

## **LAST 105/2005 Resistance, Revolution and Art in Latin America**

**Prof. Mihai Grünfeld**

T, R 1:30-2:45pm in Chicago Hall 137

Office Hours in Main-N128: M 12:00-3:00pm; W 2:00-4:00pm; F 12:00-4:00pm - please call for appointment at X5255 or email [grunfeld@vassar.edu](mailto:grunfeld@vassar.edu)

This course examines key moments in Latin American history such as the Mexican, Cuban and Nicaraguan Revolutions, women's opposition to the Argentine military government of the late 1970s and early 1980s and the Zapatista rebellion as sights of struggle and resistance for national sovereignty and social equality. Throughout the semester we will explore both these crucial historical events and also forms of artistic and literary expressions such as novels, poetry, murals, songs and films, which were an intrinsic part of these movements and participated in defining their philosophical and cultural parameters.

There are no prerequisites for this course. It is designed as an introduction to the specialized courses in a variety of disciplines available through the Latin American Studies program at Vassar. No knowledge of Spanish is required. Students who would like to do some of the readings in Spanish and/or write their papers in Spanish should meet with me to make arrangements.

### **Course readings:**

Mariano Azuela, The Underdogs

Dinah Livingstone, Poets of the Nicaraguan Revolution.

Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude

Roberto Fernández Retamar, "Caliban: Notes Toward a Discussion of Culture in Our America," in Caliban and Other Essays

José Enrique Rodó, Ariel

Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter H. Smith, Modern Latin America

Please note that there are several other items on reserve that you are expected to read by the date specified on the syllabus. Additionally, you are asked on a few occasions to read articles from on-line journals; these may be accessed from the on-line catalogue following links to reserves for the course.

The class will also view several films; these are mandatory viewings. Please note that they are evening screenings, on Sunday and Mondays from 8-10pm in the Downstairs Viewing Room in Chicago Hall Foreign Language Resource Center. I expect you to plan your other obligations around these screenings. Please enter the dates in your calendar.

Sunday Sept. 5/Monday Sept. 6, Raymundo Gleyzer, Mexico: The Frozen Revolution.

Sunday Sept. 19/Monday Sept. 20, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Memories of Underdevelopment

Sunday Sept. 26/Monday Sept. 27, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, Strawberry and Chocolate

Sunday October 4/Monday 30 Luis Puenzo, The Official Story

### **GRADE:**

Group presentation and final paper 25%

First Paper 20%

Second Paper 20%

Third Paper 20%

Class participation 15%

There will be no midterm or final exams.

As part of the class participation, every student will have to make a 10 minutes news report on Latin America based on newspapers and Web information he/she can find. One excellent source of news is through the Council on Foreign Relations web page at <http://www.cfr.org/latinamerica/>.

### **Written Papers:**

There will be four written papers. The first one is on the depiction of the Mexican Revolution in any of the texts we examine in the class. You may select the other two papers from the following list of books and films, focusing

on any aspects that you deem worthwhile to write on. However, the paper must deal with the way in which art (the film/novel) engages with the historical reality it wishes to portray.

"Memories of Underdevelopment" and "Strawberry and Chocolate"

Gabriel Garcia Marquez' One hundred years of Solitude

Luis Puenzo' "The Official Story"

The last paper will be a write up of your section of the group presentation at the end of the semester. These presentations will be on a current example of resistance or struggle for social change. Groups and topics must be approved by me and completed papers turned in at the last class meeting on December 7.

The papers should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of 8.5X11' paper. Footnotes should be placed at the bottom of the page. Please follow a recognized style for footnote citations. (MLA, Chicago, etc.). All pages should be numbered in the upper right-hand corner. The typescript should be secured with a staple. The overall length should be approximately 4-5 pages. All the papers will be due in class one week after we finish the readings of the respective syllabus section (for example, paper 1 is due on September 21<sup>st</sup>). I strongly encourage you to come and speak with me during office hours regarding your papers.

### **Class participation:**

Attendance to class is obligatory. All students are expected to finish assigned readings, view films ahead of time and come to class prepared to raise questions and make thoughtful and informed contributions to discussion. Class participation will count 15% of the grade.

### **Students with disabilities:**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss any accommodation that may be needed for this course. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Disability and Support Services.

## **Syllabus**

### **August**

**Tuesday 31 Introduction.**

### **September**

**Thursday 2 MEXICO: A Frozen Revolution**

Skidmore and Smith, "Mexico: the Taming of a Revolution," pp. 225-255.

**Sunday 5/Monday 6 Evening Film: Raymundo Gleyzer, Mexico: The Frozen Revolution(4642).**

**Tuesday 7 Class discussion: Gleyzer and Mariano Azuela: The Underdogs**

**Thursday 9 Class discussion: Mariano Azuela: The Underdogs**

(This novel was made into a movie in Spanish available for viewing in FLRC)

**Tuesday 14 Diego Rivera and the Mexican Muralist Movement**

Ades, Dawn. "The Mexican Mural Movement," in Art in Latin America, pp. 151-18.

D. A. Siqueiros, 'Three appeals for a modern direction to the new generation of Mexican painters and sculptors' (1921) and 'Manifesto of the Union of Mexican workers, technicians, painters and sculptors' (1923) in Dawn Ades, pp 322-324.

**Thursday 16 Ché Guevara - A Latin American Revolutionary**

Skidmore and Smith, "Cuba: Late Colony, First Socialist State," pp. 256-285.

Guevara, Ernesto, Che. "Guerrilla Warfare: a Method." In Che Guevara on Revolution. (Ed. and Intro. By Jay Mallin. New York: Delta, 1969): 87-102. F1414.2.G7/1969a.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Guevara's Account of Cuban Campaign," In Che Guevara on Revolution. (Ed. and Intro. By Jay Mallin. New York: Delta, 1969):47-68.

Background Reading:

Angell, Alan (1994). 'The Left in Latin America since c.1920'. in Bethell, L. Editor, The Cambridge History of Latin America, vol. VI, part 2, p.163-231.

**Sunday 19/Monday 20 Evening Film: Thomas Gutierrez Alea, Memories of Underdevelopment (4078)**

**Tuesday 21 Class discussion: Thomas Gutierrez Alea, Memories of Underdevelopment** and Guevara, Ernesto, Che. "Socialism and Man in Cuba," In Che Guevara on Revolution. (Ed. and Intro. By Jay Mallin. New York: Delta, 1969): 127-144.

**Thursday 23 Class discussion: Thomas Gutierrez Alea, Memories of Underdevelopment**  
Additional Reading: Zuzana M. Pick, The New Latin American Cinema. A Continental Project, 1-37.

**Sunday 26/Monday 27 Evening Film: Strawberry and Chocolate (4424)**

**Tuesday 28 Class discussion: Strawberry and Chocolate and "La nueva canción"**

Gerardo Mosquera, "The Social Function of Art in Cuba since the Revolution of 1959." In David Craven, Art and Revolution in Latin America (Yale U. Press: New Haven, 2002) pp. 180-182.

Additional Reading: Mario Santí, Enrico. "Fresa y Chocolate: The Rhetoric of Cuban Reconciliation." MLN 113.2(1998): 407-425, on WEB reserve.

**Thursday 30. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo - Gender and New Social Movements**

Maryhsa Navarro, "The Personal is Political: Las Madres de Plaza de Mayo," in Susan Eckstein.

Rita Arditti "The Disappeared Children of Argentina," in Searching for Life: the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina.

Marguerite Guzman Bouvard, "The Dirty War," in Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, 18-45

Additional reading: Susan Eckstein, "Power and Popular Protest" in Eckstein, Power and Popular Protest: Latin American Social Movements 1-60.

**October**

**Sunday 3/Monday 4 Evening film: Luis Puenzo, The Official Story (42)**

**Tuesday 5 Class discussion: The Official Story**

Intro. Ronald Dworkin of Nunca Más: the Report of the Argentine National Commission on the Disappeared.. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1986. HV 6433.A7 A74 1986

**Thursday 7 Literary and cultural perspectives**

Rodó, José Enrique. Ariel. Tr. Margaret Sayers Peden. Austin: U. of Texas Press, 1988. PQ8519.R6 A713/1988

Martí, José. "Our America." In The America of José Martí: selected writings E13.M3/1968.

**Tuesday 12 Literary and cultural perspectives**

Class viewing: Basil Davidson: "Africa, Vol. 6: This Magnificent African Pie" (2514)

**Thursday 14 Literary and cultural perspectives**

Retamar, Roberto Fernández. "Caliban" in Caliban and other essays: Notes Toward a Discussion of Culture in Our America." Pp. 3-45. F1408.3 .F398 1989

## OCTOBER BREAK

**Tuesday 26** Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude

Alejo Carpentier, Prologue of The Kingdom of this World

**Thursday 28 Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude**

Additional Readings:

Williams, Raymond. Gabriel García Márquez. Boston: Twayne, 1984. Chap.4.

Martin, Gerald. "On 'magical' and social realism in García Márquez." ??: 95-116.

**November**

**Tuesday 2 Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude**

**Thursday 4 The Nicaraguan Revolution: A New Form of Art**

Haynes, Keen. A History of Latin America, pp. 469-484.

John A. Booth, The End and the Beginning. Chap. 8 and 9.

Additional Readings:

Ricardo E. Chavarria, "The Nicaraguan Insurrection: An Appraisal of its Originality. In Thomas W. Walker, ed. Nicaragua in Revolution. F1528.N498/1982.pp.25-40.

Harry E. Vanden, The Ideology of the Insurrection., In Thomas W. Walker, ed. Nicaragua in Revolution. F1528.N498/1982.pp 41-62.

**Tuesday 9 Nicaraguan Muralism**

Kunzle, David. The Murals of Revolutionary Nicaragua, 1979-1992. (U.C. Press, Berkeley, 1995) Art ND2662K86/1995

\_\_\_\_. "The Nicaraguan Revolution (1979-1990)." In Craven, Art and Revolution in Latin America 117-175.

Additional Readings:

**Thursday 11 Nicaraguan Poetry Workshops**

Dinah Livingstone, Poets of the Nicaraguan Revolution.

Beverly, John and Mark Zimmerman, Literature and Politics in the Central American Revolutions. Chap.4.

Ernesto Cardenal, "The Nicaraguan Revolution of 1979: A Culture that is Revolutionary, Popular, National, and Anti-Imperialist." In David Craven, Art and Revolution in Latin America (Yale U. Press: New Haven, 2002) pp. 183-184. Art N6502.C735/2002

"Interview with Ernesto Cardenal, 1983." In David Craven, Art and Revolution in Latin America (Yale U. Press: New Haven, 2002) pp. 185-187.

**Tuesday 16 El Comandante Marcos and the Zapatista Rebellion**

Class viewing: "Zapatista" (5888)

Guillermoprieto, Alma. "The Unmasking," The New Yorker, March 13, 1995.

**Thursday 18 El Comandante Marcos and the Zapatista Rebellion**

**Tuesday 23 El Comandante Marcos and the Zapatista Rebellion**

**THANKSGIVING**

**Tuesday 30 Student presentation**

**December**

**Thursday 2 Student presentation**

**Tuesday 7 Student presentation**

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Examples of possible group presentations:

The Shining Path

The Chilean Road to Socialism and The Arpillera Movement

Mexican Student Movement of 1968

The Argentine Piqueteros, Autonomistas and Puppetistas

Liberation Theology and the Modern Church, etc., etc.,

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**Selected Bibliography**

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- Angell, Alan (1994). 'The Left in Latin America since c.1920'. in Bethell, L., ed., The Cambridge History of Latin America (vol. VI, part 2.): 163-231.
- Arditti, Rita. Searching for Life: the Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina. Berkeley: UC Press, 1999. HV6322.3.A74
- Azuela, Mariano. The Underdogs.
- Bethell, Leslie. ed., The Cambridge History of Latin America. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge U. Press, 1984. F1410 .C1834 1984 Vo. 6.
- Beverly, John and Mark Zimmerman, Literature and Politics in the Central American Revolutions. Chap.4. PQ7472. P7 B48
- Brushwood, John Stubbs. Mexico in its novel; a nation's search for identity. Austin: U. of Texas Press [1966]. PQ7197 .B69
- Cardenal, Ernesto. "The Nicaraguan Revolution of 1979: A Culture that is Revolutionary, Popular, National, and Anti-Imperialist." In Craven, Art and Revolution in Latin America 183-184. Art N6502.C735/2002
- Castro, Fidel. History Will Absolve Me. Secaucus, N.J.: Citadel Press, 1984. F1788.2 .C37413/1984
- Chavarria, Ricardo E.. "The Nicaraguan Insurrection: An Appraisal of its Originality." In Thomas W. Walker, ed. Nicaragua in Revolution (New York: Praeger, 1982): 25-40. F1528.N498/1982.
- Craven, David. "Interview with Gioconda Belli." In Art and Revolution in Latin America 188-189.
- Craven, David, "The Cuban Revolution (1959-89)." In Art and Revolution in Latin America (Yale U. Press: New Haven, 2002. Art N6502.C735/2002): 75-116.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Nicaraguann Revolution (1979-1990)." In Craven, Art and Revolution in Latin America (Yale U. Press: New Haven, 2002): 117-175.
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- "Cuba: Late Colony, First Socialist State," in Skidmore and Smith 256-285.
- Eckstein, Susan "Power and Popular Protest" in Eckstein, Power and Popular Protest: Latin American Social Movements 1-60.
- Gerald, Martin. "On Magical and Social Realism in Gabriel García Márquez." Gabriel García Márquez: New Readings. Cambridge: Cambridge U.P. 1987.
- García Márquez, Gabriel. "The Solitude of Latin America Nobel Lecture 1982/ La soledad de América Latina." In Julio Ortega, ed. Gabriel García Marquez and the Powers of Fiction. Austin: U. of Texas P. 1988)): 87-91.
- \_\_\_\_\_. One Hundred Years of Solitude. Tr. Gregory Rabassa, New York: Harper & Row [1970]. PQ8180.17 .A73
- Guevara, Ernesto, Che. "Guerrilla Warfare: a Method." In Che Guevara on Revolution. (Ed. and Intro. By Jay Mallin. New York: Delta, 1969): 87-102. F1414.2.G7/1969a.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Guevara's Account of Cuban Campaign," In Che Guevara on Revolution. (Ed. and Intro. By Jay Mallin. New York: Delta, 1969):47-68. F1414.2.G7/1969a.
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- Guillermoprieto, Alma. "The Unmasking" The New Yorker, March 13, 1995; microfilm AP2 .N6552
- Guzman Bouvard, Marguerite. Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, Wilmington, Del. : Scholarly Resources Inc., 1994. HV6322.3.A7 B68 1994
- March, Kathleen. "Engendering the Political Novel: Gioconda Belli's 'La mujer habitada'." In Catherine Davies, Women Writers in Twentieth-Century Spain and Spanish America. Lewiston, NY: Mellen, 1993): 143-156.
- Mario Santí, Enrico. "Fresa y Chocolate: The Rhetoric of Cuban Reconciliation." MLN 113.2(1998): 407-425.
- Martí, José. "Our America." In The America of José Martí: selected writings (New York: Farrar Straus & Geronx, 1968): ?? E13.M3/1968.
- Memories of underdevelopment / Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, director; and Inconsolable memories / Edmundo Desnoes, author. New Brunswick : Rutgers University Press, c1990, "Introduction [to both] by Michael Chanan", PN1997 .M434513 1990
- Mosquera, Gerardo. "The Social Function of Art in Cuba since the Revolution of 1959." In Craven, Art and Revolution in Latin America 180-182.
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- Richards, Timothy. "Resistance and Liberation: The Mythic Voice and Textual Authority." In Belli's 'La Mujer Habitada'. Critical Essays on the Literatures of Spain and Spanish America, 1991): 209-214.
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