

Naming and Seeing:
Conversations on Latin America
Spanish 2340

Professor: Willivaldo Delgadillo

Class: TTh 1:30 PM-2:50 AM Old Main 201

Office: Liberal Arts 132

Tel: 915.747-7042 (by email is best)

Email: wdelgadillo@utep.edu

Office hours: W10AM-12PM or by appointment

Course Description: Issues and debate about its identity have been key in the development and understanding of present-day Latin America. This course will explore these issues, focusing primarily on how and when the idea of Latin America and its cultures came about and how they have developed. 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: 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production within various contexts and theoretical frameworks, the course also has a major objective to move away from outdated model for teaching Latin American “Culture”, in which names, dates, major historical figures and manifestations of high cultural production have been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.

Course Goals: As a core curriculum option, this course is concerned with tools for thinking critically about how other cultures define themselves and how they are defined by others. An understanding, even if basic, of the processes at work in these encounters, dialogues and too often, misunderstandings, is critical as our students engage in a globalized world. Latin America is a major cultural player in the twenty-first century, and one whose influence begins here at the border. By the end of the course, it is hoped that students will have attained sufficient historical background and familiarity with Latin America to understand the dialogues and debates about its cultural identities and also, to enter into these dialogues and debates with intelligence and sensitivity to diverse points of view.

Course Methods: This course is problem-base and student-centered. Course modules are organized around key topics in the development of and discourses about Latin American cultures. Classroom activities will directly engage students through discussion, debates and group activities. Lectures by the professor will be kept at minimum.

Course structure: This course will be divided into two-and three-week thematic modules.

Composition of the Grade:

Participation in class 15%, Exams (2) 50 %, Final project 25 %, Final presentation 10%.

Course requirements and composition of the grade:

Grading Scale:

A = 100-90 B = 89-80 C = 79-70 D = 69-60 F = 59-0

ACADEMIC Integrity: The University Catalog describes scholastic integrity in this way: "The University of Texas at El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and in all other academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. It is imperative, therefore, that the members of this academic community understand the regulations pertaining to academic integrity and that all

faculty insist on adherence to these standards. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP), and available in the Office of the Dean of Students and on the homepage of the Dean of Students at: <http://www.utep.edu/dos> may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others." UTEP's library offers additional information and resources regarding academic integrity and how to avoid infractions at the following website: <http://libraryweb.utep.edu/research/plagiarism.php>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. *CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.*

<p>Week 1: Tuesday Jan. 22</p> <p>Thursday Jan. 24</p>	<p>Introduction to the course: Do you see what I see?</p> <p>Reading: Excerpt from Chris Firth. Making up the mind: how the brain creates a mental world. Tom Wujec “Three ways the brain creates meaning” TED video.</p> <p>Discussion of Chris Firth Part I</p>
<p>Week 2: Tuesday Jan. 29</p> <p>Thursday Jan. 31</p>	<p>Module I: On seeing and naming</p> <p>What is a name anyway? Discussion of Chris Firth Part II</p> <p>Viewing: Martha Nussbaum on Human Capabilities</p> <p>Viewing: America before Columbus</p> <p>Discussion of America before Columbus</p>
<p>Week 3: Tuesday Feb. 5</p> <p>Thursday Feb. 7</p>	<p>First Encounters: Seeing and naming the other</p> <p>Readings: Laurence Green “Thirty three days”</p> <p>Laurence Green “The Columbian Exchange”</p>
<p>Week 4: Tuesday Feb. 12</p>	<p>First Encounters: Seeing and naming the other</p> <p>Readings: Edmundo O’Gorman, The invention of America: an inquiry into the nature of the world</p>

Thursday Feb. 14	Tzevetan Todorov, The conquest of America: the question of the Other Take Home Exam I
Week 5: Tuesday Feb. 19	Module II: The Colonial Eye Naming the New World: Beast and other European fantasies
Thursday Feb. 21	Readings and viewings: Summary of The tempest: viewing of the film version by Julie Teymor (2010).
Week 6: Tuesday Feb. 26	Naming the New World: Beast and other European fantasies Readings: Joan-Pau Rubies, Text images and the perception of 'savages' in early modern Europe. What we can see from White and Harriot.
Thursday Feb. 28	Michel De Montaigne, "On the Cannibals".
Week 7: Tuesday March 5.	Colonial and postcolonial views Readings: Rubén Darío, "The triumph of Caliban".
Thursday March 7.	José Martí, "Our America"
Week 8: Tuesday Mar. 12	Colonial and postcolonial views Readings Roberto Fernández Retamar, "Caliban: notes towards a discussion of Culture in our America" José Enrique Rodó, "Ariel"
Thursday Mar 14	Debates on postcolonial readings

<p>Week 9: Mar. 18-22</p>	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>
<p>Week 10: Tuesday Mar. Thursday Mar 28</p>	<p>Module III: Under the eye of the Nation State Who are we now? Readings: US Declaration of Independence Simon Bolívar, "The Jamaican Letter"</p>
<p>Week 11: Tuesday Ap. 2 Thursday Ap. 4</p>	<p>The new Nation States Readings Domingo Faustino Sarmiento, Excerpts from <i>Facundo or Civilization and Barbarism</i></p>
<p>Week 12: Tuesday Ap. 9 Thursday Ap. 11</p>	<p>The new Nation States Readings: Doris Summer, "For the love of money: of potboiler and precautions" Take Home Exam II</p>
<p>Week 13: Tuesday Ap. 16 Thursday Ap. 18</p>	<p>Module IV: The globalizing eye of science Seen as the other, once again Readings: Mia Waliszeiwski, "The role of travel writing in reconstructing Latin American history".</p>

<p>Week 14: Tuesday Ap. 23</p> <p>Thursday Ap. 25 de abril.</p>	<p>Seen as the other, once again</p> <p>Readings Claude Levi Strauss, "The traveler's dilemma"</p> <p>Peter S. Adler, Five stages of culture shock".</p>
<p>Week 15: Tuesday Ap. 30</p> <p>Thursday May. 2</p>	<p>20th Century revolutionary identities</p> <p>Readings and viewings: Documentaries about the Cuban and Mexican Revolutions Enrique Krauze, Excerpts from Redeemers: ideas and power in Latin America. Diana C. Neblyski, Excerpts from Latin American Icons.</p>
<p>Week 16 Tuesday May 7</p> <p>Thursday May 9</p>	<p>What do we call ourselves now that the world's (supposedly) global?</p> <p>Presentation of final projects</p> <p>Presentation of final projects</p>