Graduate Seminar: Contemporary Latin America
LABS 5302 | CRN: 25451 | Classroom Building C201 | Tuesdays 6.00-8.50pm

Instructor: Dr Silvia Torezani
Email: satorezani@utep.edu
Phone: (915) 747-6829
Office: Center for Inter-American and Border Studies (CIBS)
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9-10.30am or by appointment

Course Overview
There are many ways to describe 'Latin America.' The historical interconnections between Latin America and other regions of the world, including Europe and the United States, are inherent to what we call contemporary Latin America, as are the social, economic, cultural and political consequences of such long and complex interactions. In this class, we will discuss them in depth through a variety of scholarly readings and other materials. This seminar looks at the production and effects of some drastic changes that this region has undergone in the last couple of centuries, with a heavier focus on the Southern Cone countries. We will consider critical events in the region from multiple and different perspectives, including cultural, ideological, territorial, technological, financial and political deployments. We will use conceptual toolkits to analyze moral and practical implications of contemporary issues in Latin America.

Course Learning Outcomes
Learning Outcomes: at the end of this course students will gain: a) a clear understanding of conceptual frameworks to analyze the production and effects of social life; b) the ability to assess critically the various contexts covered; c) the skills to critically apply conceptual frameworks to the analysis of practical challenges in diverse social contexts; d) the ability to identify larger (global) interconnections to seemingly localized issues.

Course Format
This course runs as a seminar. All meetings will be based on the extensive, in-depth, discussion of assigned readings. It is your responsibility to always come to class prepared, with all materials thoroughly and fully covered.

Required Texts
There are 9 required texts for this course. They are:


Course Requirements
All detailed guidelines for course requirements are available via Blackboard. For due dates see the course schedule at the end of the syllabus.

◆ **Class Discussion and Attendance:** (40 points) This is a seminar-style class, therefore, you must come fully prepared and contribute to the day's discussion. You are also expected to come to class on time or a few minutes earlier. Only ONE class absence is permitted. However, on the day you are absent you cannot earn points. I do not accept reading response papers corresponding to classes you did not attend, unless you contact me in advance with a very reasonable justification or in case of an emergency, for which I will require adequate documentation. More than one class absence may negatively affect your overall course grade.

◆ **Student-Led Class Discussion:** (20 points) On the first day of class you will be assigned a date for you to lead the discussion for one class session. You will be responsible for presenting the contents of the assigned readings and moderating the class discussion.

◆ **Reading Response Papers:** (63 points) (You will need to turn in 9 weekly response papers on each of the assigned readings. These papers must be submitted via Blackboard by 11pm the night prior to the class meeting. The grade of these papers is tied to your class attendance. There will be no make up or extension date for missed assignment deadlines. Missing more than one paper submission may negatively affect your overall grade for the course.

◆ **Research Report and Presentation:** (57 points). This is a multi-part assignment. It involves the following: a) topic selection and outline (7 points); b) annotated bibliography (15 points); c) final written report (20 points); and d) final oral presentation (15). Note that ALL components are required for the grade. One without the others will result in no grade. (See guidelines on Blackboard).

◆ **Peer Evaluation Report (group assignment)** (20 points). See guidelines for this assignment on Blackboard.
Course Policies

Late Submission Policy: Assignments submitted passed their deadlines will receive a 10% deduction per day. Only under serious and exceptional circumstances I may waive this penalty. But you must contact me before the deadline. After 3 days passed the deadline (weekend days are counted), assignments will not be accepted or graded.

Grading Policy: Grades will be assigned based on the completeness and quality of your work (in writing and orally), your ability to follow guidelines, how you address and incorporate feedback from previously graded assignments and your engagement during class periods. The more consistent you are in addressing all the course requirements, the better you will do in this course. The grading scale for the course is out of 200 points (100%):

◇ A 90%-100% = 190 -200 points, based on consistent high-quality work, excellent incorporation of theories, use of concepts and critical analysis of the class materials. The student goes above and beyond the mere completion of assigned readings. The assignments are clearly structured and well written. The student carefully incorporates feedback and follows guidelines.

◇ B 80%-89% = 160 - 189 points, based on very good consistent work, with incorporation of key concepts, demonstrated ability to identify key issues and implications for the analysis of social problems. The student reports on the readings accurately. The student incorporate most feedback and tends to follow guidelines well but, at times, not consistently.

◇ C 70%-79% = 140 - 159 points, based on mostly scant readings, possibly with some inconsistencies in quality of work and/or tendency to focus on to much detail but with some difficulty to address the more abstract or conceptual aspect of the assigned materials. Arguments, concepts and theories may not be adequately or consistently incorporated. It is also possible that the student does not express ideas with clarity it their written work. Utilizing the services of the Writing Center is required in such cases.

◇ D 60%-69% = 120 - 139 points;
◇ F below 59% = 119 points or below

Academic Honesty and Integrity: As a university student, you are responsible for your own academic behavior and for making yourself fully aware of the university's policies and definition of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism and collusion. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action. In addition to receiving a failing grade in this class, students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Further information can be gained from the UTEP Dean of Students web page. Go to http://www.utep.edu/dos/, then click the "Student Conduct" tab on the top.

Help with Writing: The UWC or University Writing Center (Library Building 277, on the ground floor) provides a range of services at no cost. Call 747-5112 or visit http://academics.utep.edu/writingcenter for more information. The UWC offers online tutoring whereby you upload your paper and they provide comments.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Due Readings</th>
<th>Due Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tue 1/21   | Todorov (video link sent via email week prior to start of semester) | 1. Class Discussion on video  
2. Response paper (practice, participation grade only) |
| **Week 2** |                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 1/28   | Arendt (whole book)                              | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Class discussion                                        |
| **Week 3** |                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 2/4    | Brennan (whole book)                             | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Student-led discussion                                 |
| **Week 4** |                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 2/11   | Shayne (whole book)                              | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Student-led discussion                                 |
| **Week 5** |                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 2/18   | Jarrin (whole book)                              | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Student-led discussion                                 |
| **Week 6** |                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 2/25   | Ryburn (whole book)                              | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Student-led discussion                                 |
| **Week 7** |                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 3/3    | Student-selected research articles (2-3 authoritative sources) Part 1 | 1. **Student research topic presentations and peer-feedback**  
2. Submit Research Topic and Paper Outline - due on Friday 3/13 |
| **Week 8** |                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 3/10   | Student-selected research authoritative scholarly articles (2-3 articles) Part 2 | 1. **Student research topic presentations and peer-feedback**  
2. Submit Research Topic and Paper Outline - due on Friday 3/13 |
| **Week 9 3/16-3/20 SPRING BREAK** |                                                  |                                                      |
| **Week 10** |                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 3/24   | Hall (whole book)                                | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Student-led discussion                                 |
| **Week 11**|                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 3/31   | Fontes (whole book)                              | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Student-led discussion                                 |
| **Week 12**|                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 4/7    | Galvez (whole book)                              | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Student-led discussion                                 |
| **Week 13**|                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 4/14   | Wayland (whole book)                             | 1. Response paper                                  
2. Student-led discussion                                 |
| **Week 14**|                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 4/21   | Work independently on Annotated Bibliography (no class meeting) | 1. **Annotated Bibliography** - due Tuesday 4/21, 11PM via Blackboard |
| **Week 15**|                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 4/28   | Final Research Report Presentation (Part 1)      | 1. **Written Report** - Submit via Blackboard by Monday 4/27 11pm  
2. ALL STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT, regardless of week of presentation |
| **Week 16**|                                                  |                                                      |
| Tue 5/5    | Final Research Report and Peer Feedback Report (Part 2) | 1. **Final Research Report Presentations**  
2. Completion of All Peer-Feedback Reports (submit via Blackboard by Monday 5/4 11pm) |