This course asks students to analyze the problems and possibilities of employing film to study themes in Latin American history. Each week we will read about a major theme in the region’s history and view a film on the topic. We will ask ourselves how the film helps us learn about the topic as well as what it leaves obscured. Over the course of the semester, we will acquire a greater appreciation for the region’s culture and history.

**Reading and Participation Expectations:** You will be expected to have completed each session’s readings before our meeting in order to be prepared to ask questions and participate in class discussion. Students should note that class discussion will be graded, and those students who express opinions informed by the readings will earn points toward their final grade. Likewise, failure to offer informed opinions during class will be taken into consideration when assigning grades. I am counting on your informed and active participation in order to make the course engaging for you and your classmates.

**Website Work:** Please keep in mind that you should regard website reading as required reading. You should print out the assigned web reading or take close notes on the reading. Keep in mind that one of your paper assignments will require you to find and discuss websites that discuss globalization.

**Readings on Reserve:** There will be a few handouts on reserve in the library. These are very important readings and you are responsible for photocopying and reading them.

**Papers:** You will be required to write two, three-page response papers. The papers and in class writing assignments are opportunities for you to reflect on what you have read and what we have discussed in class. I will provide you with clear instructions on how to approach these writing assignments. There will be no surprises and I will happily assist you if you have any questions or difficulties.

**Midterm Exam:** You will take an in-class midterm exam, which should take about an hour and fifteen minutes. We will follow the exam with a discussion of the week’s readings and the film screening.

**Final Exam:** In addition to the papers and writing assignments, you will take an out-of-class final exam. The final exam will consist of two questions based on the readings,
lectures and films. You will write between a 3-4 page (double-spaced) response to each question.

**On-Line Journal:** You will write an entry in your myune journal for every film we view in class. I will hand out specific instructions for journaling. The journal is worth 25% of your grade, so you must take time to write thoughtful entries.

Students who demonstrate responsibility, hard work, and curiosity will do fine in this course. I want you to do well, so please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Attendance:** Students will be allowed one unexcused absence without penalty. Every unexcused absence thereafter will result in the reduction of one-half grade. For instance, if you averaged a “B+” for your assignments grades but missed two classes, you will receive a “C+” for the semester. Please keep in mind that when you miss class, you cannot participate in class discussion, so missing class will consequently affect your participation grade.

TEMPORARY AILMENTS—SUCH AS THE FLU, A COLD, STOMACHE ACHES, MIGRAINES, ETC.—WILL NOT BE EXCUSED, EVEN IF YOU HAVE A DOCTOR’S NOTE. I give you three unexcused absences to cover instances when you are under the weather and need to miss class. Therefore, do not use your unexcused absences for non-sickness related issues.

**Lateness:** It is understandable for students to arrive a few minutes late every once and a while. However, habitual tardiness is unacceptable. It is also unacceptable to arrive more than 10 minutes late to class. **If you arrive 20 or more minutes late, I will count it as half an absence. If you arrive over 45 minutes late, I will count it as a complete absence.**

I will reduce your grade for sleeping, texting, note passing as well as for general rude behavior.

**Special Concerns:** If you have a disability or any sort of special condition that will in any way affect your performance in this course, please let me know as soon as possible. I will make every effort to accommodate you.

**Academic Integrity:** All papers must properly cite references whenever paraphrasing or quoting a book. Unintentional failure to cite will affect the paper’s grade. However, **plagiarism will not be tolerated.**

**Grading:** 2 response papers, 20% (10% for each)
On-line Journal: 25%
In-class Midterm Exam, 20%
Take-Home Final Exam, 25%
Class Participation, 10%

Jan. 26: Chapter 1 in Chasteen
Film: 1492; The Conquest of Paradise

**Depicting Indigenous Peoples**
Feb 2: Read Chapter 1 and 2 in Stevens
Film: Apocalypto

**The Church during the Colonial Era**
Feb. 9: Chapter 5 in Stevens and Chapter 2 in Chasteen
Film: The Mission

**Women during the Colonial Era**
Feb. 16: Read Chapter 3 in Chasteen; Chapter 4 in Stevens
Film: I, Worst of All

**Slavery in Cuba and Brazil**
Feb. 23: Read Chapter 4 in Chasteen and Chapter 7 in Stevens
Film: The Last Supper

**First Paper Due Today, Feb. 23**
March 2: Read Chapter 5 in Chasteen and Chapter 6 in Stevens
**AND WATCH CAMILA ON RESERVE IN THE LIBRARY**
Film: Xiça

**MIDTERM TODAY, MARCH 2**
March 9: Spring Break

**Modern Mexico**
March 16: Read Chapter 6 in Chasteen and Chapter 10 in Stevens
Film: *Like Water for Chocolate*


Film: *Frida*

**The Cuban Revolution**  
March 30: Read Chapter 7 and 8 in Chasteen and hand out on Cuba  
Film: *Lucia*

**Liberation Theology**

Film: *Romero*

**Second Paper due today, April 6**

**Dictatorship and Trauma**

April 13: Read Chapter 9 in Chasteen and Chapter 11 in Stevens  
Film: *The Official Story*

April 20: Read Chapter 10 in Chasteen  

**Neoliberalism in Brazil**

Film: *City of God*

April 27: Conclusions **TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE TODAY, APRIL 27**  
Film: *The Motorcycle Diaries*