

Cultures of Latin America HUM 310
Bldg. 47; # 26-B 756-2750

Fall 2008 Kevin B. Fagan, Ph.D.
kfagan@calpoly.edu

Course Description

A systematic study of Latin America, in a global context, from various perspectives: artistic, economical, ethnic, historical, journalistic, linguistic, literary, religious, and political. Special attention will be given to analyzing cultural challenges between Latin America and the U.S. today, as influenced by free/fair trade, political stances and globalization.

Goals and Objectives

Our aim is a better understanding and commitment with issues relating to Latin America with their corresponding presence in our daily lives in California: NAFTA, maquiladoras, immigration, bilingualism, drug consumption and trafficking, borders and neighbors, study and work abroad.

Hum 310 satisfies the C4 GE, Spanish major/minor, and Latin American Studies minor requirements.

Required Texts and Materials

1. The Motorcycle Diaries (MD): notes on a Latin American journey / Ernesto "Che" Guevara. New York: Ocean Press, 2004. ISBN 1876175702.

2. Fuentes, Carlos. The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World. Boston : Houghton Mifflin. Mariner Books ed. ISBN 0395924995.

3. Todorov, Tzvetan. The Conquest of America. Norman, OK: U of Oklahoma, 1999. ISBN 0-061-3137-3.

Handouts in class and on-line.

The corresponding text must be brought to class daily as part of the participation grade.

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Office Hours: TR: 5:10-7 pm. W: 5:10-6 pm.

Course Expectations

1. Attendance/Participation: You will be asked to share your insights in class discussion for the purpose of linking them to the course material and providing an opportunity for the group to discuss and interpret their significance. Non-participation equals an absence. Also, "Absence from classes is regarded as serious. An excused absence can be allowed only by the instructor . . . upon consideration of the evidence justifying the absence presented by the student" (Catalog, 83). A written e-mail excuse (not voice messages) is due for each class absence before the next class session. If you miss a class, you are responsible for getting the notes/handouts/assignments from another student. Each unexcused absence is worth 10 points. To arrive late or leave early

for more than 5 minutes, or not bring the text equals an absence. Kindly remain in the same seat unless requested otherwise. There are no early exams, make-ups nor extra credit.

2. Reading Quizzes: quizzes based on the reading assignments, handouts and instructor lectures will be given at the beginning of the following week. Quizzes cover people, places, dates, events and your reflections.

3. Fortnightly analysis: you will write a one page typed analysis of each fortnight's lectures/readings, explaining both the key topics and your reflections, due the quiz day.

4. Final Paper: Your term paper will discuss some aspect of Latin American culture, 6-8 pages in length, with at least four references, according to the MLA style. Your paper should be original, honest, simple and direct essay written with your own words and ideas, in a language that reflects no more or less than the education expected for a college student. It will be written according with the Modern Languages Association (M.L.A.) style, including references, notes, bibliography, etc. You will present your paper to the class during the last week of class.

Deadline: Dec. 4th at noon.

Days and Times of Class

Class will meet from 12:10 to 2 pm, Tuesday and Thursday.

Announcements:

1. I reserve the right to modify course policies and calendar, assignment point values and due dates. Students may suggest changes, subject to class and instructor approval. Regularly check "Announcements" on the Blackboard web page.
2. E-mail: Only use email for personal emergencies. Post all course questions on the Blackboard Discussion Board. If you can't make it to office hours, let's schedule an alternative time. All e-mail is sent to your Cal Poly e-mail address and only received from Cal Poly e-addresses. If you use an off-campus e-address, it is your responsibility to make sure your mail is forwarded correctly. Use the Cal Poly Portal: <http://my.calpoly.edu>.
3. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor during office hours to discuss their disability related needs. Use of Disability Resource Center services including testing accommodation, requires prior authorization by the DRC and compliance with approved procedures.
4. As a student, you are responsible for your own work. The Campus Administrative Manual (Section 684) states: "The University will not condone academic cheating or plagiarism in any form." Cheating and plagiarizing are serious offences and will be dealt with accordingly. Consequences include, but are not limited to, receiving an F in the course and being reported to Judicial Affairs."
5. Classroom civility: Out of respect for others, no audible cell phones, reading or writing other material, eating, chewing, feet on furniture nor chatting allowed.

Calendar

Week 1 Introduction. Text and video: "The Motorcycle Diaries"

Week 2: The Motorcycle Diaries.

Week 3: 10/7: Quiz 1, MD. Fuentes: Video/Part 1: The Virgin and the Bull.

Week 4: Fuentes: Conflict of the gods

Week 5 10/20: Quiz 2, Fuentes. 10/22: Todorov: Discovery; Conquest.

Week 6 Todorov: Love; Knowledge; Epilogue.
Week 7: 11/4; Quiz 3, Todorov. 3/11: Fuentes: Children of La Mancha
Week 8: 11/11: Veteran's Day. Fuentes: The Price of Freedom
Week 9: Fuentes: Unfinished Business.
Week 10: 11/25: Quiz 4: Fuentes. 11/27: Thanksgiving holiday.
Week 11: Oral presentations
Grading Policy

A Superior Attainment of Course Objectives
A – Superior Attainment of Course Objectives
B + Good Attainment of Course Objectives
B Good Attainment of Course Objectives
B – Good Attainment of Course Objectives
C + Acceptable Attainment of Course Objectives
C Acceptable Attainment of Course Objectives
C – Acceptable Attainment of Course Objectives
D+ Poor Attainment of Course Objectives
D Poor Attainment of Course Objectives
D – Poor Attainment of Course Objectives
F Non-Attainment of Course Objectives
CR Credit
NC No Credit

Participation: = 100
Fortnightly Analysis: 5 x 40 = 200
Reading quizzes: 4 x 100 = 400
Final Presentation: = 100
Final Paper: = 200

A = 950+ A- = 900+
B+ = 866+ B = 833+ B- = 800+
C+ = 766+ C = 733+ C- = 700+
D+ = 666+ D = 633+ D- = 600+
CR = 700+ F = 600-

Pres. Warren Baker on Diversity (Fall Conference, 2008)

This means that students will need to learn with people of different backgrounds, to think globally, to understand the value of different perspectives and ideas and appreciate and embrace cultures beyond their own.

As pointed out in a Business Higher Education Forum report INVESTING IN PEOPLE, there is clear evidence that students who are engaged and exposed to people with a range of backgrounds and ideas are better critical thinkers and also show greater social and interpersonal development than students with less exposure to diversity.