



PALAS 444 HUMAN RIGHTS & VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS

PROGRAM IN ARGENTINE AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

UNIVERSIDAD DE BELGRANO

Course Syllabus

Course Information

Contact Hours: 120

4 weeks

Course Description

Through the study of visual culture, this course will provide an introduction to the values, ideologies and representations that have shaped the human rights discourse in Latin America since mid-XX Century. The abuse of human rights has left its imprint on the culture of the region. We will examine the aspects which constitute human rights in Latin America in order to understand how political, social, economic and environmental forces have created a society where the systematic neglect of those rights has become the norm. The use of visual, oral and audio material will allow us to discover how human rights have been represented, challenged and negotiated at a popular and cultural level.

Eventually, we will realize how historical thinking can institute a valuable context for considering ethical issues in the past and present.

Course Requirements

Each class is based on a specific topic with associated mandatory readings which will be discussed weekly. The course is organized around the engagement and participation of the students and it is expected that they will have read all of the material before class. There will be class presentations, a Midterm Exam and a Final Exam.

Grading Policy

Class Participation	30%
Oral Presentation	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	20%

Academic Calendar

- Week 1** **Introduction.** What are human Rights? Required readings:
United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
Bartolomé de las Casas. Power in violence in the Conquest of America.
- Week 2** **The history of Human Rights in Latin America.** 1968 student protests in different countries. Paris & Mexico. Memorializing human rights victims: the Parque de la Memoria, the Monument of the victims of Tlateloco.
Required reading The Tlatelolco massacre:
<https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB99/>
Ma Teresa Gramuglio and Nicolas Rosa: Tucuman is Burning
- Week 3** **Political and civic rights I. Chile and human rights under Pinochet.**
Film: Nostalgia of the Light, Patricio Guzman
Required readings: Nostalgia for the Light: A 'Documemory' and The Conflict between History and Memory by Didem Durak.
Irma Muller, Marjorie Agosin, in The Human tradition in Latin America
Paula Thorington Cronovitch, Out of the Blackout and into the Light
<https://journals.iai.spk-berlin.de/index.php/iberoamericana/article/view/385/69>
- Week 4** **Political and civic rights II THE CONDOR YEARS.** How Pinochet and his Allies Brought Terrorism to Three Continents, John Dinges (2004)
Argentina and the Madres de Plaza de Mayo.
Required readings: Margaret E Burchianti, Building Bridges of Memory.
State Terrorism on Film: Argentine Cinema during the First Years of Democracy (1983– 1990) Mario Ranalletti.
- Week 5** **Human Rights and the kidnapping of children.**
La historia oficial (1985) film by Luis Puenzo.
Class Debate: Student feedback on the film. Students will share their notes & impressions about the film from the view point of all characters. The class will be divided into groups and students will take positions by standing on the feet of Alicia (main character), Roberto (husband), Gaby (daughter), Professor Benítez (at school), Ana (Alicia's close friend), and Sara (member of Madres de Plaza de Mayo)
- Week 6** Indigenous peoples and human rights I. The Zapatistas in Mexico and the EZLN.
Required readings: Zapatista manifesto, The revolutionary law of women, Tijen Tunalı, Zapatista Voice, Visibility and Vision, Revista de Estudios Globales y Arte Contemporáneo| Vol. 7 | Núm. 1| 2020 Visual: Manu Chao, Clandestino
- Week 7** **Indigenous peoples and human rights II.**
Los Herederos by Eugenio Polgovsky, is a documentary about peasant children who work in the fields and the mountains of Mexico.

Week 8 Revision and midterm.

Week 9 Indigenous peoples and human rights IV. Amerindian Rights Film: The Embrace of the Serpent, (2015) Ciro Guerra.

Week 10 Mujeres de la Mina (2014) documentary by Malena Bystrowicz and Loreley Unamuno. Women and grassroots activism. Anti-mining resistance in the Andes.
Required readings: Kate Jenkins, Unearthing Women's Anti-Mining Activism in the Andes: Pachamama and the "Mad Old Women" Antipode 47: 2 (2015) https://www.academia.edu/4856109/The_Inheritance_of_Resistance_Indigenous_Women_Leadership_in_Ecuador.

Week 11 The Pearl Button: film by Patricio Guzman about the extermination of the Fuegian Indians.
Required readings: Metaphors, Dreams, and History: Patricio Guzmán, Renate Sachse and Declan McGrath <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26891906>

Week 12 Human rights and corporations. The maquiladoras Lourdes Portillo: Señorita extraviada, documentary about the Young women disappeared in Ciudad Juárez.
Required Readings William Langewiesche, Las Maquiladoras <http://inside.sfuhs.org/dept/history/Mexicoreader/Chapter6/lamaquiladoras.pdf>

Week 13 Gender and sexual rights. Required readings: Catherine Grant. 'Becoming 'Arturo Ripstein'? On Collaboration and the 'Author Function' in the Transnational Film Adaptation of El lugar sin límites'.
FILM: Arturo Ripstein (1978): Place without limits.

Week 14 The rights of children. Film The Devil's Mine, Richard Ladkani and Kief Davidson, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZlpBQh_0jc
Required readings: <https://nacla.org/article/devil%27s-miner-film-kief-davidson-and-richard-ladkani>

Week 15 Final exam.

Bibliography

- Barbara Sutton, Contesting Racism: Democratic Citizenship, Human Rights and Anti-Racist Policies in Argentina, LAP, 35:6 (Nov.2008) Prieto, Pequeno, Cominal, et al, Respect, Discrimination, Violence: Indigenous Women in Ecuador 1990-2007 in Women's Activism in Latin America (2010)
- Elizabeth Jelin, Public Memorialization in Perspective: Truth, Justice and Memory of Past Repression in the Southern Cone of South America, The International Journal of Transitional Justice, Vol. 1, 2007
- Paula Thorrington Cronovitch, Out of the Blackout and into the Light <https://journals.iai.spk-berlin.de/index.php/iberoamericana/article/view/385/69> Katy Jenkins, Unearthing Women's Anti-Mining Activism in the Andes: Pachamama and the "Mad Old Women" Antipode 47: 2 (2015)
- Tijen Tunalı, Zapatista Voice, Visibility and Vision, Revista de Estudios Globales y Arte Contemporáneo| Vol. 7 | Núm. 1| 2020
- Margaret E Burchianti, Building Bridges of Memory, History and Anthropology 15 (2004) United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Ma Teresa Gramuglio and Nicolas Rosa, Tucuman is Burning, The Argentina Reader Zapatista manifesto and the revolutionary law of women, The Mexico Reader William Langewiesche, Las Maquiladoras, The Mexico Reader
- Irma Muller, Marjorie Agosin, in The Human tradition in Latin America

Testimonies

- Rigoberta Menchu, I Rigoberta (1983) Maria Teresa Tula, Hear my testimony (1996)

Films

- Nostalgia for the Light, Patricio Guzman (2010) Salvador! Oliver Stone (1986)
- Mbya: Tierra en rojo, Phillip Cox (2005)
- The Devil's Mine, Richard Ladkani and Kief Davidson (2005) The Embrace of the Serpent, Ciro Guerra, (2015).