

SPAN 3331-601

Latin American Film History

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Alexandra Rodriguez Sabogal

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ONLINE - SYNCHRONOUS: Tuesdays 5:30 pm - 8:15 pm

Office Hours: Mondays from 12:15 to 1:15 & Wednesday from 3:15 to 4:15 pm. (For virtual appointments, send an email with two of your most convenient times)

Course Description

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).

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, or are available on DVD at the University 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.

Course Prerequisite

SPAN 3331 is a course designed for bilingual and second-language learners of Spanish who are bilingual and/or who are currently taking or have previously completed **SPAN 2315** at Texas A&M-San Antonio. All course materials are presented in Spanish, and students are required to complete all assignments, discussions, and participation activities in Spanish.

Prerequisite: Placement by exam or departmental approval, or successful completion of SPAN 2313. Students wishing to enroll in Spanish courses must take the A&M-SA **Spanish Placement Exam (SASPE)** for appropriate placement.

Attendance

Regular online-attendance is essential for successful completion of the course; attendance is therefore required for SPAN 3331. 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.

- You are allowed two “grace” absences. For this class, this equals one class session, since each session is two hours long. Grace absences **may not** be used on days when you are scheduled to give a presentation or submit a report. For each additional absence, **2% will be deducted** from your final grade
- Missed work can only be made up if you have valid documentation. Legitimate excused absences include the following: verifiable confining illness, serious verifiable family emergencies, subpoenas, jury duty, and military service. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor of any excused absences as far in advance as possible. Work must be made up in a timely manner (e.g. before the next scheduled evaluation).
- Documentation for excused absences must be presented as soon as possible. No documentation will be accepted after the last day of regularly scheduled classes.

*If you reach 5 unexcused absences, you may be dropped from the class. *

Proper documentation is needed for excused absences.

Required book (available online at TAMUSA library):

Schroeder Rodríguez Paul A. *Una Historia Comparada Del Cine Latinoamericano*, Iberoamericana, 2020. Click on the link below to access the eBook

<https://tamusa.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1155888309>

Homework and Grading Assignments

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 would 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.

No Use of Generative AI Permitted

SPAN 3331 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.

Blackboard

There is a Blackboard site for this course where readings will be posted, along with grades and other course information and assignments. It is your responsibility to check BLACKBOARD regularly for announcements and updates.

- **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) (250 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.

- **FILM REVIEW (In-class presentation) (150)**

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)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kQaQCrlT0Aym8rnuxsnVhFHlivdQzb0fSz3r3lVnos/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **MIDTERM PAPER (200 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 (250 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) 250
- FILM REVIEW (1) 150
- MIDTERM PAPER (1) 200
- PARTICIPATION 150
- FINAL VIDEO ESSAY (1) 250

Total 1000

Grading Scale

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

University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready

and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

If you send emails through Blackboard, do not expect a prompt response, as all communication will be conducted through TAMUSA email. You are also responsible for all information that is sent to your TEXAS A&M-SA email account regarding the course, and you should check this information regularly. To ensure effective communication, please use your Texas A&M email when contacting Dr. Rodriguez (yrodriguezs@tamusa.edu).

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, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting 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, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with 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 a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

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. Conduct that infringes 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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#)

Course Material, Academic Freedom, and Students' Rights

The materials and activities in this class were developed based on the instructor's subject-matter expertise and align with norms and best-practices in the discipline you are learning.

- As the Student Handbook states, "students will be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views in any course of study and to withhold judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled."
- The instructor will respect the rights enumerated in the handbook, including "respect for personal feelings; freedom from indignity of any type, freedom from control by any person except as may be in accord with Texas A&M University-San Antonio, and conditions allowing them to make the best use of their time and

talents toward the objectives which brought them to this University.” I ask that you respect the rights of your classmates to learn and have a positive experience in this class.

- Should students have a problem with any of the materials in this course, please reach out to the instructor for an explanation of why these materials are disciplinarily legitimate and to discuss strategies for completing the work in a manner that is acceptable to you and that meets course objectives. Please do so before or after class and not disrupt the learning experiences of others if you have any objections.

Calendario del Curso:

January 20

Class introduction: Review of syllabus and introduction to Perusall

Criollo cinema

January 27

Silent Cinema (1890s–1930s) / Cine Mudo

¡Que viva México! (1932), directed by Serguéi Eisenstein

February 3

Film Review Workshop: Writing and analyzing cinema

Film Review guidelines

February 10

Studio Cinema (1930s–1950s) / Cine de Estudio

Mario Moreno “Cantinflas”

Ahí está el detalle (1940), directed by Juan Bustillo Oro (México)

February 17

Neorealism & Art Cinema (1950s) / Neorrealismo y Cine Arte

Los olvidados (1950), directed by Luis Buñuel

Midterm Essay guidelines

February 24

New Latin American Cinema (1960s–1980s) / Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano

Memorias del subdesarrollo (1968), directed by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea

March 3

New Latin American Cinema

La historia oficial (1985), directed by Luis Puenzo

March 10

Spring Break — No Class

March 17

Contemporary Mexican Cinema: “Los tres amigos”

Review of Midterm Essay guidelines

Amores perros (2000), directed by Alejandro González Iñárritu

March 24

Contemporary Mexican Cinema: “Los tres amigos”

El laberinto del fauno (2006), directed by Guillermo del Toro

March 31

Mujeres en el cine latinoamericano

Madeinusa (2018), directed by Claudia Llosa

April 7

Contemporary Brazilian Cinema / Cine Contemporáneo de Brasil

City of God (Cidade de Deus) (2002), directed by Fernando Meirelles and Kátia Lund

April 14

Latin-American Horror:

La Llorona (2019) directed by Jayro Bustamante

April 21

Latin-American Horror

Casa Lobo (2018), directed by Joaquín Cociña y Cristóbal León

April 28

Individual consultations

Final Project: Video Essay

May 5

Study Day — No Class

May 12

Final Project submission

Important dates and submissions:

- January 25, Perusall: Cine mudo de vanguardia
- February 8, Perusall: Cine de estudio
- February 22, Perusall: Neorrealismo y cine arte
- March 1, Midterm paper submission (Upload to Blackboard)
- March 8, Perusall: Cine mexicano contemporáneo
- April 12, Perusall: Cine de terror desde América Latina
- May 12, Final Project Submission (Upload your Video Essay to Blackboard)
- Please keep in mind that **students have different scheduled dates to present their film reviews** during class.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at helpdesk@tamusa.edu or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

Academic Accommodations for Individuals 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

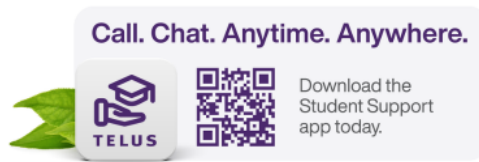
Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the [website](#) or email us at 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 academic accommodations with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and 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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.*

The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.



Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. 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. Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) 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 by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and

Digital Composing Center” to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#) . The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing writingcenter@tamusa.edu.

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 submit a [CARE report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots’ Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety 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 course 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, equal 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 on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All

decisions and actions involving students and employees are to 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, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

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 discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, 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, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (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 such reasonable accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition 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; 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. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at youngjaguars@tamusa.edu or call (210) 784-2636.