

---

*SPAN 3331-601*

*Latin American Film History*

---



INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Alexandra  
Rodriguez  
EMAIL: [yrodriguez@tamusa.edu](mailto:yrodriguez@tamusa.edu)

ONLINE - SYNCHRONOUS:  
**Thursdays 5:30 pm - 8:15 pm via  
WebEx**

OFFICE Hours:  
Classroom Hall 314- O M&W 3:15-  
4:15 pm or by appointment  
(PLEASE schedule your  
appointment by email. Include in  
your email two of your most  
convenient times)

Latin American Film History is a survey that covers many film directors from different Latin American countries to explore problems and debates about Latin American history, society, and culture throughout its cinematographic production. In this course, students will gain experience in film analysis, learning how to articulate the relationship between content and narratives art form through close readings of representative films from each of the following major periods such as silent cinema (the 1890s-1930s), studio cinema (1930s-1950s), Neorealism/Art Cinema (1950s), the New Latin American Cinema (1960s-1980s), and contemporary cinema (1990s to today). These cinematographic productions will be studied, paying particular attention to the representation of race, gender, and sexuality.

---

**Course Requirements:**

---

- Participate in discussions expressing opinions, reactions, and recommendations about cinema.

- Use film language to acquire, interpret, and present information.
- Students are required to consistently watch the assigned films on the screening- days (most of the movies are available online, and two are available on DVD at the library.)
- Students should complete the assigned readings, screenings, written assignments, and oral presentations on time.

---

### *Course Goals*

---

- This course aims to explore the impact of Latin American artists, movements, institutions, and technologies on the development of Latin American film, both locally and continentally.
- Through studying film language and terminology, this course will enable students to critically analyze how these elements contribute to the formation of meaning and ideology in films.
- By studying the structure, form, and content of movies, students will gain insight into how these elements are used to convey social, political, and cultural concepts and ideas.

---

### *Course Objectives*

---

- Students will show a critical understanding of the central debates and problems addressed by the directors on the syllabus.
  - Students will show a critical understanding of the four cinematographic periods of Latin American Cinema.
  - Students will recognize basic conventions of the language of film analysis and correctly use them in order to perform different tasks.
  - Students will be able to produce original and critical essays on topics discussed in class.
  - Students will articulate their arguments using audiovisual language.

- Students will discuss, synthesize and analyze critical points associated with Latin American cinema.
- Students will describe and evaluate films using primary and secondary sources.

---

### *Class courtesy*

---

Each of us should be prepared, and fully engaged in the weekly class meetings as well as in the collaborative groups. The instructor should be aware of the students' needs and their points of view and should demonstrate respect for student ideas and opinions. The students should also be aware of the instructor's point of view and should demonstrate respect for it. In this regard, our online classroom will be a "safe space" where the discussion and exchange of ideas—even when we are confronting or critiquing them—will be respected at all times.

Completing your tasks takes time. Sometimes it takes a few minutes, sometimes it can take hours depending on what is being asked of you or what you feel you need to complete.

Instructors can set time limits on opportunities to respond to posts so you need to check your assignment due dates and plan accordingly. Also, if you post a response and are asking for/expecting replies, check your posts frequently and reply in a timely fashion. Online this usually means within 24-48 hours.

**PROOFREAD what you type. (This also helps prevent miscommunications.)**

Don't SHOUT unless you mean it. Using ALL CAPS is the equivalent of shouting online. Do not use them unless you really mean them or want to emphasize your point.

---

### *Performance and Participation*

---

You are expected to study and prepare the readings and homework assignments specified on the syllabus, including activities assigned on Blackboard, and participate in the discussions when indicated on the "Assignment Calendar."

Please keep in mind the following guidelines for online performance and participation:

1. No flaming! Simply put, no personal attacks. Debates and discussions are good - they promote learning and creative thinking. Disagree with the ideas but not the person. Personal insults and attacks on character are poor form, derogatory, and may lead to disciplinary/legal action against you. So just don't do it.
2. We're all human. So, give yourself, peers, and instructor the benefit of the doubt first. Sometimes we make mistakes or word things in ways that may offend others. So, if this happens, consider first that the person may not have meant it that way. If it still bothers you, try emailing or messaging the person individually for clarification and explaining why what they wrote

offended you first before blasting them publicly on the forums. If you think it's serious, inform your instructor for further action.

3. No trolls! You're a troll if you consciously post something to purposely incite argument and cause rife amongst your class members and then you sit back and watch the battle. The difference between trolling and debating is that trolling has the intent of causing no productive outcome other than anger and hate and debating is taking on heated discussions and loaded topics with the aim of learning a new perspective or coming to some form of resolution, agreement, or understanding. Trolls aren't looking for enlightenment, just reactions. Trolls don't create that "safe space" for difference in opinions.

4. Respect and Common Courtesy. Be open to others' ideas and opinions. Tolerance and respect are key to good discussions. Try to avoid sarcasm because some may just not get it and may flame you for it. "Assume the best of others in the class and expect the best from them." (Dr. Susan Shaw)

5. Use "I" Statements. Begin your responses with an "I" statement. Express how you feel or think in your posts. Example using an "I" statement: "I feel confused when I read this paragraph. It would help me understand it better if it was separated into two paragraphs." Instead of: "This is confusing."

6. Personal Commitment. You're here to meet a goal you've set. Generally, that goal is to learn, meet the class requirements, and progress forward. So, make a commitment to learning about, understanding, and supporting your peers. You're all in this course together and discussion is collaborative learning. Who knows what you might find out or who you may network with through the class discussions for that future job or community connection?

### **Safety & Legal**

1. No offensive or threatening posts. "Acknowledge the impact of sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, and ableism on the lives of class members." (Dr. Susan Shaw)

2. No spamming. Spamming in discussion forums is like spamming in emails. No self-promotion or commercial promotion in the forums.

3. Be Aware of What You Share. You are in an online course, but you're still online. TAMUSA has safety and security measures in place to protect your student information. However, what you choose to share in discussion posts is your choice. Use good judgment and discretion. In other words, kind of like with your banking information - don't publicly post passwords, your login information, your phone number or address in a discussion board. If you're trying to connect with a group or another class member on a project, email them privately instead of in the forum.

### **A Note on Censorship**

Posts may be censored for profanity, threatening, and/or inappropriate content by the course instructor or system administrator. Any content entered into or uploaded to the system is available for viewing and monitoring by your instructor and the system and college administrators.

---

## Attendance

---

Regular online-attendance is essential for successful completion of the course; attendance is therefore **required** for SPAN 3331-002. It is your responsibility to attend class and keep track of your absences. The instructor expects you to attend all scheduled classes. **If for an unforeseen reason the instructor must cancel class, you will be notified via announcement in Blackboard.** If you establish a habit of arriving late, the instructor will formally notify you and request correction. If tardiness persists, you will begin to accrue one absence for every three late arrivals. Moreover, you will be marked absent if you arrive more than 15 minutes late.

\*If you reach 5 unexcused absences, you may be dropped from the class. \*  
Proper documentation is needed for excused absences.

---

## Required Materials

---

### Required Texts:

Schroeder Rodríguez Paul A. *Latin American Cinema: A Comparative History*. University of California Press, 2016. <https://tamusa.on.worldcat.org/oclc/933560108>

or

Schroeder Rodríguez Paul A. *Una Historia Comparada Del Cine Latinoamericano*. Translated by Suárez Juana, Iberoamericana, 2020. <https://tamusa.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1155888309>

### Required Films:

1. *¡Que viva México!* By Serguéi Eisenstein. 1932  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rknic8PmWI>

2. "Ahí está el detalle" by Juan Bustillo Oro, México, 1940  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpxwENDSOzA>

3. *Los olvidados* by Luis Buñuel 1950  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSGlpXcLtY8>

4. *Memorias del subdesarrollo* by Tomás Gutiérrez 1968  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O\\_mHBlwnGPs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O_mHBlwnGPs)
5. The Official Story (Spanish: *La historia oficial*) 1985 by Luis Puenzo  
<https://www.kanopy.com/product/official-story-1>
6. *Amores perros* by Alejandro González Iñárritu 2000,  
[https://tubitv.com/movies/448257/amores-perros?start=true&tracking=google-feed&utm\\_source=google-feed](https://tubitv.com/movies/448257/amores-perros?start=true&tracking=google-feed&utm_source=google-feed) (available on DVD at TAMUSA library)
7. City of God (Portuguese: *Cidade de Deus*) by Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund 2002  
<https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/tamusa382739/watch/C51B1BF22D837DE9>
8. *Madeinusa*: Directed 2006 Directed by Claudia Llosa  
<https://www.kanopy.com/product/madeinusa>
9. *Pan's Labyrinth* (Spanish: *El laberinto del fauno*) by Guillermo del Toro 2006  
<https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/tamusa382739/watch/D7AEE2D8D3B8F0E5>
10. *Roma*: director Alfonso Cuarón, 2018

Additional materials will be available at Perusall.com.

---

### *HOMEWORK AND GRADING ASSIGNMENTS*

---

#### ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

The instructor expects you to submit or complete each assignment on or before its due date. Assignments are not accepted if late. If you missed a day, you will have one week to complete the assignment without any penalty if your absence is excused. If your absence is unexcused, you will have one week to complete the assignment and will receive a thirty percent penalty. Assignments are not accepted more than one week after the due date.

#### **Class participation (150 points)**

This course is conducted in Spanish. Students are expected to participate (group discussions and assignments) in Spanish. The use of Spanish is expected in every activity in the class with the instructor and classmates. You are expected to attend all classes, read the material before class, and participate actively in classroom activities. Keep in mind that if you are absent, you will receive no participation points for that day.

### READINGS ON PERUSALL (5) (300 POINTS)

All readings are mandatory and autonomous, and students are responsible for completing each one of the assigned readings on time. Readings are available at PERUSALL a social e-reader platform developed at Harvard University. This platform will provide your homework grade by allowing your instructor not only to see your answers but also your engagement with the assigned materials.

You will be held to the ethical standards and code of conduct provided by the university.

Please register at [persusall.com](http://persusall.com)

### FILM REVIEW PRESENTATION (1) (200)

Students will choose one of the assigned movies and write a film review (600 to 1000 words). This review must follow the guidelines for writing a film review and should introduce the screening of the movie on the assigned day. The students presenting their film reviews should bring one or two critical questions. Students' questions should take the discussion about the film to a high level of thought and reflection. (Chose the move by writing our name on the selected film)

### MIDTERM PAPER (1) (150 PTS.)

Students will write a midterm paper about one of the assigned movies or directors. Submission of 2 to 3 pages following the MLA style, attached annotated bibliography, and an abstract is required.

### FINAL VIDEO ESSAY (200 PTS)

Students will complete the instructor's corrections, add suggestions, and expand their research on their midterm essays for their final video essays. During the last day of class, students should present their first version of the final project: "The video essay."

### Grade breakdown

READINGS ON PERUSALL (5)	300
FILM REVIEW (1)	200
MIDTERM PAPER (1)	150
PARTICIPATION	150
FINAL VIDEO ESSAY (1)	200
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

### Grading Scale

Letter	Score
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	Below 590

### Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Plagiarism or academic theft is passing off someone else’s work as your own. Regardless of your background, you are responsible for not plagiarizing. Plagiarism will be reported and prosecuted.

#### No Use of Generative AI Permitted

SPAN 3331-601 Latin American Film History assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio’s standards of academic integrity.

#### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Please discuss with your instructor any appropriate academic accommodations that may be required during the first three weeks of the semester.

The information in this syllabus is subject to change in extenuating circumstances. Changes to the course syllabus will be provided to the student within one week prior to the event.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule



appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on “Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.



### **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

**Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:** Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

**Academic Learning Center:** The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the *Tools* section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

**Counseling/Mental Health Resources:** As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment call 210-784-1331 or visit Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance).

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services.

**Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2').** For more information and self-help resources, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>.

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend the first week of class will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots' Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be

missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units. Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu), 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and that are

related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu); 210-784-2061; CAB 439K).

Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

*Students' Rights*

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university student rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

*Students' Responsibilities*

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our

website, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as federal, state, and local laws.

3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated. Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#).