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 21st). 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

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
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
Background Reading:

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


Thursday 23 Class discussion: Thomas Gutierrez Alea, Memories of Underdevelopment

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

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

Thursday 30. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo - Gender and New Social Movements
Marguerite Guzman Bouvard, "The Dirty War," in Revolutionizing Motherhood: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, 18-45

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

Tuesday 5 Class discussion: The Official Story

Thursday 7 Literary and cultural perspectives

Tuesday 12 Literary and cultural perspectives
Class viewing: Basil Davidson: “Africa, Vol. 6: This Magnificent African Pie” (2514)

Thursday 14 Literary and cultural perspectives

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
Additionan Readings:
November
Tuesday 2 Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude

Thursday 4 The Nicaraguan Revolution: A New Form of Art
John A. Booth, The End and the Beginning, Chap. 8 and 9.
Additional Readings:

Tuesday 9 Nicaraguan Muralism
Additional Readingns:

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.

Tuesday 16 El Comandante Marcos and the Zapatista Rebellion
Class viewing: “Zapatista” (5888)

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

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.,

Selected Bibliography


Azuela, Mariano. The Underdogs.


Beverly, John and Mark Zimmerman, Literature and Politics in the Central American Revolutions. Chap.4. PQ7472. P7 B48


