LAS 300: Team-taught course representing a variety of disciplines that prepare students for the minor by acquainting them with the broad view – countries and regions; people, traditions and cultures; major events and movements; important political and cultural figures; and significant and representative cultural products such as literature, music, and dance.

Course Description: LAS 300 is an interdisciplinary course that serves as an introduction to the cultures and societies of Latin America. This course will provide students with an overview of the major topics, themes, and processes that have shaped, and continue to shape, Latin America through the study of different disciplines, such as History, Literature, Politics, International Business, Art, Music, and Film. Students will benefit from the unique perspectives and insights that each discipline has to offer.

Course Projects: Students will complete projects from the perspective of their major field of study. International Business students might investigate the recent economic crises in Latin America and look at trade relationships. Political Science students might study the unstable governments of the Twentieth Century, the military dictatorships, or the polemic nature of globalization. Literature students have a wide variety of literary styles and themes to choose from. Forestry students could investigate the variety of tropical hardwoods, or the environmental impact of deforestation. Students will determine the subject and scope of their course project with the professor during the fourth week of the semester. Projects will be presented in written form as a term paper and will also include an oral presentation during class.

Course Organization: This course is a hybrid course. In addition to class, there will be weekly online quizzes over assigned readings. Each student will also be required to participate in weekly discussion posts. Because this course only meets once a week, attendance is mandatory. Preparation, participation, and attendance will be critical to your success in the course. Classes will consist of a mix of introductions to different topics by the professor, discussions of required readings, films, and visits by other professors from different disciplines.
Required Texts:

*Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America, 4th Edition*
by: John Chasteen
ISBN: 9780393283051
Publisher: Norton

*Assault on Paradise*
by: Tatiana Lobo
ISBN: 9781880684467
Publisher: Curbstone
Winner of the 1995 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz Prize

*One Hundred Years of Solitude*
by: Gabriel García Márquez
ISBN: 9780060883287
Publisher: Harp
Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature
New York Times Best Seller
Oprah’s Book Club

*The House of the Spirits*
by: Isabel Allende
ISBN: 9780553383805
Publisher: Random
Winner of the Panorama Literario Award
Best Novel of the Year Award
New York Times Best Seller

**FILMS:** We will look at Latin American Films as a major part of this course. Although we will see a few during class, most will be assigned as homework, and all films will be available to view in the Learning Resource Center in Ferguson G77. Most films are available for rent from Netflix and Amazon.com, and many are also available for instant streaming. *Please note that some films are rated R for disturbing images, violence, nudity, or sexual content.*

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to describe key elements of Latin American literary style and arts, with broad regional and temporal scope. Assessed by weekly quizzes, discussions, and quizzes.
2. Students will analyze the impact of race, class, gender, and ethnicity on the historical and contemporary events studied in the novels and films. Assessed by written essays on films.
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to synthesize information about different aspects of Latin America by presenting their own research and analysis that combines the disciplines presented in the course. Assessed by research project and presentation.

Grading Policy

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>A = 90 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>B = 80 – 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>C = 70 – 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>D = 60 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

1. August 30: What is Latin America?
   Introduction to the course, the participating professors, and discussion:
   Film: Apocalypto
   Reading Assignment for September 6:
   Born in Blood and Fire: pp. 1 – 53.
   Assault on Paradise: pp. 1 – 84. (Spanish edition: pp. 1 - 90)

 Reading Themes:
   Be prepared to discuss the following for September 6:

   1. How is it possible that so few Spanish and Portuguese conquistadors were able to conquer so many people in the new world?
   2. What do you think about Malinche?
   3. In Assault on Paradise, the author uses narrative voice in an interesting way. Who narrates this novel?

2. September 6:
   Films: Apocalypto
   Yo, la peor de todas
   Reading Assignment for September 13:

   Films: The Mission
   Camila
   Reading Assignment for September 20:
4. September 20: Independence
Films: *The Mission*
*Braz Cubas*
Reading Assignment for September 28:
*One Hundred Years of Solitude:* Chapters 1 – 5

5. September 27: Postcolonialism and Progress
Film: *Like Water for Chocolate*
Reading Assignment for October 5:
*One Hundred Years of Solitude:* Chapters 6 - 11.

6. October 4: Gabriel García Márquez and the Latin American Boom
Films: *Like Water for Chocolate*
*Behind the sun*
Reading Assignment for October 11:
*Born in Blood and Fire:* pp. 193-231.
*One Hundred Years of Solitude:* Chapters 12 - 17.

7. October 11: Magical Realism and a generation of authors
Film: *The Motorcycle Diaries*
Reading Assignment for October 18:
*One Hundred Years of Solitude:* Chapters 18 - 20.
*Born in Blood and Fire:* pp. 233-265.

8. October 18: The Cold War
Film: *The Motorcycle Diaries*
Reading Assignment for October 25:
*The House of the Spirits:* Chapters: I, II, III, and IV.
*Born in Blood and Fire:* pp. 267-295.

9. October 25: Twentieth-Century Divisions
Film: *Missing*
Reading Assignment for November 1:
*Born in Blood and Fire:* pp. 297-327.
*The House of the Spirits:* Chapters: V, VI, VII, VIII, and IX.

10. November 1: Liberation Theology
Film: *Missing*
*The Official Story*
Reading Assignment for November 8:
*Born in Blood and Fire:* pp. 329-356.

11. November 8: Injustice and Discontent
Film: *Voces inocentes*

**Reading Assignment for November 15:**
*Chicano*: Foreward - Part One Chapter 4

**12. November 15: Indigenous Realities**
Film: *Voces inocentes*  
Romero

**Reading Assignment for November 29:**  
*Chicano*: Part One Chapters 5 - 8

**13. November 22: NO CLASS MEETING Revolutionary Movements**
Film:

**Reading Assignment for November 29:**  
*Chicano*: Part Two Chapters 1 - 4


**15. December 6: Student Presentations**

**16. December 13: Student Presentations**

**University Policies:** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at  
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which
they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).