

**LACS 497: Research Seminar**  
**Memory, Narrative, and Human Rights in Latin America**  
**Winter 2018**

Professor: Fernanda Macchi  
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Office hours: Tuesday 12 to 13 or by appointment (688 Sherbrooke St. W, rm 381)

### **I. Description**

This course explores the way historical accounts, testimonial narratives, investigative reports, films, and novels from the 16th century to nowadays have shaped the debate on human rights and memory in Latin America. In doing so, it offers students the opportunity to explore how violence and discrimination have been conceived in (and about) Latin America from the perspective of cultural history.

### **II. Evaluation**

**Participation (15%):** Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate actively in class discussions.

**Group presentation (25%):** Students will work in small groups on case studies assigned by the instructor. Students are expected to approach case studies from a perspective that takes into account not just the historical facts, but the way in which societies remember them through art, literature, commemorative ceremonies, films, etc. Grades will be assigned taking into account both individual and group performance.

**Final Paper Proposal (20%):** Students will present a research project for their final paper on a specific topic related to human rights in Latin America. The project will include a description of the objectives and relevance of such a project and an annotated bibliography. **Due date: February 26, 2014.**

**Final paper (40%):** Students will write a final paper based on their research project. It should be double-spaced and at least 15 pages long (Times New Roman 12). **Due date: April 9, 2014.**

**Late submission:** Students who submit their research project/final paper after the due date will lose 3 points per day up to a maximum of 7 days. No assignment will be accepted after 7 days. Exceptions to this rule can be made for documented medical reasons.

*McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).*

*In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.*

### **III. Required Books**

Arias, Arturo. *The Rigoberta Menchú Controversy*. Minneapolis & London: Minnesota University Press, 2001. Available at Amazon.ca

Menchú, Rigoberta, and Elisabeth Burgos-Debray. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. London: Verso, 1984. Available at the McGill Bookstore

Soares, Luiz Eduardo, André Batista and Rodrigo Pimentel. *Elite Squad*. Weinstein Books, 2008. Available at Amazon and Amazon Kindle Store.

Partnoy, Alicia. *The little school: tales of disappearance and survival*. San Francisco: Midnight editions, 1998. Available at the McGill Bookstore

Striffler, Steve. *In the shadows of state and capital*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2002. Available at the McGill Bookstore

Bacon, David. *The Children of Nafta: Labor Wars on the U.S./Mexico Border*. Berkeley : University of California Press, 2004. Available through McGill Library.

All other required books and materials are available through either McGill University Library or other online services and repositories. See class schedule for more information.

#### **IV. Class schedule**

##### **11/1/2015 Introduction**

**18/1/2015 -**

##### **XVI century: Bartolomé de Las Casas-**

##### ***Required reading:***

Book: Las Casas, Bartolomé de. *The Tears of the Indians: Being an Historical and true Account of the Cruel Massacres and Slaughters of above Twenty Millions of Innocent People; Committed by the Spaniards*. London (Printed by J.C. for Nath. Brook, at the Angel in Cornhil), 1656.  
**[Available in mycourses. Read Introduction plus pages 1-45]**

Article: Livi-Bacci, Massimo. 2006. "The Depopulation of Hispanic America after the Conquest". *Population and Development Review*. 32 (2): 199-232.

Article: Boyer, Patricio. 2009. "Framing the Visual Tableaux in the Brevisima relacion de la destruicion de las Indias". *Colonial Latin American Review*. 18 (3): 365-382.

**25/1/2015**

##### **Early XIX century: Abolitionism**

##### ***Required reading:***

Book: *Poems by a Slave in the Island of Cuba, Recently Liberated; Translated from the Spanish, by R. R. Madden, M.D. With the History of the Early Life of the Negro Poet, Written by Himself; to Which Are Prefixed Two Pieces Descriptive of Cuban Slavery and the Slave-Traffic, by R. R. M.*: [Available at <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/manzano/manzano.html>. **READ PREFACE plus pages 45-92**]

Article: Milne, Lorna, and Fionnghuala Sweeney. 2004. "Atlantic Counter Cultures and the Networked Text: Juan Francisco Manzano, R. R. Madden and the Cuban Slave Narrative". *Forum for Modern Language Studies*. 40 (4): 401-414.

**30/1/2015**

## **Capitalism**

### **The United Fruit Company (Professor Catherine LeGrand)**

#### ***Required reading:***

Marcelo Bucheli and Ian Read, "Banana Boats and Baby Food: The Banana in U.S. History," in *From Silver to Cocaine: Latin American Commodity Chains and the Building of a World Economy*, ed. By Steven Topik et al. (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006), pp. 204-227 (ebook available through McGill Library)

Catherine LeGrand "Living in Macondo: Economy and Culture in a United Fruit Company Banana Enclave in Colombia" in *Close Encounters of Empire: Writing the Cultural History of U.S.-Latin American Relations*. Ed. by Gilbert M. Joseph, Catherine LeGrand; Ricardo D. Salvatore. (ebook available through McGill Library)

Eduardo Posada-Carbó. "Fiction as History: The bananeras and gabriel García Márquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*." *Journal of Latin American Studies* 30:2 (May 1998): 395-414. (ejournal available through McGill Library)

John Soluri, "Banana Cultures: Linking the Production and Consumption of Export Bananas," in *Banana Wars: Power, Production and History in the Americas*, ed. Steven Striffler and Mark Moberg (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2003), pp. 48-79. (ebook available through McGill Library)

Poem: Neruda, Pablo. "The United Fruit Company" [http://books.google.ca/books?id=sEe\\_6MRg5xQC&pg=PA79&dq=pablo+neruda+poems+united+fruit&hl=en&sa=X&ei=HHx5UuqqHYj\\_qgGhzYDACQ&ved=0CDMQ6wEwAQ#v=onepage&q=pablo%20neruda%20poems%20united%20fruit&f=false](http://books.google.ca/books?id=sEe_6MRg5xQC&pg=PA79&dq=pablo+neruda+poems+united+fruit&hl=en&sa=X&ei=HHx5UuqqHYj_qgGhzYDACQ&ved=0CDMQ6wEwAQ#v=onepage&q=pablo%20neruda%20poems%20united%20fruit&f=false)

Article: Martin J.W. 2011. "Mapping an empire: Tourist cartographies of the Caribbean in the early twentieth century". *Early Popular Visual Culture*. 9 (1): 1-14.

#### ***Group Presentation (1): Case Study: Colombia***

**6/2/2015**

**Intellectuals**

***Required reading/viewing:***

Discourse: Fidel Castro. *Speech to Intellectuals on 30 June 1961* at <http://lanic.utexas.edu/project/castro/db/1961/19610630.html>

Film: Nestor Almendros & Orlando Jiménez Leal. *Improper conduct*. (In several parts on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcF5ubWiy5k>)

Article: KUMARASWAMI, PAR. 2009. "Cultural Policy and Cultural Politics in Revolutionary Cuba: Re-reading the Palabras a los intelectuales (Words to the Intellectuals)". *Bulletin of Latin American Research*. 28 (4): 527-541.

**In class:**

Film: Orlando Jiménez Leal y Saba Cabrera. P.M. (1961). (On Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/21580685>)

***Group Presentation (3): Case Study: Cuba***

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**15/2/2015**

**Indigenous Rights**

**Mapuches communities in the Southern Cone: Professor Luis Carcamo Huechante, director of the Indigenous Study Institute at the University of Texas, Austin**

***Required readings:***

Book: *Awukan Ka Kuxankan Zugu Wajmapu Mew: Violencias coloniales en Wajmapu* (Ediciones Comunidad Historia Mapuche, 2015) (on mycourses)

**22/2/2015**

**Terrorism and Dictatorships**

***Required reading/viewing:***

Book: Partnoy, Alicia. *The little school: tales of disappearance and survival*. San Francisco: Midnight editions, 1998. (McGill Bookstore)

Article: Cardenas, Sonia. 2006. "Violators' Accounts: Hypocrisy and Human Rights Rhetoric in the Southern Cone". *Journal of Human Rights*. 5 (4): 439-451.

**Group Presentation (4): Case Study: Chile/Argentina/Uruguay**

**1/3/2014 -**

**Victims' Testimony-**

**Required reading:**

Book: Menchú, Rigoberta, and Elisabeth Burgos-Debray. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. London: Verso, 1984.

**Group Presentation (5): Case Study: Guatemala**

**-----RESEARCH PROJECT DUE-----**

**6/3/2015**

**READING WEEK**

**13/3/2015**

**Controversies**

**Required reading:**

Newspaper article: Rohter, Larry. "TARNISHED LAUREATE: A special report.; Nobel Winner Finds Her Story Challenged" *New York Times* (Dec 15, 1998) At: <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/12/15/world/tarnished-laureate-a-special-report-nobel-winner-finds-her-story-challenged.html?pagewanted=all&src=pm>

Book: Arias, Arturo. *The Rigoberta Menchú Controversy*. Minneapolis & London: Minnesota University Press, 2001.

**Group Presentation (6): Case Study: El Salvador**

**22/3/2015**

**Memory**

**(Professor Manuel Balan)**

***Required reading:***

Book: Root, Rebecca K. *Transitional Justice in Peru*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. (E-book - Available through McGill University Library)

**Group Presentation (7): Case Study: Peru**

**27/3/2015**

**Poverty and the State**

***Required reading/viewing:***

Book: Soares, Luiz Eduardo, André Batista and Rodrigo Pimentel. *Elite Squad*. Weinstein Books, 2008. (Available at Amazon and Amazon Kindle Store)

**Recommended reading/viewing**

Film: Salles, W., et al. (2003). *Cidade de Deus City of God*. [São Paulo, Brazil], O2 Filmes.  
Alves, M. H. M., & Evanson, P. (2011). *Living in the crossfire Favela residents, drug dealers, and Police violence in Rio de Janeiro*. Philadelphia, Pa, Temple University Press. <http://site.ebrary.com/id/10451008>. (Available through McGill University Library)

**Group Presentation (8): Case Study: Brazil**

**3/4/2015**

**Labor and Rights**

***Required reading:***

Book: Bacon, David. *The Children of Nafta: Labor Wars on the U.S./Mexico Border*. (e-book in the McLennan Library's Collection)

Article: Ensalaco, Mark. 2006. "Murder in Ciudad Juárez". *Violence Against Women*. 12 (5): 417-440.

**Group Presentation (9): Case Study: Mexico**

**10/4/2014**

**Conclusion Final paper due**