Seminar Rationale and Description

This seminar will examine some of the central debates in the cultural and intellectual history of twentieth century Latin America. Through close readings and critical analysis of primary sources and secondary literature, students will acquire insight on:

1. The metamorphoses of the idea and the reality of Latin American identities in relation to the colonial past and to the ongoing dynamics of political change, artistic innovation and consumer trends.
2. The evolution of the discourse of justice, political rights and revolutionary action according to influential Latin American militants such as Ernesto Guevara, Carlos Marighella and Subcomandante Marcos.
3. The redefinition of social norms and the rupture with the *ancien régime* of morality as represented in Latin American literature, film and music after 1968.
The course seeks to enrich the existing curricular offerings in the fields of Latin American Cultural Studies, Intellectual History and Political Anthropology. Students will be exposed to different analytical discourses including political philosophy, cultural history, sociology, intellectual history, film studies and ethnomusicology. The seminar will emphasize an exploration and a critical deconstruction of the concept of Latin American identity. Students will reflect on the Latin American appropriation of European philosophy and political theory and on the diverse discourses and subjectivities within the Latin American community. The reading program and discussions will emphasize parallels with Western European thought in the central philosophical, cultural and political discourses of Latin America. The seminar will promote an interdisciplinary, comparative and transcultural interpretation of the Latin American reality exploring its uniqueness, but also its connections with other world cultural and intellectual heritages. Students will develop their understanding of the topic through original critical thinking in active and consistent class discussion, one book review essay and a final research paper.

Course Requirements
The final evaluation breakdown will consist of:

Mid-Term Review Essay 20%
Final Research Paper 50%
Class Participation 30%
Twentieth Century Latin American Cultural and Intellectual History:
Metamorphoses of Ideas, Subjectivities and Discourses:
Alheli Alvarado-Díaz
Spring 2013

I. Revolution and the New Latin American Self: Bolívar, Martí, Mariátegui

Distinctions and Singularities of the Latin American Reality
The Defense of the Hispanic Self and the Resistance to
American Hegemony
The Limits of the Latin American Prophets

Readings


II. The Reception of European Philosophy in Latin America: Korn, Astrada and Zea

The Reception of Positivism in Mexico
The Phenomenology Effect

Readings


III. Revolution, Art and Political Identities

The Legend of Villa and Zapata
Art and Politics after the Mexican Revolution
The Politics of Diego Rivera’s Muralist School

Readings


IV. Revolutionary Redemption, Urban Guerrillas and the Discourse of Martyrdom: Ernesto Guevara

The Reception of Marx in Latin America
The Guerrilla Concept

Readings


V. The Church of the Oppressed: Liberation Theology

Marxism, the Bible and Christian Thought
The Idea of Justice in the Discourse of Liberation Theology

Readings


Film: *Romero* (John Duigan, 1989)

VI. The Reception of Psychoanalysis in Latin America

Reading Freud and Lacan in Latin America
The Politics of Memory and the Reinvention of Collective Identity

Readings


VII. The Jewish Diaspora in Latin America

The Evolution of Jewish-Latin American Identities
Synagogues and Jewish Neighborhoods in the Tropics

Readings


VIII. The Evolution of the Rebel and the Ideal of Radical Change in the Sixties and Beyond

The Cuban Revolution: Philosophy and Reality
Fidel
The Psychology of the Latin American Rebels

Readings


IX. The Rejection of Convention: Feministas and Sexual Workers after 1968

Feminism and Political Revolution
The Market of Sex in Latin America

Readings


X. Rebels, Poets and Rockers: Infrarrealismo, Cultivated Masturbators and Postcolonial Indígenes in the Counter-Culture of the 1970s

Mexican Anti-Poetry and the Celebration of Individualism
Rock Stars and the Construction of Radical Liberty

Readings


XI. Death, Power and Drug Empires: Pablo Escobar and the Economy of Drug Trafficking

From Rags to Riches: Portrait of the Narcos
Drug Dealing, Political Control and Economic Progress

Readings


Films: Maria, Full of Grace (Joshua Marston, 2004)

XII. Musical Experimentation and the Liberation of Desire

The Musical Innovators of Brazil and the Caribbean
Urban Music and the Liberalization of Sexuality

Readings


XIII. Split Identities: The Latin American Diaspora in the US

US-Latin American Relations Revisited
“Us versus Them”: American Immigration Policy and the Redefinition of the Latin American People

Readings


**XIV. The Idea of Inter-subjectivity, Progress and Solidarity in Latin America’s New Millennium**

The Idea of New Leadership in Latin America
Redefining Sovereignty and Inter-American Collaboration
The New Idea of the Latin American Self

**Readings**


**Films:** *South of the Border* (Oliver Stone, 2009)