Seeing and Naming:

Conversations on Latin America

Spanish 2340

CRN: 13051

Fall 2026

Online

Professor: Willivaldo Delgadillo Ph.D.

Email:

wdelgadillo@utep.edu

Office: Graham Hall 306
Office Hours: Via Zoom by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION**:** We will discuss issues that have been key in the development and understanding of present-day Latin America. While the course is organized chronologically, from the period of so-called "discovery" and conquest to the twenty-first century, it also will consider themes, synchronically, to better understand how they constitute ongoing dialogues in different historical periods.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course has as its primary objective to introduce undergraduate students to important manifestations of and discourses about Latin American cultures. By placing Latin American cultural production within various contexts and theoretical frameworks, the course also has a major objective to move away from outdated model for teaching Latin American "Culture", in which names, dates, major historical figures and manifestations of high cultural production have been predominant, with "low-culture" being reduced to folklore; this time-worn model also treats Latin American "Culture" as monolithic and as an unproblematic add-on to history, politics, and economics, instead of being deeply—and problematically—embedded in them. By incorporating recent theoretical discussions and interdisciplinary research about Latin American cultures, this course also hopes to offer new ways of entering into an old theme in many undergraduate core curricula in the United States.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand key critical issues on the idea of the ¨Discovery of America¨.

- Reflect on why and how this continent was appropriated by Europeans and was named America
- How the exchange triggered by Christopher Columbus´ voyages shaped Europe´s and America´s political, cultural and natural landscapes.
- Understand where the idea of portraying the inhabitants of the New World as Savages and Cannibals came from?
- Understand the local and foreign influences that informed the creation of Latin American Nation States.

To accomplish these course objectives students will read, analyze and discuss the materials organized in five (5) modules. Each module will address a main theme (for example: discovery and colonization, the consequences of the Columbian Exchange, representation of indigenous peoples as savages, cannibalism, independence and nation building and Latin American Identity and the presence of these themes in today's world).

Module 1 On Seeing and Naming

Module 2 Cannibals, Savages and Barbarians

Module 3 Independence and Latin American Identity

Module 4 Travel Writing, Romance Novels and Nation Building

Module 5 The Gaze of Latin American Art

This way of organizing the course will offer students the opportunity to access the materials chronologically and gradually progress to a synchronical perspective, in order to become aware of the relevance of the aforementioned themes in contemporary society (**Please check Calendar at the bottom of the syllabus**).

Students are expected to:

—Analyze the readings

—Compare different perspectives by commenting on their fellow-students' points of view in the DBs

—Support their interpretations with evidence by doing additional research in the presentations

—Respond critically to one another's argument in the classroom or in the DBs

—Synthesize and connect materials from different parts of the course in the final project

NOTICE: For each assignment, students will be provided with specific instructions in the form of written and oral lectures, prompts and questionnaires to guide the exploration of the textual and visual materials.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All readings will be provided by the professor and his TA via Blackboard. The links to most of the viewings will be provided also and/or the student will be directed to the corresponding platforms when they can find them. For this purpose, students will be assigned readings, weekly Discussion Boards, presentations, partial exams and a final project. These are intended so that students are engaged with the materials in writing, orally and visually.

You will also need regular access to a computer, stable, consistent internet, Blackboard, and your UTEP email account.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

In order to pass this course, students will have to complete five partial exams, participate in the Discussion Boards, and, working in collaboration with other teammates, make five presentations and create a final project.

Grade Distribution:

1000-900 = A 899-800 = B 799-700 = C 699-600 = D 599 and Below = F

- 150 points: **Partial multiple-choice exams**. There will be 5= **750 points**
- 10 Points: **Participation in weekly panel discussions**. There will be 10= **100 points**
- 10 Points: **Presentations**. There will be 5= **50 points**
- 100 points: **Final project**=**100 points**

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class attendance is mandatory. If you accumulate 5 absences you will lose a letter grade and you may be dropped from the class by the professor.

Materials and Multiple-choice exams

Students will have access to all materials from day one (except for the exams) and they will work at their own pace. On the week of the exam, it will be available for several days. Once you start, you will have 50 minutes to finish it. **You will need to use Lockdown Brower to take the exams and there will be no make-ups.** Please read the technology requirements section on this document and make sure you are prepared for this class.

To preserve a student's GPA, he/she may be dropped from the course for failure to turn in two or more partial exams. However, it is the responsibility of the student to drop the class if she or she feels successful completion of the course is not possible.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS (very important)

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most supported browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications with the LMS. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have or have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

NETIQUETTE

- Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a F2F situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

DEADLINES AND LATE WORK POLICY

Partial Exams

- There will be five (5) Partial Exams. **No make ups.**

Discussion Board Assignments

- All discussion board assignments will be due on Fridays at midnight (11:59 PM). **No late work will be accepted.**

DROP POLICY

To drop this class, please contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact me. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F " for the course.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

"The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal."

For more information, please visit: https://www.utep.edu/titleix/pregnancy-and-parenting.html

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

STUDENT RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- Military Student Success Center: UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are

veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

- RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

CALENDAR

Module 1

(On Seeing and Naming))

Week 1 (August 24-28)

Lecture I

Viewing

Tom Wujec "Three ways the brain creates meaning" TED video.

Lecture II

Reading

Letter of Discovery by Christopher Columbus

https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/contact/text1/columbusletter.pdf

Columbus Journals.pdf

Diarios de Colón.pdf (Spanish version)

Discussion Board 1 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 2 (August 31-September 4)

Lecture

Viewing

America Before Columbus

https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7bjvrh

Reading

"The Columbian Exchange: a history of disease, food, and ideas" by Nunn and Qian.pdf

Viewing

Documentary: America before Columbus

Podcast

- https://heritageradionetwork.org/episode/the-columbian-exchange-with-scott-d-appell/

Discussion Board 2 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 3 (September 8-11)

Lecture

Reading 1

Voyage 33 days by Laurence Bergreen

Reading 2

Protesters topple Columbus statue

Viewing

Documentary: Columbus in America

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JkFFy5yUdkE&t=29s

Discussion Board 3 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 4 (September 14-18)

Lecture

Reading 1

"The invention of America" by Edmundo O'Gorman

Reading 2

"Columbus as an interpreter" in The question of the Other by Tzevetan Todorov

The question of the other.pdf

Podcast

Is it time for statues of Columbus to come down?

Presentation 1

Exam I Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Module 2

(Cannibals, Savages and Barbarians)

Week 5 (September 21-25)

Lecture

The film version of The Tempest by Julie Traymor

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcnp8apSJ1k&t=3s

Reading

Cliffs Notes on The Tempest

Optional Reading

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

Discussion Board 4 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 6 (September 28-October 2)

Lecture

Reading

4-Rubies-Text Images and the Perception of Savages by Joan-Pau Rubies

Discussion Board 5 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 7 (October 5-7)

Lecture

Reading 1

“Of Cannibals” by Michel De Montaigne

Reading 2

Charles Bramesco, On-screen cannibalism

Please copy and paste the following link on your browser in order to read Charles Bramesco's brief article:

https://www.theverge.com/2017/3/29/15108514/golden-age-of-cannibalism-film-tv-hannibal-raw-santa-clarita-diet

Presentation 2

Exam 2 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Module Three

(Independence and Latin American Identity)

Week 8 (October12-16)

Lecture

Reading 1

“Enrique Rodó” by Enrique Karuze

Reading 2

“Ariel or Calliban” by George Federico Olveira

Discussion Board 6 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 9 (October 19-23)

Lecture

Reading 1

The United States Declaration of Independence

Reading 2

Simón Bolívar, "The letter from Jamaica" https://library.brown.edu/create/modernlatinamerica/chapters/chapter-2-the-colonial-foundations/primary-documents-with-accompanying-discussion-questions/document-2-simon-bolivar-letter-from-jamaica-september-6-1815/

https://www.dipublico.org/111224/carta-de-jamaica-de-simon-bolivar-fechada-el-6-de-septiembre-de-1815/

Viewing

Documentary: Alexander von Humboldt

Discussion Board 7 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 10 (October 26-30)

Lecture 1

Reading 1

Unpacking Martí and ¨Our America¨

Reading 2

José Martí ¨Our America¨

Lecture 2

Reading 1

Article on Residente's music"

https://www.npr.org/2022/09/07/1121143762/residente-rapper-puerto-rico-cosquillita-rene-america

Viewing

"This is not America" by Residente

Bilingual lyrics for "This is not America"

https://lyricstranslate.com/en/not-america-not-america.html

Reading 2

Article on Alfredo Jaar's art installation "This is not America"

https://publicdelivery.org/alfredo-jaar-a-logo-for-america/#:~:text=Chilean%20artist%20and%20filmmaker%20Alfredo,and%20debate%20at%20the%20time.

Viewing

Activation of Aldredo Jaar's art installation "This is not America"

Art
installation https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Alfredo+Jaar+and+curator+Pablo+Le%C3%B3n+de+la+Barra+discuss+A+Logo+for+America

Presentation 3

Exam III Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Module 4

(Travel Writing, Romance Novels and Nation Building)

Week 11 (November 2-6)

Lecture 1

Reading

The role of Travel Writing in Reconstructing the History of Latin America" by Mia Waliszwski.

Lecture 2

Reading

"For Love and Money: Of Potboilers and Precautions" by Doris Summer pdf

Discussion Board 8 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 12 (9-13)

Lecture

Contemporary Latin America

Viewings

Mini documentaries

- Mini documentary ¨La industria de Detroit¨ de Diego Rivera
- Mini documentary ¨El hombre controlador del universo¨ de Diego Rivera

Documentary (If you want to get more into the Detroit mural, this is an optional viewing)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGTb_9MCFYw&t=1039s

National Public Radio piece Diego Rivera and Frida Khalo: a portrait of a resilient city

Discussion Board 9 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 13 (November 16-20)

Lecture

Viewing

Documentary 1: The life and times of Frida Khalo

Documentary 2: on the Precarious Art of Cecilia Vicuña

Presentation 4

Exam IV Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Module 5

(The Gaze of Latin American Art)

Week 14 (November 23-27)

Lecture

Viewing

Guillermo Gómez Peña on Radical Communities

Reading/Power Point

Cartography of performance

Discussion Board 10 Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM

Week 15 (November 30-December 4)

Viewing

Border Tuner documentary

https://vimeo.com/1132554641/b389b9b9cc?share=copy&fl=cl&fe=ci

Reading/Power Point

Digital borders and art in Latin America

Presentation 5

Exam V Due on Sunday at 11:59 PM