(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

Contact information
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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**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<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.


Rosario, Marta. “Evita: The Globalization of a National Myth” (Jstor)


Skillful is a brand new five-level course taking students from Foundation to Level 4. Each level includes both a Listening and Speaking and Reading and Writing Student’s Book that complement each other through parallel topics and features. Skillful not only provides the tools for academic success but creates an interactive learning environment, which encourages student debate. Certificate courses (average time: 2-3 hours), which help you focus your learning to provide you with specific expertise in your field or industry. Diploma courses (average time: 8-10 hours), which are designed to give you a more extensive understanding of a subject area, by helping you master multiple concepts within a subject. Our online Information Technology Course has been specifically designed for individuals who are looking to develop their IT abilities. Whether they plan to use their new skills at home, in the workplace, or as a basis for further study, this course can set them on their way. The course catalog provides descriptions of courses, majors and minors offered by academic departments and programs. You'll also find additional academic information, including regulations, facilities, financial aid and scholarships. Current course catalog Previous course catalogs. Course Schedule Lookups. Browse all courses. What is an online course in IT? Information technology, or IT for short, is the catchall phrase that refers to the systems, hardware, software and network applications that work to manage and communicate information used by companies and individuals. You will study these aspects of IT with the goal of understanding how information is handled, what common problems occur throughout this process and what methods are commonly used to mitigate complications.