

## **SPN 3993, LAS AMERICAS**

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### **Course Description**

*Las Américas*, designed as an experimental course, is framed as a multimedia and interdisciplinary thematic introduction to the study of Latin America and Hispanics in the United States. (While not excluding them, we will not be emphasizing at this time Portuguese-speaking and French-speaking Latin America). *Las Américas* will place an emphasis on contemporary Latin American issues and figures of interest, review the significance of selected writers, and include aspects of historical and cultural legacies and intellectual life. Among the themes this culture and civilization course will explore are the political, economic and socio-historical dynamics that have helped shape Latin America, the Caribbean and the Hispanic presence in the United States. Via selected textbook and literary readings, lecture format, class discussion, and films, we will explore the complexities of the region and its peoples, addressing such issues as migration, race and ethnic relations, religion, gender, sovereignty, poverty and human rights violations to help better understand the issues behind the headlines and evening news stories. The videos we will be watching are selected from the PBS/Annenberg *Americas* course, a television series used as an introduction to Latin American Studies. We will also view selected material from Carlos Fuentes's *El espejo enterrado*. All of these videos will be placed on reserve at the Audiovisual Desk of the Green Library (5<sup>th</sup> floor) for your convenience and further review. We will watch some of them in class but you will be expected to view some of them on your own. Together we will review aspects of some of the following themes, as covered in both the *Americas* series and Carlos Fuentes' *El espejo enterrado*. Below are the individual titles of both series.

#### **Americas Series:**

The Garden of the Forking Paths: Dilemmas of National Development  
Capital Sins: Authoritarianism and Democratization  
Continent on the Move: Migration and Urbanization  
Mirrors of the Heart: Color, Class, and Identity  
In Women's Hands: The Changing roles of Women  
Miracles are not Enough: Continuity and Change in Religion  
Builders of Images: Writers, Artists, and Popular Culture  
Get Up, Stand Up: The Problem of Sovereignty  
The Americans: Latin American and Caribbean Peoples in the United States

Although the Americas videos are narrated in English, they contain substantial portions in Spanish (and use English subtitles then). We will be using the Spanish language version of *El espejo enterrado*, the Carlos Fuentes's series that goes with one of your texts of the same title.

*El espejo enterrado*: Reflecciones sobre España y el nuevo mundo  
La virgen y el toro  
La batalla de los dioses  
La edad de oro  
El precio de la libertad  
Las tres hispanidades

#### **About the Course's Cooperative and Interdisciplinary Teaching Approach**

Embracing the pedagogical concepts known as foreign languages across the curriculum cooperative teaching, and a content-based approach to language acquisition and development, a rich and vital part of the course will also include lectures and discussions in Spanish led by Dr. Eduardo Gamarra, Director of FIU's Latin American and Caribbean Center, a national expert in the area of Latin American politics. This spring semester he will be teaching *The Politics of Latin America* (CPO 3304), a political science course. Dr. Gamarra's contributions in political science in *Las Américas* will explore such topics as Latin America's current efforts at democratization and integration into the

world economy in the context of a massive foreign debt crisis, political change, narcotics trafficking, and the exacerbation of land and wealth inequality, economic dependency, and class conflict. Dr. Ana Roca's background is in language teaching, literature and linguistics. Her contribution will examine more closely topics in literature and in the humanities, in general, exploring issues of language and culture in the Americas, issues and literary works related to the violation of human rights, and selected contemporary Latin American authors. At the same time, since this is also a third-year language, culture, and civilization course, she will be giving you feedback on your writing and on oral presentations to help you develop further your oral communication and written skills. Although the course will be conducted in Spanish, students will also be required to do some background reading material in English. Written assignments, class discussions, optional quizzes, tests, and student presentations will be in Spanish, thus providing a greater opportunity for students to practice and develop academic skills and formal registers in the language. Drs. Roca and Gamarra will participate in each other's respective courses in different ways, contributing in their areas of expertise in both Spanish (in Las Américas) and in English (in The Politics of Latin America).

### **Course Pre-requisite**

Minimum of four semesters of Spanish as a foreign language or two semesters of Spanish for Native Speakers, or their equivalent advanced proficiency in the language, or permission of the instructor. Please contact the instructor if you have any questions.

### **Who Should Take this Class?**

This course is a good choice for Spanish majors and minors, and an excellent selection for students proficient in Spanish who are interested in Latin American Studies in general who also seek to improve their overall abilities in Spanish. These students will be able to accomplish this through readings, listening, viewing films, writing, and class participation in the language. Students working toward a LACC Certificate in Latin American Studies, or students in political science, sociology, anthropology, and education who have an interest in the region would benefit from this course. Practicing foreign language teachers working toward re-certification should also consider this course.

### **Required Texts**

Carlos Fuentes. *El espejo enterrado*. Madrid, España: Taurus/Alfaguara, 2001.

Peter Winn. *Americas: The Changing Face of Latin America and the Caribbean*. Pantheon Books, 1992.

Ariel Dorfman. *La muerte y la doncella*. Siete Cuentos Editorial/Seven Stories Press, 2001.

NOTE: Any additional required readings or videos will be placed on reserve at the Circulation Desk, for readings, or at the Audiovisual Desk (5<sup>th</sup> Floor, GL) for videos.

All books are available via the FIU Bookstore or can be obtained easily online through Amazon.com or directly from the publishers.

I strongly recommend that you purchase all of the books above, including the recommended book listed below. However, you can also find all required readings on reserve in the FIU Green Library (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). Many of the weekly readings are accompanied by videos or films, which are an integral part of the course. Videos from the Americas series, produced in part by WGBH-Boston, are approximately one hour each. Unless otherwise noted, all videos and films can be viewed in the Audiovisual Department of the Green Library (5<sup>th</sup> Floor) where they are on reserve.

#### **Recommended Text**

Thomas E. Skidmore and Peter Smith. *Modern Latin America*. New York: Oxford University Press, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2000.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

1. Exams. There will be two major exams, a midterm (25%) and a final (25%). Exams will be based on lecture, reading material, and class discussion. Please note that the lectures will not duplicate the readings assigned. The instructor may give short quizzes on the readings, so please come to class prepared at all times. PLEASE NOTE THAT A NO MAKE-UP POLICY FOR EXAMS WILL BE IN EFFECT. EXCEPTION TO THIS POLICY MUST BE ARRANGED WITH THE INSTRUCTOR AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE. THE ONLY OTHER EXCEPTION IS IF YOU WERE ILL AND HAVE A REASONABLE AND VALID MEDICAL EXCUSE. An Incomplete grade or an extension will only be given under extraordinary circumstances, usually involving personal illness, and should also be authorized in advance.

2. Attendance and Participation. (10%) Class participation and mandatory attendance will be part of the final grade. Optional "spot-check" quizzes will be part of the participation grade. Therefore, students should come to class prepared to discuss or answer questions on assigned readings. You will also be required to attend one community or university lecture in Spanish on a topic related to Latin America (reading by an author, lecture by an academic or politician, etc.). Check the LACC web site for upcoming events. A one-page summary will be required, due one week after you attend the event.

3. Oral Presentations. (10%) Two separate oral presentations will be based on any combination of two the following:

(1) A film review (team assignment); 5 minutes

(2) An analytical book review. This can be based on the same book for the written assignment below. 6 to 8 minutes

(3) An approved topic. This can be a social, cultural or political topic, or a historical or artistic figure related to the course subject matter. Make an appointment to see me about it or come by during office hours; topic must be selected by third class meeting and this would be an activity that would replace item 1 above (film review). This is also a team assignment. No more than two students per team.

4. Written Assignment #1: An Analytical Book Review (4 to 5 pages, double-spaced, typed). This should preferably be on a work of fiction. See list of suggested works. (10%)

5. Written Assignment #2: An Analytical Film Review (3 to 4 pages, double-spaced, typed). (10%) Detailed instructions for written assignments will be given in class. All assignments must typed and turned in on time. It is not necessary for you to include a cover sheet. Just write your name, the name of the course and course number, and the date, on the upper left corner of the first page, and staple the sheets together. Please use either 12 or 10 point font and use black ink.

### **Grading Scale**

100-93=A

92-90=A-

89-87=B+

86-83=B

82-80=B-

79-77=C+

76-73=C

72-70=C-

69-67=D+

66-63=D

62-60=D-

59- 0=F

### **Approximate calendar of class topics, reading assignments, due dates and tests**

Week #1, Introduction and overview.

Carlos Fuentes, El espejo enterrado, Introducción, 9-18; La virgen y el toro, 19-40

La virgen y el toro (Video 1)

Winn: Chapter 1, A View from the South, 1-32

Week #2,

READ: Fuentes, La conquista de España, 41-70

READ: Fuentes, La Reconquista de España, 71-110

READ: Winn: Chapter 2, Legacies from the Empire, 33-83  
Topic: Antonio de Nebrija y algunos apuntes de interes sobre la historia y desarrollo del espanol

Week #3,

READ: Fuentes, 1492: El ano crucial, 111-130

READ: Fuentes, Vida y muerte del mundo indigena, 131-162

READ: Winn, Chapter 3, The Perils of Progress, 389-122

READ: Winn, Chapter 4, A Second Independence, 123-158

The Garden of the Forking Paths: Dilemmas of National Development ( program 1) [focus on Argentina]

Week #4,

READ: Fuentes, La Conquista y la Reconquista del Nuevo Mundo, 163-210

READE: Fuentes, La Era Imperial, 211-242

La batalla de los dioses (Video II available on Reserve)

READ: Winn, Chapter 6, 200-233

Continent on the Move: Migration and Urbanization (program 3) [Focus on Mexico]

Oral Presentations (Film Review)

Week #5,

READ: Fuentes, El Siglo de Oro, 243-276

READ: Fuentes, El Barroco del Nuevo Mundo, 277-308

Homework: La edad de oro (Video III from El espejo enterrado, available on Reserve)

Oral Presentations (Film Review)

Topic: Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz

Recommended feature film for outside viewing: Maria Luisa Bemberg's Yo, la peor de todas. This video is available at the FIU Audiovisual Linrary.

Week #6,

READ: Fuentes, La epoca de Goya, 309-330

READ: Fuentes, Hacia la Independencia: Multiples mascararas y aguas tibias, 331-356

READ: Fuentes, El precio de la libertad: Simon Bolivar y Jose de San Martin, 357-380

El precio de la libertad (Video IV from El espejo enterrado, available on Reserve)

READ: Winn, Chapter 7, Children of the Sun, 239-276

READ: Winn, Chapter 8, A Question of Color, 271-306

Mirrors of the Heart: Color, Class, and Identity (program 4) [Hispaniola, Bolivia]

Week #7,

Midterm Exam

The test will consist of True/False and/or multiple choice questions; a section of questions requiring short answers, and a short essay question. It will cover reading material assigned, discussion and material presented in class. One Hour, fifteen minutes.

READ: Fuentes, El tiempo de los tiranos, 381-408

Week #8,

Winn, Chapter 9, 307-346

In Women's Hands: The Changing Roles of Women (program 5) [Focus on Chile]

Lecture topics: Human rights violations in Latin America. Testimonial literature and Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo.

Short Quiz on and discussion of Ariel Dorfman's La muerte y la doncella

Return midterm exams

Oral presentations (Film Review)

Recommended film on Reserve: La historia oficial (Argentina, 1984)

Week #9,

Fuentes, La cultura de la independencia, 409-440

Winn, Chapter 12, Endangered States, 447-491

Get Up, Stand Up: The Problems of Sovereignty (program 8) [Focus on Colombia, Panama, and Jamaica] We will watch only a portion in class that deals with Columbia. Students are welcome to view the rest of the video on Reserve.

Winn, Chapter 13, Making Revolution, 492-549

Fire in the Mind: Revolutions and Revolutionaries (program 9)

Oral Presentations ( Film Review)

Week #10,

Fuentes, Tierra y libertad, 441-462

Fuentes, Latinoamerica, 463-492

Cuba and Cuban Americans

Tentative: Adios Patria (Seleted portions of the film; available at the FIU Library)

Week #11,

Week #12,

Fuentes, La hispanidad norteamericana, 511-532

Winn, North of the Border, 550-600

Las tres hispanidades (video #5 from El espejo enterrado, available on reserve)

Lecture and class discussion: Los hispanos y el espanol en Estados Unidos

Class will also read and comment: a poem by Francisco Alarcon (Los Angeles) titled En un barrio de los angeles; and a poem by Abelardo Delgado (Mexico) titled Homenaje a los padres chicanos (to be distributed or shown on screen)

Week #13,

Analytical Book Reviews due today.

Student presentations on books reviewed critically

Read and discuss short story by Rosaura Sanchez: Se arremango las mangas (to be distributed or placed on reserve)

Class lecture and discussion: 1)La hispanofobia del movimiento "ingles oficial" por la oficializacion del ingles; 2) Los hispanos: Politica del lenguaje y derechos linguisticos en los Estados Unidos– comentarios sobre cuestiones del sector publico y del sector privado

Week 14,

Winn, Chapter 11, The Magical and the Real , 394-441

Builders of Images: Writers, Artists, and Popular Culture (program7, on Reserve

Latin American Literature Boom and U.S. Latino Literature

Student presentations on books reviewed critically

Week 15,

Final Examination Date: To be announced and confirmed in class (See schedule)

Approximate calendar of class topics, reading assignments, due dates and tests

Part II of Class Syllabus

SPN 3993

Las Américas

(Part II of Syllabus)

Dr. Ana Roca, Modern Languages, Rocaa@fiu.edu

Florida International University

Required texts:

Peter Winn. Americas.

Carlos Fuentes. El espejo enterrado.

Ariel Dorfman. La muerte y la doncella.

List of Courtesy Guest Speakers Tentatively Scheduled:

Dr. Eduardo Gamarra, Director of FIU's Latin American and Caribbean Center

Prof. Catherine Marsicek, FIU Librarian, Latin America Studies

Prof. Marjorie Agosin, Wellesley College, MA, Chilean poet and human rights activist

Ms. Laura Massa, Graduate Student, M.A. Program in Latin American Studies

Note: Please be aware that these are tentative assignments and topics and that we may sometimes make adjustments to the course calendar as we move along in the semester.

Week #1,

Introduction and overview.

Carlos Fuentes, El espejo enterrado, Introducción, 9-18; La virgen y el toro, 19-40

La virgen y el toro (Video 1)

Reminder: January 12 is the last day to drop a course without incurring a financial liability.

Week #2,

Topic: Antonio de Nebrija y algunos apuntes de interés sobre la historia y desarrollo del español y de la Real Academia de la Lengua

Short Quiz on readings assigned.

Recommended video: La batalla de los dioses (Video II available on Reserve)

READ: Fuentes, La conquista de España, 41-70; La Reconquista de España, 71-110; 1492: El año crucial, 111-130; Vida y muerte del mundo indígena, 131-162

Winn: Chapter 1, A View from the South, 1-32; Winn: Chapter 2, Legacies from the Empire, 33-83

Week #3,

Quiz on readings. Review selected material.

READ: Fuentes, La Conquista y la Reconquista del Nuevo Mundo, 163-210; La Era Imperial, 211-242; El Siglo de Oro, 243-276; El Barroco del Nuevo Mundo, 277-308

Homework: La edad de oro (Video III from El espejo enterrado, available on Reserve)

READ: Winn, Chapter 3, The Perils of Progress, 389-122; Winn, Chapter 4, A Second Independence, 123-158.

Short Quiz on readings assigned.

The Garden of the Forking Paths: Dilemmas of National Development ( program 1) [focus on Argentina]

Dr. Eduardo Gamarra, Director of Latin American and Caribbean Center, is scheduled as a special guest for part of today's class.

Reminder: FIU World Cinema Conference on January 28-29 in South Beach at The Palms Hotel, 3025 Collins Avenue. Call 305-348-2894 for more information. Let them know you are an FIU student. Also, see FIU Miami Film Festival website for more information about films, dates and times. There are many films from Latin America and Spain.

Week #4,

Class topic: Based on previous readings in Fuentes, we will have a brief discussion of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, the first feminist of the Americas. Selected poetry. Recommended feature film for outside-of-class viewing: Maria Luisa Bemberg's Yo, la peor de todas. This video is available at the FIU Audiovisual Library and at some local video stores..

READ: Fuentes, La época de Goya, 309-330; Hacia la Independencia: Múltiples máscaras y aguas tibias, 331-356; El precio de la libertad: Simón Bolívar y José de San Martín, 357-380.

Recommended viewing on your own at the library: El precio de la libertad (Video IV from El espejo enterrado, available on Reserve, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor GL).

READ: Winn, Chapter 6, 200-233.

Continent on the Move: Migration and Urbanization (program 3) [Focus on Mexico]

Tentatively Scheduled for today or for next class, an informal talk and class discussion on the topic of the film above, given by Dr. Eduardo Gamarra: migration as an important force that has transformed the Americas as people have moved from villages to congested cities.

Reminder: Finish reading Ariel Dorfman's play for discussion during the next class meeting.

Week #5,

READ: Fuentes, El tiempo de los tiranos, 381-408

Discussion of Ariel Dorfman's play, La muerte y la doncella. Come to class prepared

Class topic: Human rights violations in Latin America

.Testimonial Literature: Rigoberta Menchú (Guatemala), Elena Poniatowska (México),

Reinaldo Arenas (Cuba), Alicia Partnoy (Argentina), and others, such as: Ariel Dorfman: Selected

poetry; Marjorie Agosín (Chile), poeta cuentista, activista. Círculos de locura

Luisa Valenzuela (Argentina). Los mejor calzado. Handouts or material on Reserve.

If time permits, we will watch a selection from: "Las Madres de la Plaza de Mayo" (documentary; Argentina), about the desaparecidos.

Recommended film on Reserve: La historia oficial (Argentina, 1984)

Week #6,

READ: Winn, Chapter 9, 307-346. Handouts will be distributed also.

In Women's Hands: The Changing Roles of Women (program 5) [Focus on Chile]

Guest Speaker: Prof. Marjorie Agosín, Wellesley College (Chilean writer, human rights activist) will offer an informal talk and a reading of some of her work. Green Library

Week #7,

Midterm Exam (1hr.) -during the first half of the class

The timed test (9:30 am to 10:40 am) will consist of True/False and/or multiple choice questions; a section of questions requiring short answers, and a short essay question. It will cover reading

material assigned, discussion and material presented in class. We will stop promptly at 10:40. No exceptions. Make sure you get to class on time.

READ: Winn, Chapter 7, Children of the Sun, 239-276; Winn, Chapter 8, A Question of Color, 271-306.

Mirrors of the Heart: Color, Class, and Identity (program 4) [Hispaniola, Bolivia]

Guest Speaker: Dr. Eduardo Gamarra will explore the topics discussed in the film, such as race and ethnicity as indicators of an individual's self image and social standing. The film will look at an indigenous family in Bolivia and later explore contrasting attitudes toward race in Santo Domingo and Haiti.

Film recommended for review: Blood of the Condor

Week #8,

Reminder: Today (by 1 PM) is the last day to drop a course

Return midterm exams

READ: Fuentes, La cultura de la independencia, 409-440; Winn, Chapter 12, Endangered States, 447-491.

Get Up, Stand Up: The Problems of Sovereignty (program 8) [Focus on Colombia, Panama, and Jamaica] We will watch only a portion in class that deals with Columbia. Students are welcome to view the rest of the video on Reserve.

Tentatively Scheduled pending on library computer room availability--Guest Speaker: Professor Catherine Marsicek, FIU Librarian, specialized in the area of Latin America, will orient the class regarding electronic resources, reference material and websites that can be useful in finding out information about Latin America. Room to be announced.

Week #9,

Oral Presentations (Film Review)

READ: Fuentes, Tierra y libertad, 441-462; Fuentes, Latinoamerica, 463-492

Winn, Chapter 13, Making Revolution, 492-549

Fire in the Mind: Revolutions and Revolutionaries (program 9) [Focus on El Salvador, Peru, Mexico, and Cuba]

Guest Speaker/Instructor: Dr. Eduardo Gamarra is tentatively scheduled to be our special guest again. This time he will address the topic of revolutions and violence in Latin America, as shown in the Americas film we have scheduled to see in class today.

Week #10,

Class topic for lecture and discussion: Cuba and Cuban Americans

Conducta impropia & Adiós Patria (Selected viewing of portions of these documentaries; available at the FIU Library)

Oral Presentations (Film Review)

Films recommended for review: Memorias del subdesarrollo, Lucía, Azúcar amarga, Nadie escuchaba.

Written film reviews due today.

Week #11,

Analytical Book Reviews due today.

Student oral presentations on books reviewed critically

READ: Fuentes, La hispanidad norteamericana, 511-532; Winn, North of the Border, 550-600.

Scheduled for today: Short Quiz based on today's reading assignment.

Recommended video for outside-of class viewing: Las tres hispanidades (video #5 from El espejo enterrado, available at Audiovisual, on Reserve, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Lecture and class discussion: 1) Los hispanos y el español en Estados Unidos; 2) La

hispanofobia del movimiento "inglés oficial" por la oficialización del inglés; 3) Los hispanos: política del lenguaje y derechos lingüísticos en los Estados Unidos--comentarios sobre cuestiones del sector público y del sector privado. Class will also read and comment on a poem by Francisco Alarcón (Los Angeles), titled En un barrio de Los Angeles; and a poem by Abelardo Delgado (México) titled Homenaje a los padres chicanos (to be distributed or shown on screen).

Week #13,

Student presentations on books reviewed critically

Read and discuss short story by Rosaura Sánchez: Se arremangó las mangas (to be distributed or placed on reserve)

The Americans: Latin American and Caribbean Peoples in the United States (program 10). Film

recommended for review: El norte

Week #14,

Student presentations on books reviewed critically.

Written film reviews due today.

Class topic: Latin American Literature Boom and U.S. Latino Literature

READ: Winn, Chapter 11, The Magical and the Real , 394-441

Builders of Images: Writers, Artists, and Popular Culture (program7).

Week #15,

Final Examination Date: To be announced and confirmed in class. Check on the official final examination calendar.

.Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am easy to reach by phone and e-mail and I am always available after class and by appointment.