



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

SPAN 499.32/641.8

Genre and Parafilm in Latin-American Cinemas

Winter 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Nayibe Bermúdez

OFFICE LOCATION: CHD 320

OFFICE HOURS: MW 1:00-2:00

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 403-220-8223

E-MAIL: nbermude@ucalgary.ca

DESCRIPTION

This course explores the concept of genre from three viewpoints: as discursive, esthetical, and ethico-cultural paradigm. The analysis of contemporary film products in several Latin-American countries will delve into iconographic and narrative conventions as seen in melodrama, action and road movies, thrillers, westerns, and science-fiction, among others. These films will be analyzed against the backdrop of regional and local cultural specificities and discourses. Para-filmic phenomena such as trailers and credits will also be studied.

OBJECTIVES

To move beyond the idea of genre as rooted in Hollywood and place it in a wider context of impure and non-territory specific borders.

To identify explicit and implicit reworkings of genre films and film genre in Latin-America with respect to subject matter and aesthetic traits.

To study the triadic dimension of genre as a working model for the analysis of film genre.

To situate films within current debates and discourses on history, the city, capitalism and neoliberalism, transnationalism, representation of gender, childhood, and race.

To introduce basic terms for the analysis of film and cinema.

To offer analytical tools to speak, study, and write about the debates and discourses that theorize Latin-American cinemas today.

OUTCOMES

At the end of the term, students will know how to apply basic tools and terms for the analysis of film. Students will also be able to identify themes and narrative conventions in order to compare their appearance and treatment across genres and across Latin-American film industries. The study of current historical and cultural discourses and debates will also allow students to speak and write about genre films in an authoritative and critical manner.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

2 ensayos escritos (750 palabras cada uno (3 pág.); MA, 1500 (6 pág.); PhD, 2000 (8 pág.))	20%
2 exámenes parciales (20% + 10%)	30%
Presentación de análisis de secuencia	10%
Trabajo final (1500 palabras (6 pág.); MA, 2500 (10 pág.); PhD, 3000 (12 pág.))	40%

GRADING SCALE

A+ = 100-96 A = 95-91 A- = 90-86 B+ = 85-81 B = 80-76 B- = 75-71

C+ = 70-67 C = 66-62 C- = 61-58 D+ = 57-54 D = 53-50 F = 49%

The official grading system (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) will be applied for the calculation of the final mark.



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REQUIRED TEXTS

Díez, Federico Fernández, and José Martínez Abadía. *Manual básico de lenguaje y narrativa audiovisual*. Paidós, 1999. Disponible en <https://sixtoon.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/manual-basico-de-narrativa-y-lenguaje-audiovisual.pdf>

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.

Electronic and other **articles** on the course schedule are required readings. You can either download and/or print them.

Some of the **films** include: *El aura*, *La antena*, *Cidade de Deus*, *La jaula de oro*, *Juan de los muertos*, *XXY*, *Chicogrande*, *Las siete cajas*, *Los viajes del viento*. **All films are in the FTDL and must be watched on your own time prior to their discussion in class.**

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Corrigan, Timothy. *Short Guide to Writing about Film*. Pearson Higher Ed, 2015 (or any edition).

Monaco, James. *How to Read a Film: The World of Movies, Media and Multimedia* (any edition)

Gianetti, L and Kim Leach. *Understanding Movies* (any edition)

All of the above sources are in the FTDL. Graduate students are expected to become familiar with and use these books on a regular basis.

Any Spanish Dictionary. Spanish/English, English/Spanish dictionary.

Any Spanish Grammar.

COURSE NOTES

The information on the course schedule posted on D2L is not binding and can change according to the needs of the class.

Los dos **ensayos** consistirán en el análisis de la relación entre las técnicas cinematográficas y los temas/términos teóricos de discusión. NO se debe estudiar dos veces la misma técnica ni el mismo filme. Los estudiantes de MA y PhD deberán usar fuentes secundarias (2-3) de índole académica y las normas vigentes del MLA para la escritura de estos dos ensayos.

El **trabajo final** será un trabajo de investigación y se escribirá conforme a las normas vigentes del MLA. Este trabajo puede ser continuación/ampliación y estudio profundo de uno de los dos ensayos previos. Ya que se requiere investigación para el trabajo final, el/la estudiante consultará fuentes secundarias de índole académica (un mínimo de 5), las citará correctamente y evaluará su contenido a la vez que formulará su propia lectura del filme en cuestión. El uso de imágenes/fotografías en los trabajos requiere de licencias y permisos, así como de su citación apropiada. En todos los casos, los estudiantes recibirán dos notas de peso igual: una que corresponderá al análisis, la argumentación y el pensamiento, y otra que corresponderá a la exactitud gramatical, el uso adecuado del vocabulario cinematográfico y de las normas del MLA, según lo especificado arriba.

En cada etapa de escritura, previo a la fecha límite, se recomienda hablar de los ensayos con la profesora durante horas de oficina, para asegurar el progreso hacia las expectativas de aprendizaje y el cumplimiento de las fechas límite.

The final paper, as well as the two essays, must study a film classified as being from a Latin-American country/ies (if you are not sure about the origin of a film, go to www.imdb.com or ask the professor).

10% of the grade will be deducted for each day any written assignment is late if there is no appropriate documentation or timely consultation with the professor to justify the absence or the failure to complete it. After 5 days, assignments will not be accepted.

Exámenes parciales: abarcarán los contenidos vistos hasta el momento del parcial. Cada examen consistirá en responder a preguntas de desarrollo relacionadas con los filmes, sus temas, sus técnicas, y las definiciones de términos cinematográficos y teóricos. Se evaluará:

- Dominio y aplicación de los contenidos (30 puntos)
- Ideas personales razonadas a partir de los contenidos (30 puntos)
- Estructura y coherencia de la exposición (20 puntos)



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- Empleo del lenguaje específico (vocabulario) (10 punto)
- Ortografía y redacción (10 puntos)

Será necesario completar todos los trabajos del curso para aprobarlo. Las fechas de todas las actividades aparecen en el calendario del curso, en D2L. Allí mismo encontrarán otros recursos que deberán ser preparados y estudiados semanalmente para la discusión en clase. Como complemento pedagógico de la asignatura, se emplearán materiales audiovisuales, fotografías, bibliografía y páginas Web. Lectures will include analysis and discussion of film clips and film stills. They are a key component of the course. Lecture notes and film clips *will not be posted online or given out to students*. Be sure to attend all lectures!

La participación es imprescindible en este curso, puesto que el debate y el trabajo en grupos pequeños forman parte importante de la metodología pedagógica del curso. Las/os estudiantes deberán participar en la construcción del conocimiento que busca impartir el curso. Por un lado, deberán participar activamente en los debates y análisis planteados en clase sobre los textos y filmes; por otro, deberán leer las lecturas asignadas en el programa y realizar los ejercicios colgados en D2L. La activa participación supone la toma de notas para entrenar y refrescar la memoria. Se espera la toma de notas tanto de las lecturas como de los filmes. Información sobre el nombre de los personajes y otros datos, se puede encontrar con facilidad en www.imdb.com

Los mensajes electrónicos serán respondidos entre 24 y 48 horas. It is best if you ask **questions** about **any assignment** during office hours or by appointment as that will give me a better chance to address more clearly any issue or question you may have. Use **e-mail** responsibly. I only check my e-mail during regular working-day hours. I do not answer e-mails about homework as all dates and requirements are specified in the syllabus.

- Electronic submission of assignments: **No se acepta** que los estudiantes entreguen los trabajos escritos por medio del correo electrónico sin recibir el permiso previo de la profesora, y así sólo en casos extraordinarios.

-No makeup tests will be given unless there is a valid health problem or family emergency. The student must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor within five days of the date for the assignment.

- Attendance to all exams is compulsory.

- The Department's drop-box, located in the foyer area of the third floor in Craigie Hall between blocks D and C, is available for depositing assignments and course work. The material placed in the drop-box will be collected and date-stamped at the beginning and at the end of the working day.

- Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours in outside preparation for each class period.

- Students will be encouraged to communicate consistently in the target language from the start of the course and to attend office hours in order to get all the aid needed.

- Please turn off your cell phones and similar devices during lectures and labs. **Texting and cell phone use is not permitted during class time: turn off these devices when you arrive at the classroom to avoid embarrassment and annoyance.**

- I am in my office only during **office hours** or for **appointments**. Office hours and appointments can only be established with respects to my schedule, so please take this into account.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);

b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;

c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or

d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of



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other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted." Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.



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For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SAFEWALK

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

STUDENT UNION INFORMATION

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.