LATIN AMERICAN URBAN CULTURES

COURSE GOALS

This course surveys readings at the intersection of contemporary Latin American Studies, Urban Studies and Cultural Studies. This broad sweep through Latin American urban cultures focuses on five thematic kernels: transnationalization; creativity; memory; interculturalism; and sexualities. The course is intended for diverse audiences and majors from e.g. GEG, LAS, WGS, INS, COM, MLL, SOC, ANT, ARC and ART. While interweaving issues of class, race and gender in the discussion of all topics, seminar-style sessions will adopt spatial approaches cutting across multiple disciplines in social research and the humanities. We will particularly focus on place-making, circulations, boundaries, (de-re)territorializations and the re-mapping of the urban and the cultural in and beyond contemporary Latin America. The course combines focused readings with appreciation of films and other cultural products. Seminar participants are expected to gain a conceptual vocabulary; familiarity with research approaches; and extensive empirical exposure to Latin American urban cultures.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a participation intensive seminar, which is reflected in the grading policy. Attendance is not required (except for organized field visits) but highly encouraged for successful completion of assigned papers and required.

GRADUATE TRACK (GEG 545 and optional for WGS 405)

50% Final Paper (8,000 to 10,000 words)
20% In-Class Presentations (2 x 10% each)
20% Film Critiques (2,000 words in up to 4 essays)
10% In-Class and Online Participation

UNDERGRADUATE TRACK (Optional for WGS 405)

30% Final Paper (3,000 to 5,000 words)
20% Mid-term Report (3,000 to 5,000 words)
20% In-Class Presentations (2 x 10% each)
20% Film Critiques (2,000 words in up to 4 essays)
10% In-class and Online Participation
SCHEDULE

August 22

Session I
Introducing the Debates
In this session we will define the terms and boundaries of various debates concerning transnationalization, creativity, identity, interculturalism and sexualities

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


August 29  
**Session II**  
*Transnationalization (I): Del Lado de Acá*

**Required Readings:**


September 05  
**Session III**  
*Transnationalization (II): Del Lado de Allá*

**Required Readings:**


**September 12**

**Session IV (Film Projection and Discussion I)**


**Recommended Readings:**


**September 19**

**Session V**

**Creativity (I): Culture-led Development**

Bromley, RDF (2000) Planning for tourism and urban conservation:Evidence from Cartagena, Colombia, Third World Planning 22 (1), pp. 23-.


**September 26**

**Session VI**
Creativity (II): Culture Industry

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


October 03  
Session VII (Film Projection and Discussion II)  

Recommended Readings:


October 10  
Session VIII  
Memory

Required Readings:


Irazábal, C. (200x) City Making and Urban Governance in the Americas: Curitiba and Portland,


Recommended Readings:


October 17

Session IX
Interculturalism I: The Assertion of Difference

Required Readings:


October 24

**Session X (Film Projection and Discussion III)**

La Teta Asustada (Milk of Sorrow) Claudia Llosa (2009)

**Recommended Readings:**


October 31

**Session XI**

Interculturalism II: Intolerances

**Required Readings:**


November 7  
Session XII  
Sexualities

Required Readings:

Savigliano, ME (2010). Notes on Tango (as) Queer (Commodity), Anthropological Notebooks 16 (3), pp. 135-143.


November 14  
Session XIII (Film Projection and Discussion IV)  
Happy Together Wong Kar Wai (1997)

Recommended Readings:

November 21  
Course Review

November 28  
Presentations and Wrap-Up