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Winter Term 2018

Spanish 9125B: LATIN AMERICA IN THE FILM FESTIVAL CIRCUIT
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UWO

Seminar: Wednesday, 9.30 to 12.30 – TC 343

Screening: Friday, 1.30 to 4.30 – AHB 3B15

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10.30 to 11.30 & Wednesday, 12.30 to 1.30

**** The course will be taught in Spanish. Students can do their presentations and submit their assignments in Spanish or in English.***

AIMS OF THE COURSE:

The course will look at Latin American cinema (mostly contemporary films), and the associated ideas about the region, that circulate in the film festival circuit. Understanding the latter as a complex and dynamic phenomenon, the study of which has been tackled from a wide range of multidisciplinary approaches (from socio-economics to film studies, from anthropology to global studies), special attention will be paid to the political economies at stake in these transnational networks and their impact in terms of film distribution, exhibition and, perhaps more importantly, film production.

Methodology: By focusing on scholarship on film festivals, an expanding area of research since the mid 1990s, ideas will be discussed in the light of specific case studies, with the aim of reflecting on the current state of Latin American film industries, cultures and images.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Critically reflect upon Latin American cinema, and the wide range of images that it produces, by specifically focusing on their reception in the film festival circuit;
2. Ponder the key notions involved in the study of film festivals as complex cultural phenomena.

REQUIRED READINGS:

All required readings will be available through the course's OWL site.

For general reference:

- Rist, Peter. Historical Dictionary of South American Cinema. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014. (Online resource available from the Western Libraries Catalogue).
- David Bushnell, Roger A. Kittleson, James Lockhart (primary contributors). *Encyclopaedia Britannica. Encyclopaedia Britannica Online Academic Edition*. Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2014. Web. <<http://www.britannica.com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/EBchecked/topic/331694/Latin-America>>.
- Website for the Film Festival Research Network: <http://www.filmfestivalresearch.org/>

ASSESSMENT.

- * Attendance (5%)
- * Running of Screening (5%)
- * Participation (20%)
- * Abstract (5%)
- * Seminar presentation and discussion leading (20%)
- * Paper proposal & annotated bibliography (20%) – Due: Feb. 26 @ 9.30 am
- * Final Research Paper (25%) – Due: April 13 @ 12 pm

GRADING SCALE

A+ (90+) Work of publishable standard, albeit with some revisions possible. Equivalent to advanced PhD level work.

A (88-89) Excellent: displaying extensive originality.

A- (85-87) Strong performance at MA level, fully equal to that of an average PhD student. Must be well-written and show some originality.

B+ (80-84) Good MA-level work, indicating the student's potential (with some reservations) to work successfully at the PhD level.

B (78-79) Competent MA work, but does not suggest potential to proceed to PhD level.

B- Any mark below 78 indicates performance below the level required of a graduate student.

Attendance – 5%

(Absences and late assignments)

You are required to attend all sessions. If you are absent from a seminar or if an assignment is late due to illness or other legitimate reasons, please contact me by email as soon as possible and forward supporting documentation. If you are in doubt as to the “legitimacy” of your situation regarding lateness or absence please contact me as soon as possible.

With the exception of duly documented medical illnesses and emergencies, late assignments will be penalized 3 points per day late (including weekends).

Screenings – 5%

Attendance is highly recommended. When running a screening, you will have to pick up the film from the Faculty’s film library (AHB 1G19) in advance, you will be in charge of its projection (turning on and off the equipment, subtitles when needed, etc.) and provide a brief introduction to the film that should include the title, name of director, country/ies, year of release, critical reception (if more than one person is running the screening, they will divide the tasks among themselves and they will present on different ideas concerning the film’s reception). These presentations will not last for more than 10 minutes.

Screening time will also be used for discussion when appropriate.

For individual study, videos may be viewed in the Faculty’s film library.

Participation – 20%

Seminar participation is a central component of the course (seminars are mostly structured around the debates generated by presentations and the discussion of the readings).

Make sure to come to class having read and thought about all of the weekly readings and with the relevant notes and material in hand.

Participation marks will be given on the basis of active engagement in seminar discussions, critical responses to required readings and constructive and insightful comments made on the peer assessment proformas.

Peer assessment of seminar presentations

All students will participate in the assessment of seminar presentations by making constructive comments on the peer assessment proformas (see attached form at the end of the syllabus).

Completed proformas are to be sent to the instructor the day following the seminar (Thursday). After that, they will not be accepted and the participation mark will be affected.

The proforma is also available as a Word document in the course’s OWL site.

You can download it, complete it and send it to me by email. I will remove the names of assessors and share class comments with the presenter.

Abstract – 5%

A 250 to 300-word abstract of your presentation and a working bibliography are due one week (or earlier) before the date of the seminar that you select to present on. Include word count at the end of the abstract.

Please make an appointment to discuss the abstract and the bibliography with the instructor a week before the seminar.

Please make copies of the abstract available for your colleagues at least 24 hours *before* your presentation.

Seminar presentation and discussion leading – 20%

If you use power point for your presentation please upload the file on the course's OWL site's Drop Box.

Oral presentations are to be 50 minutes in length and not one minute more.

Students should select an aspect of a given text that intrigues them and that will sustain further investigation. You are encouraged to incorporate clips, images, and/or additional research into your presentation as long as you remain thoroughly engaged with the course topics and the material for that week.

As the discussion leader, the person doing the presentation will prepare at least five questions to be considered at the end of the exposition.

Speak clearly, and slowly; the pace of an oral delivery, and the amount of eye contact a speaker has with an audience often determine the effectiveness of the presentation.

Following their seminar, students should make an appointment with the instructor to discuss peer evaluations of their presentation.

Please notify me by email as soon as possible about your choice for a seminar slot. Seminars will be assigned as I hear from students between January 10th and January 17th.

Paper proposal and annotated bibliography – 20%

Due: Feb. 26 @ 9.30 am

The paper proposal is an opportunity to begin researching and organizing your thoughts around the topic that you will fully address and develop in your final essay. This mid-term exercise has two parts:

1. Paper proposal – 750 words (+/-5%). Include word count.
2. Annotated bibliography – 750 words (+/-5%). Include word count.

In the **paper proposal** (part 1), the topic and central argument/s will be presented, as well as your methodology (in other words, this section is about the “what” you will be working on and the “how” you will do it).

The proposal should be informed by course content (ideas discussed in seminars, readings), primary historical research (industry trade publications, reviews, etc.) and scholarly sources.

The **annotated bibliography** (part 2) will include:

1. A complete list of all the references (articles, books, films) consulted and to be included in the final paper up until that point (what you have read, watched and gathered and that will be included in your final paper).
2. A minimum of ten bibliographical references annotated. This means that you have to add a few sentences or a short paragraph summarizing the central ideas of each one of these sources and explaining their significance and relevance to your project.

For more information on the annotated bibliography please visit:

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/annotatedbibliographies/index.html>

Final research paper – 25%

Due: April 13 @ 12 pm

As this is a research-based course, the final paper must address some of the central ideas, debates and critical concepts included in the syllabus and discussed in class, plus additional primary and secondary materials that you gather through your research and integrate into your own work. So, on one hand, the course content should inform and enhance the analysis of your chosen topic; on the other, it is expected that you will pursue sources beyond what is offered on the syllabus, with the aim of further developing your arguments.

The following is a list of **topics** that you may want to work on:

- In depths analysis of participation, presence, visibility, etc. of Latin American films, filmmakers, producers, etc. in one or two particular film festival/s (data and analysis).
- Focus on one particular director's body of work and its circulation and reception in the film festival circuit.
- Research on one particular topic or issue of interest (ex. Literature review on Latin American cinema in the film festival circuit: what has been written about it in scholarly journals and/or books? What do trade publications usually focus on? More or less presence or visibility by country, by director, preferred films / topics, etc.).
- Focus on international and regional funds and Latin American cinema.
- Film Festival Section - programming proposal:
 - Minimum of 10 films (no more than 2 from the course)
 - Basic info about the film: title, director, year, country/ies, duration.
 - Synopsis (150 words max; original – not copied from company's website, IMDB or any other source)
 - Rational of section and of choices (500 words max)
 - Focus could be on one or two of the following:
 - Regional approach
 - Particular national film industry
 - Theme
 - Genre
 - Questions about gender, class, race / ethnicity.
 - Etc.
 - Theoretical justification - 2500 words (include word count).

** Whether you decide to concentrate on one of these topics or you think about a different one that interests you, you have to meet with me during the first three weeks of the course (no later than January 31st) to discuss and agree upon the feasibility of your research project before embarking on it.

Since this final paper is a continuation of the work presented in a previous exercise/s, you have to observe the **continuity** between the assignments and

make sure that you incorporate into the final paper the feedback received by the instructor and your peers.

As your instructor and the person accompanying you in the process, I will be looking at the development of your arguments (complexity, originality) between the initial version/s and the final paper. Make sure that you meet at least twice with me throughout the term (ideally, at least once before each assignment is due) to go over your ideas and make sure that you are on the right track. Whereas I am open to discuss ideas in general, methodological approaches, mind maps, graphs, structures, sources, etc., do keep in mind that I don't read or comment on drafts.

The **requirements** for this assignment are the following:

Length: 5000 words (+/- 5%). Include word count.

Sources and references:

- At least 20 different, non-internet references in the Works Cited page.
 - o At least 8 must be primary sources
 - o No more than 5 can be from the course readings
 - o At least 10 must be scholarly sources not included in the syllabus

All essays must be cited in proper MLA or Chicago format.

Submission: the final research paper (the exact same version of it) has to be submitted both through OWL (Drop Box) and in print to the instructor. If you fail to submit your essay in either one format or the other by the due date and time, it will be considered a late submission and it will be marked accordingly. Make sure you comply to this requisite in order to avoid late submission penalties.

All essays will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism (Turnitin).

PLEASE NOTE:

This is an abbreviated version of the syllabus. The full version will be presented on the first day of class (January 18th, 2018) and it will be uploaded on the course's OWL site prior to that date.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html.

This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.