

*TWS 22 Latin American Literatures:
Culture and the Politics of Memory in Latin America*

Winter Quarter 2013

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this class is to familiarize students with the dynamics of Latin American culture in general and with the relationship between memory and culture in particular. Over the past two decades memory has become one of the most important tropes to understand the relationship between culture, history and politics in Latin America. Cognizant with this approach, we will study how different communities remember or forget both revolutionary events and political repression. Western powers, especially the United States, have intervened in Latin American affairs multiple times both militarily and by other means. The course will explore how these interventions are constructed, remembered or forgotten, but it will also address the multiple forms of insurgency and resistance to these forms of exploitation and oppression. In addition, we will pay close attention to the relationship between memory and power, for not all communities and groups have the ability to remember in the same manner or to inscribe their histories in the archive.

The class begins with an analysis of the Cuban Revolution and then moves to significant events in the region such as the student movement in Mexico, the Dirty war in Chile, the Guatemalan genocide or the most recent attempts to intervene the Bolivarian revolutions in Venezuela or Honduras. In the class we will read *testimonios* and novels such as *I Rigoberta Menchú*, *Distant Start* by Roberto Bolaño and we will watch films such as *Machuca* or *The Revolution Will not be Televised*.

STUDENTS RESPONSABILITIES

- Attendance to class and to class sections is mandatory
- Students are required to complete all the readings and watch the films before class.
- Homework will not be accepted late.
- Exams will be administered only in the dates that appear in the syllabus
- In order to obtain a pass/not pass grade students are required to complete all readings and requirements

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Class participation:	10%
Midterm:	30%
Final	30%
Final project:	30%

CLASS SCHEDULE

PLEASE NOTE:

1. The readings are for the day they are assigned (not for the next class period).
2. All of the texts can be found on CT tools or online.

Date	Class Materials
Wednesday January 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction. Culture and the politics of Memory
Friday January 11	<p>THE CUBAN REVOLUTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Fidel Castro. Fidel Castro. <i>History will Absolve Me</i> • http://www.marxists.org/history/cuba/archive/castro/1953/10/16.htm • Fidel Castro. <i>Second Declaration of Havana</i> • http://www.walterlippmann.com/fc-02-04-1962.html

Monday January 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fidel Castro. <i>Words to the Intellectuals</i> • http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/castro/db/1961/19610630.html
Wednesday January 16	Film. Tomás Gutiérrez Alea. <i>Memories of Underdevelopment</i>
Friday January 18	<p>MEXICO 1968: THE STUDENT'S MASACRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elena Poniatowska. <i>Massacre in Mexico I</i> ▪ Listen to Elena Poniatowska in <i>Democracy Now!</i> (interview begins in 21' 30'') ▪ http://www.archive.org/details/dn1998-0206

Wednesday January 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Massacre in Mexico II</i>
Friday January 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Massacre in Mexico III</i>
Monday January 28	<p>THE DIRTY WAR IN CHILE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Naomi Klein. "States of Shock: the Bloody Birth of Counterrevolution" • "Cleaning the Slate: Terror does its Work" in <i>The Doctrine Shock</i>
Wednesday January 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberto Bolaño. <i>Distant Star I</i>

Friday February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberto Bolaño. <i>Distant Star II</i>
Monday February 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roberto Bolaño. <i>Distant Star III</i>
Wednesday February 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film. <i>Machuca</i> by Andrés Wood.
Friday February 8	<p>THE GUATEMALAN GENOCIDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Grandin. Greg Grandin. <i>The Last Colonial Masacre</i> (introducción)
Monday February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Burgos. <i>I, Rigoberta Menchú (I)</i>

Wednesday February 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Burgos. <i>I, Rigoberta Menchú</i> (II)
Friday February 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Burgos. <i>I, Rigoberta Menchú</i> (III)
Wednesday February 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Burgos. <i>I, Rigoberta Menchú</i> (IV)
Friday February 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIDTERM EXAM
Monday February 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film. <i>When the Mountains Tremble</i>
Wednesday February 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horacio Castellanos Moya. <i>Senselessness I</i>
Friday March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horacio Castellanos Moya. <i>Senselessness II</i>
Monday March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horacio Castellanos Moya. <i>Senselessness III</i>
Wednesday March 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horacio Castellanos Moya. <i>Senselessness IV</i>
Friday March 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrevista de Hugo Chávez con Larry King. <p>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygWLgvV5PO0</p>

<p>Monday March 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Weisbrot et al. <i>The Chávez Administration at 10 Years: The Economy and Social Indicators</i>. <p>http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/the-chavez-administration-at-10-years-the-economy-and-social-indicators/</p>
<p>Wednesday March 13</p>	<p>Film: <i>The revolution will not be televised</i></p> <p>http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5832390545689805144#</p>
<p>Friday March 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conclusions of the class • Film. <i>South of the Border</i>