

new york university  
paul mcghee division liberal arts program  
fall 2002

julian vigo  
y23.6263.1  
thursday 6:20-8:50

**latin american and latino literature and visual culture:  
magically real spaces of terror, *mestizaje* and modernity**



This course will focus on issues relating to Latin American and Latino literature and visual culture. We will be reading literature and studying visual representations from the Conquest of the Americas through the *neo-barroco* of the late twentieth century to contemporary Latino performance art, video and writing. Through literature and visual media, we will be examining discourses of nation, gender, sex, race, and community in various Latino and Latin American cultures examining the spaces between truth and fiction, history and present, community and nation, and memory and forgetting. We will discuss the readings and viewings each week as every student will bring into class her own cultural perspectives and interpretations of the works at hand while we focus upon each text and cultural artifact. Examining the various textual constructions of Latin America's history and political heritage as an embodiment of Carpentier's notion of the "marvelous real" we will study representations of terror in Latin America—death, torture, exile and disappearance—, the *frontera* as space of *mestizaje* suggesting the impossibility of discussing a single race, sexuality, gender role or space and we will read various discourses of modernity, globalization and community in Latino and Latin American communities whereby identities seem to fragment and where belonging to one specific group negates the nomadic and global nature of much Latin American and Latino identity today.

**course requirements**

**class participation and preparation:** You need to be prepared for class by completing all of the readings and viewings scheduled for each meeting. As well, you are expected to share your ideas and critiques with the class through the many discussions which depend upon your interpretation and dialogue. During the course of the semester, you will be asked to give an informal five minute presentation in class.

**position papers:** Ten times during the semester, you will write a two-page essay in response to the material listed for that session. Because I want to read your *individual opinions* to the readings/viewings at hand, I am requesting that you hand in these essays the Thursday the materials are to be discussed in class. This will serve as an exercise for you to individually contemplate and articulate in writing your interpretations of the material at hand, rather than for you to write about what you think I want to hear after a class. It is important to note that these papers are not *reviews* of the entire readings and viewings, but are concise arguments that set out to specifically analyze and critique certain concepts or theories. All papers must be typed and must observe MLA standards of style. No late papers are accepted.

**research papers:** You are required to complete a research paper of 10-12 pages in length observing MLA standards. For this paper, you are to critically investigate a specific topic of Latin American and/or Latino literature or visual culture using secondary sources to develop your argument. Although you may choose your topic, you are required to hand in a one page typed proposal by 31 October which will must be approved in order to commence the final paper. The research paper is due no later than 11 December.

**office hours:** I have office hours on Thursdays from 13:00-13:50 and from 16:50-18:20 at NYU's Spanish Department located at 19 University Place, 4th Floor, office number 431. This is time for you individually to discuss your work, position papers, research paper and any issues related your studies. Furthermore, you are required to come to my office hours at least once during the semester. If, for any reason, you cannot come to see me during my office hours, please talk to me after class and I will gladly set aside a time which is more convenient for you. You may also contact me by e-mail at: [julian.vigo@nyu.edu](mailto:julian.vigo@nyu.edu)

**evaluation**

Class participation, preparation, and attendance	30%
Position Papers	35%
Research Paper	35%

## fall 2002 class schedule

magical realism:  
the history and  
fiction of the  
nation

**5 september: introduction to the course**

**12 september: magically real historical interpretations**

Carpentier. "The Baroque and the Marvelous Real."

Sahagún. *Conquest of New Spain (Florentine Codex)*

Paintings by Diego Rivera (Museo del Barrio)

**19 september: land & national identity—belonging & dispossession**

Paz. *The labyrinth of solitude: life and thought in Mexico.*

Mariategui. "The Problem of Land."

Buñuel. *Los olvidados*. Dir. Luis Buñuel and Luis Alcoriza. (1951)

**26 september: whose america?—patriarchy, the people & empowerment**

García Marquez. *Autumn of the Patriarch.*

José Martí. "Our America."

Paintings by Frida Kahlo (Museo del Barrio)

local politics  
of terror:  
torture, exile  
and the  
"desaparecidos"

**3 october: indigenous extermination and transnational politics**

Menchú. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala.*

Immerman. "The View from the North."

*The Houses are Full of Smoke*. Dir. Allan Francovich. (1989)

**10 october: chile's 9/11**

Eltit. *E.Luminata*.

Oppenheim. "The System Collapses: Causes of the Military Coup."

*Chile, Obstinate Memory*. Dir. Patricio Guzmán. (1997)

**17 october: los desaparecidos—memories invoked**

Partnoy. *The Little School*.

Taylor. "Disappearing Bodies: Writing Torture and Torture as Writing."

*Garaje olimpo*. Dir. Marco Bechis. (1999)

**24 october: queering the revolution**

Arenas, Reinaldo. *Until Night Falls*.

Leiner. "The Homosexual in the Revolution."

*Mariposas en el andamio*. Dir. Gilpin & Bernaza. (1996)

**31 october: constructions of race**

Vasconcelos. *The Cosmic Race: A Bilingual Edition*.

Cadena. "Indigenous Mestizos, De-Indianization, and Discrimination."

*Mariá Candelaria*. Dir. Emilio Fernández (1948)

borderlands &  
mestizaje: race,  
gender, sexuality

**7 november: subverting or simulating gender?**

Sarduy. *Maitreya*.

Sarduy. "Copy/Simulacrum."

*Danzon*. Dir. María Novaro. (1992)

**14 november: engendering words and negating the body**

Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz. "Reply to Sor Filotea de la Cruz"

Franco. "Writers in Spite of Themselves."

*Yo, la peor de todas*. Dir. Maria Luisa Bemberg (1990)

**21 november: la frontera between sexuality & community**

Anzaldúa. *Borderlands = La frontera : the new mestiza*.

Gómez-Peña. "Documented/Undocumented" and "The Border Is..."

*Pochonovela: A Chicano Soap Opera*. Dir. Coco Fusco. (1995)

modernity,  
globalization and  
reconstructing  
community

**5 december: hybridity as contradicition?**

Flores, Juan. *Divided Borders*.

García Canclini. "Latin American Contradictions."

*Border brujo*. Dir. Guillermo Gómez-Peña. (1990)

**11 december: who are "we"?—constituting the self**

Pérez Firmat. *Life on the Hyphen : The Cuban-American Way*.

Fusco. "Passionate Irreverance: The Cultural Politics of Identity."

*Carmelita Tropicana*. Dir. Ela Troyano. (1994)

**19 december: global & imaginary communities**

Rodriguez, Richard. *Days of Obligation*.

Appadurai. "Patriotism and Its Futures."

Field project

### required texts

(These texts should be purchased from the NYU Bookstore, 18 Washington Place )

- Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands = La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. Consortium, 1999.
- Arenas, Reinaldo. *Until Night Falls*. New York: Penguin, 1994.
- Eltit, Diamela. *E.Luminata*. Trans. Ronald Christ. Santa Fe: Lumen Inc., 1997
- Flores, Juan. *Divided borders : essays on Puerto Rican identity*. Houston: Arte Público Press, 1993.
- García Marquez, Gabriel. *Autumn of the Patriarch*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1999.
- Menchú, Rigoberta. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. New York: Verso, 1987.
- Partnoy, Alicia. *The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival in Argentina*. Trans. Alicia Partnoy with Lois Athey and Sandra Braunstein. San Francisco: Cleis Press, 1986.
- Paz, Octavio. *The Labyrinth of Solitude: Life and Thought in Mexico*. Trans. Lysander Kemp. New York: Grove Press, 1962.
- Pérez Firmat, Gustavo. *Life on the Hyphen: The Cuban-American Way*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994.
- Rodríguez, Richard. *Days of Obligation: An Argument with my Mexican Father*. New York: Penguin, 1993.
- Sarduy, Severo. *Cobra and Maitreya: Two Novels*. Dalkey Archive, 1995.
- Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz. *Poems, Protest and a Dream*. New York, Penguin, 1997.
- Vasconcelos, José. *The Cosmic Race: A Bilingual Edition*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

### required articles

(These readings can be bought at King's Copies, 45 East 7th Street)

- Appadurai, Arjun. "Patriotism and Its Futures." *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Trans. Richard Nice. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1977.
- Cadena, Marisol de la. "Indigenous Mestizos, De-Indianization, and Discrimination." *Indigenous Mestizos: The Politics of Race and Culture in Cuzco, Peru, 1919-1991*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2000.
- García Canclini, Néstor. "Latin American Contradictions: Modernisms without Modernization?" *Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity*. Trans. Christopher L. Chiappari and Silvia L. Lopez. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995.
- Carpentier, Alejo. "The Baroque and the Marvelous Real." *Magical Realism : Theory, History, Community*. Eds. Lois Parkinson Zamora and Wendy B. Faris. Durham: Duke University Press, 1995.
- Franco, Jean. "Writers in Spite of Themselves: The Mystical Nuns of SEventeenth-Century Mexico." *Plotting Women: Gender and Representation in Mexico*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1989.
- Fusco, Coco. "Passionate Irreverance: The Cultural Politics of Identity." *English is Broken Here: Notes on Cultural Fusion in the Americas*. New York City: The New Press, 1995.
- García Canclini, Nestor. *Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity*. Trans. Christopher L. Chippari and Silvia L. Lopez. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995.
- Gómez-Peña. "Documented/Undocumented" and "The Border Is..." *Warrior fro Gringostroika: Essays, Performance Texts, and Poetry*. St. Paul: Graywolf Press, 1993.
- Immerman, Richard H. "The View from the North." *The CIA in Guatemala: The Foreign Policy of Intervention*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1982.
- Leiner, Marvin. "The Homosexual in the Revolution." *Machismo, Homosexuality, and AIDS*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1994.
- Mariátegui, José Carlos. "The Problem of Land." *Seven Interpretive Essays on Peruvian Reality*. Trans. Marjory Urquidi. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971.
- Martí, José. "Our America." *Our America: Writings on Latin America and the Struggle for Cuban Independence*. Trans. Elinor Randall. New York: 1977.

- Oppenheim, Lois Hecht. "The System Collapses: Causes of the Military Coup." *Politics in Chile: Democracy, Authoritarianism, and the Search for Development*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1993.
- Poniatowska, Elena. *Nothing, Nobody*. Trans. Aurora Camoche de Schmidt and Arthur Schmidt. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1995.
- Sahagún, Bernardino de. *Conquest of New Spain*. Trans. and Ed. Howard F. Cline. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1989.
- Sarduy, Severo. "Copy/Simulacrum." *Written on the body*. Trans. Carol Maier. New York: Lumen, 1989.
- Taylor, Diana. "Disappearing Bodies: Writing Torture and Torture as Writing." *Disappearing Acts: Spectacles of Gender and Nationalism in Argentina's "Dirty War"*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1997.

#### **required viewings**

(at the Avery Fisher Center in Bobst Library)

- Border Brujo*. Dir. Guillermo Gómez-Peña. (1990, 52 min.) VCA 2320
- Carmelita Tropicana: Your Kunst is Your Waffen*. Dir. Ela Troyano. (1994) VCA 4327
- Chile, Obstinate Memory*. Dir. Patricio Guzmán. (1997, 58 min) VCA 7893
- Danzon*. Dir. María Novaro. (1992, 103 min.) VCA 4636
- Garage olimpo*. Dir. Marco Bechis. (1999) TBA
- The Houses are Full of Smoke*. Dir. Allan Francovich. (1989, Vols. 1-3) VCA 4163
- Los olvidados*. Dir. Luis Buñuel and Luis Alcoriza. (1951, 88 min) VCA 2061
- Mariá Candelaria: Xochimilco*. Dir. Emilio Fernández (1948) VCA 3302
- Mariposas en el andamio*. Dir. Margaret Gilpin & Luis Felipe Bernaza. (1996, 74 min.) VCA 9280
- Pochonovela: A Chicano Soap Opera*. Dir. Coco Fusco. (1995, 27 min.) VCA 9165
- Yo, la peor de todas*. Dir. Maria Luisa Bemberg (1990, 105 min.) VCA 5495

#### **secondary texts**

- Alarcón, Norma. *Between Woman and Nation : Nationalisms, Transnational Feminisms, and the State*. Durham, [N.C.] : Duke University Press, 1999.
- Arditti, Rita. *Searching for Life : The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina*. Berkeley: University of California Press, c1999.
- Arenas, Reinaldo. *Hallucinations or The ill-fated peregrinations of Fray Servando*. Translated by Andrew Hurley. New York, N.Y. : Penguin Books, 1994.
- Asturias, Miguel Angel. *Men of maiz*. Trans. by Gerald Martin. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1993.
- Bartra, Roger. *The Cage of Melancholy: Identity and Metamorphosis in the Mexican Character*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1992.
- Berryman, Phillip. *Liberation Theology: Essential Facts About the Revolutionary Movement in Latin America and Beyond*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1987.
- Birri, Fernando. "Cinema and Underdevelopment." In *Twenty-five Years of the New Latin American Cinema*. Ed. Michael Chanan. London: British Film Institute, 1983.
- Burns, E. Bradford. *Latin American Cinema: Film and History*. Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center, 1975.
- Chanan, Michael, ed. *Twenty-five Years of the New Latin American Cinema*. London: British Film Institute, 1983.
- Comisión Nacional de Verdad y Reconciliación. (Report of the Chilean National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation)*. Trans. Phillip E. Berryman. Notre Dame: Notre Dame Law School,, 1993.
- Cooper Alarcon, Daniel. *The Aztec Palimpsest: Mexico in the Modern Imagination*. Tuscon: University of Arizona Press, 1997.
- Cortés, Hernán. "Segunda carta-relación—30 de octubre de 1520." *Cartas de relación*. Mexico City: Editorial

- Porrúa, 1988.
- Díaz del Castillo, Bernal. *Historia verdadera de la conquista de la nueva España*. Ed. Carmelo Saenz de Santa Maria. Madrid: Instituto Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo, C.S.I.C., 1982.
- Dorfman, Ariel. *Exorcising Pinochet: The Ongoing Hunt for General Augusto Pinochet* (Open Media Series). Seven Stories Press, 2002.
- Feierstein, Ricardo. *Mestizo*. Trans. Stephen A. Sadow. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2000.
- Feitlowitz, Marguerite. *A Lexicon of Terror : Argentina and the Legacies of Torture*. Marguerite Feitlowitz. New York : Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Foster, David William. "Argentine Sociopolitical Commentary, the Malvinas Conflict, and Beyond: Rhetoricizing a National Experience." *Latin American Research Review*. 22, no.1 (1987):7-34.
- Foster, David William. *Contemporary Argentine Cinema*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1992.
- Franco, Jean. "From Public Space to the Fortified Enclave: Neoliberalism's Effect on the Latin American City." *Anybody*. Ed. Cynthia C. Davidson. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1997.
- Friere, Paulo. *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. Tr. Myra Bergman Ramos. New York: Continuum, 1988.
- Fuentes, Carlos. *The Death of Artemio Cruz*. Noonday Press; ISBN: 0374522839; Revised edition (May 1991)
- Gabriel, Teshome H. *Third Cinema in the Third World: The Aesthetics of Liberation*. Ann Arbor: UMI Research Press, 1982.
- Guillermo Cabrera Infante. *Assays, essays and other arts*. Ed by Ardis L. Nelson. New York : Twayne, 1999.
- Gutiérrez, Gustavo. *A Theology of Liberation*. Trans. Caridad Inda and John Eagleson. New York: Orbis Books, 1985.
- Habell-Pall, Michelle and Mary Romero, eds. *Latino/a Popular Culture*. New York: New York University Press, 2002.
- Herman, Edward S. "Terrorism: Misrepresentations of Power". *Violent Persuasions: The Politics and Imagery of Terrorism*. Ed. David J. Brown and Robert Merrill. Seattle: Bay Press, 1993.
- Hulme, Peter. *Colonial Encounters*. New York: Routledge, 1986.
- King, John and Nissa Torrents, eds. *The Garden of Forking Paths: Argentine Cinema*. London: British Film Institute, 1988.
- King, John. "Assailing the Heights of Macho Pictures: Women Filmmakers in Contemporary Argentina." In *Knives and Angels: Women Writers in Latin America*. Ed. Susan Basnett, 158-170. London: Zed Books.
- Lernoux, Penny. *Cry of the People: The Struggle for Human Rights in Latin America — The Catholic Church in Conflict with U.S. Policy*. New York: Penguin Books, 1980.
- Maciel, David R., Isidro D. Ortiz, María Herrera-Sobek, eds. *Chicano Renaissance: Contemporary Cultural Trends*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2000.
- Martínez, Renato. "On the Semiotics of Torture: The Case of the Disappeared in Chile." *Reading the Social Body*. Ed. Catherine B. Borroughs and Jeffrey David Ehrenreich. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1993.
- Moberg, Mark. *Myths of Ethnicity and Nation: Immigration, Work, and Identity in the Belize Banana Industry*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1997.
- Moraga, Cherríe. *Loving in the War Years : Lo que unca pasó por sus labios*. Boston, Mass. : South End Press, 1983.
- Muñoz, José Esteban. "Flaming Latinas: Ela Troyanos's *Carmelita Tropicana: Your Kunst Is Your Waffan* (1993)." *The Ethnic Eye: Latino Media Arts*. Eds. Chon A. Noriega & Ana M. López. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press, 1996.
- Negrón-Muntaner, Frances. "Drama Queens: Latino Gay and Lesbian Independent Film/Video." *The Ethnic Eye: Latino Media Arts*. Eds. Chon A. Noriega and Ana M. López. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.
- Noriega, Chon A., ed. *Visible nations : Latin American Cinema and Video*. Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press, 2000.

- Paranagua, Paolo Antonio. "Pioneers: Women Filmmakers in Latin America." *Framework* 37(1989):129-138.
- Pessar, Patricia, ed. *Fronteras permeables: migración laboral y movimientos de refugiados en America*. Buenos Aires: Planeta, 1991.
- Pick, Z.M. "An Interview with Maria Luisa Bemberg." *Journal of Film and Video* 44.3/4 (1992/1993):76-82
- Poniatowska, Elena. *Massacre in Mexico*. St. Louis: Univ of Missouri Press, 1992.
- Puig, Manuel. *The Buenos Aires Affair: A Detective Novel*. Trans. Suzanne Jill Levine. New York: Vintage Books, 1980.
- Quinonez, Ernest. *Bodega Dreams*. New York: Vintage Books, 2000.
- Radcliffe, Sarah A. *Remaking the Nation: Place, Identity and Politics in Latin America*. New York: Routledge, 1996.
- Reati, Fernando. "Argentine Political Violence and Artistic Representation in Films of the 1980's." *Latin American Literary Review*. 34 (1989):24-39.
- Sanchez, George J. *Becoming Mexican America: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Savigliano, Marta. *Tango and the Political Economy of Passion*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1995.
- Solà-Morales, Ignasi de. "Absent Bodies." *Anybody*. Ed. Cynthia C. Davidson. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1997.
- Stepan, Nancy. *"The Hour of Eugenics": Race, Gender, and Nation in Latin America*. Ithaca : Cornell University Press, 1991.
- Todorov, Tzvetan. *The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other*. Trans. Richard Howard. New York: HarperPerennial, 1984.
- Velez-Ibanez, Carlos. *Border Visions: Mexican Cultures of the Southwest United States*. Tucson, University of Arizona Press, 1996.
- Yanez-Chavez, Anibal. *Latino Politics in California*. San Diego: Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, 1996.