brazil.
Reading: Start *Samba*. Winn, chapter 8 **Second paper due Thurs. 15 Oct.**

Week Nine: 19 Oct.

Monday: No Viewing
Thursday (in class) "It's all True" by Orson Wells.
Reading: Finish *Samba*; Winn, chapter 5

Week Ten: 26 Oct.

Monday: Film, "Kiss of the Spider Woman" by Hector Babenco
Lecture: Military repression in the 60s, 70s and 80s. Brazil, Chile and Argentina.

Week Eleven: 2 Nov.

Monday: Film, "Romero" or "Men with Guns"
Lecture: More repression...against the Church, against the poor.
Reading, Winn, chapter 6

Week Twelve: 9 Nov.

Monday: Film, "Milagro Beanfield War" by Robert Redford
Lecture: Land, culture and the history of the US Southwest: before and after 1848. **Third paper due, Thursday 12 Nov.**
Reading, Winn, chapter 14.

Week Thirteen: 16 Nov.

Monday: Film, "Boca del Lobo"
Lecture: Peru's Sendero Luminoso: forcing the *pachacuti*.
Reading: Winn, chapter 13

Week Fourteen: 23 Nov.

Monday: Film, “At Play in the Fields of the Lord”

Tuesday: Modern Missionaries from Abroad: A critical (and historical) look.

Reading, Winn, chapters 7, 10

Week Fifteen: 30 Nov.

Monday: No viewing

Tuesday: Discuss “At Play...”

Thursday: View, in class, documentary from “Americas” on cultural identity.

Fourth paper due, Thursday 3 Dec.

Week Sixteen: 7 Dec.

Monday: No viewing

Lecture: Feature film or documentary...

nb: All projects are due on the last day of class, Tuesday, 8 December.