New York University in Buenos Aires
Class Code:
Comparative Latin American Literature

Professor: Ariel Schettini
Email: arielschettini@gmail.com

Course Description
This course explores Latin American fiction from a comparative perspective. By analyzing works from Peru, Argentina, Mexico, Chile and Brazil from the 1970s to the present, students approach the manifold versions of Latin America fiction and the way literature has imagined communities beyond national boundaries.

2. Course Requirements and Grading
1) Reading and preparation of assigned material for each class, 20%
2) Participation in class discussions and other activities, 20%
3) 10-12-minute oral presentation, 20%
4) Mid-term exam, 20%
5) Final exam, 20%

3. Assessment Expectations

A: A student will receive a grade of A by producing excellent written and oral work that suggests attentive reading and preparation of assigned material, and that demonstrates a detailed familiarity with the texts. Also necessary to receive an A are the articulation of clever arguments based on solid evidence, the ability to engage critically with secondary reading material, and the fluent and articulate expression of ideas.

B: A student will receive a grade of B by producing written and oral work that is above satisfactory, and by demonstrating familiarity with the material under review.

C: To receive a grade of C, a student must demonstrate a basic understanding of the text under review, and must participate positively in the classroom. A C student’s written work may lack organization and appear random and disconnected at times, with occasional deviation from the paper’s main theme, and the writing itself may lack clarity.

D: A student who receives a grade of D makes little reference to the text other than what could be gleaned from an outline or a plot summary. The D student advances ideas that have insufficient relevance to the title; he or she writes simplistically, in a way that does not do justice to the text’s complexity; and his or her ideas are often carelessly expressed.

F: By making little or no reference to the text under review, deviating from or ignoring the title/ subject of the paper, writing poorly and ungrammatically, and indicating clearly the failure to read or understand the text, a student will receive a grade of F.
Grade Conversion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>76-73</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>66-60</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>59-0</td>
<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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Attendance Policy

- NYU in Buenos Aires has a strict policy about course attendance: **No unexcused absences are permitted.**
- Students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work but should NOT approach them for excused absences.
- Absences due to illness must be discussed with Program Coordinator María Pirovano Peña **within one week** of your return to class.
- Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with Program Coordinator María Pirovano Peña prior to the date(s) in question.
- The first unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 1.5% from the student’s final course mark. After that each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 3% from the student’s final course mark.
- Students who have perfect attendance (100%) during the semester and have fulfilled all course requirements, i.e. class participation, meeting all deadlines, etc. will get extra points equivalent to 2% of the final grade.
- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.
- NYU in Buenos Aires expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. Three late arrivals or early departures (10 minutes after the starting time or before the ending time) will be considered one absence.
- Each class lasts either one and a half hours or two hours. Missing one class represents one absence. For those courses that meet once a week (three hour block), missing one class represents two absences.
- Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit**, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.
- Holidays’ make-up classes are mandatory and should be considered regular scheduled classes.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.
The Instructor will uphold NYU’s code of academic and personal conduct for all instances of plagiarism. Please find this code in NYU policies at the NYU website.

**Required Texts**
Reading packet available at Copies: centro de copiado, Av. Santa Fe 2653, loc. 3, Cap. Fed., tel. 4821 2127, mascopies@iplanmail.com.ar

Bellatin, Mario. *Beauty Salon*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2009
Eltit, Diamela. *Custody of the Eyes*. Santa Fe, N.M. : Lumen, 2005

**Movies**

Blessed by Fire, Tristán Bauer
*Our Lady of the Assassins*, Barbet Schroeder

**Bibliography**
## Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Films</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 29th - Sep 1st</td>
<td>Latin American Fiction: Between the Local and the Global. Background (the 30s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 5th - Sept 8th</td>
<td>Memory and Identity 1. Background. (the 60s) 2. the real and the imaginary ancestors</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 12th - Sep 15th</td>
<td>Narrating the Margins</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 19th - Sep 22nd</td>
<td>Debate on the texts read</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 26th - Sep 29th</td>
<td>Bare life and Sovereignty</td>
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<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 10th</td>
<td>Spring break</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 8     | Oct 17th-Oct 20th | Surveillance Under Dictatorship | *Diamela Eltit*  
* Custody of the Eyes  
Michael Lazzara, *Chile in Transition*  
(Selection) |
| 9     | Oct 24th-Oct 27th | Becoming the other | *Visit to ELOÍSA CARTONERA*  
*Nestor Perlongher*  
*Evita Lives*  
(Eloisa Cartonera Edition) |
| 10    | Oct 31st-Nov 3rd | Images of Latin America/Debate | *Visit to MALBA*  
*Andreas Huyssen*  
*The Museum as Mass media* |
| 11    | Nov 7th-Nov 10th | Report on Museum due Violence and the collapse of civil society | Fernando Vallejo, *Our Lady of the Assassins*  
*Maria Fernanda Lander*, “The Intellectual’s Criminal Discourse” |
| 12    | Nov 14th-Nov 17th |                                           | *Our lady of the Assassins*  
Movie: *Our lady of the Assassins*, Barbet Schroeder |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter/Book</th>
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| Nov 21st   | Other communities: destitute subjects | Mario Bellatin  
Beaut Salon                           |
| Nov 28th   | Nomadism, transnationalism    | Bernardo Carvalho, Nine Nights      |
| Dec 1st    |                               | Beal, Sophia. “Becoming a Character”|
| Dec 5      | Final Debate                  |                                     |
| Dec 12     | Final exam                    |                                     |