

Professor Lois Parkinson Zamora
Fall 2005, TTH 1:00-2:30
Room 110 C
Office: (713) 743-2959; 227C Roy Cullen
Office Hours: TTH 2:30-3:30
lzamora@uh.edu
Turnitin.com Course ID: 1311990, Password: Macondo

Novels and History: Latin American History in Contemporary Fiction

English 3396 sec. 04864

History 4394 sec. 13727

The Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes has asserted that the real historians in Latin America are its novelists. We will examine this premise by reading a number of novels by contemporary Latin American writers, and discussing the historical events and personages depicted therein. Our interest is in how these novelists dramatize the history of their regions, and how their fictional versions illuminate our understanding of the "real" history of Latin America.

Carlos Fuentes (Mexico): The Buried Mirror

Eduardo Galeano (Uruguay): Memory of Fire (This is a trilogy: the 3 volumes are Genesis, Faces and Masks, and Century of the Wind)

Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia): One Hundred Years of Solitude

Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia): Of Love and Other Demons

Isabel Allende (Chile): The House of the Spirits

Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru): The Storyteller

First week:

Aug. 23, 25

Tuesday: Introduction to the course

Thursday: Carlos Fuentes, The Buried Mirror, Chs. 1-4

Second week:

Aug. 30, Sept. 1

Tuesday: The Buried Mirror, Chs. 5-8

Thursday: The Buried Mirror, Chs. 9-11

Slide Presentation: New World Baroque Art and Architecture _

Third week:

Sept. 6, 8

Tuesday and Thursday: Gabriel García Márquez, One Hundred Years of Solitude

Fourth week:

Sept. 13, 15

Tuesday: One Hundred Years of Solitude, **Reading Quiz**

Interartistic comparisons: The exuberance of New World Baroque painting: angels, levitating virgins, and other miraculous episodes.

Thursday: Conclude discussion of One Hundred Years of Solitude

Further interartistic comparisons: The Paintings of Colombian artist Fernando Botero

Fifth week:
Sept. 20, 22

Tuesday and Thursday: Eduardo Galeano, Genesis

Sixth week:
Sept. 27, 29

Tuesday and Thursday: Galeano, Faces and Masks

Seventh week:
Oct. 4, 6

Tuesday and Thursday: Galeano, Century of the Wind

Eighth week:
Oct. 11, 13

WRITING LAB

Tuesday and Thursday, regular class time

For two weeks, you will work with Mary Gray in the Writing Lab, second floor of Agnes Arnold Hall, to create visual and verbal materials to complement our reading of selected works of Latin American literature and their historical contexts. You may choose your own topic. You may wish to amplify one of your favorite passages from Galeano with materials from the internet, or address the historical background of one of the novels we are reading, or create an internet essay on one of our authors. During these two weeks, I also ask that you move ahead on your reading, because we have three novels in rapid succession during the month of November.

If you wish to tell your friends and family how to view your web site, tell them to go to <http://discovery.coe.uh.edu/english> Of course, you may access all of the class web papers on our VISTA site.

Ninth week:
Oct. 18, 20

WRITING LAB

Tuesday and Thursday, regular class time

Continue to work on your internet essay and complete it.

Tenth week:
Oct. 25, 27

Tuesday and Thursday: Mario Vargas Llosa, The Storyteller
Reading Quiz: Tuesday

Eleventh week:
Nov. 1, 3

Tuesday and Thursday: Gabriel Garcia Márquez, Of Love and Other Demons,
Reading Quiz: Tuesday

Twelfth week:

Tuesday and Thursday: Isabel Allende, The House of the Spirits

Nov. 8, 10

Reading Quiz: Tuesday

Thirteenth week: Tuesday: Finish The House of the Spirits

Nov. 15, 17

Interartistic comparisons: The Paintings of Spanish/
Mexican Painter Remedios Varo

Fourteenth week: Tuesday and Thursday: Return to Eduardo Galeano's Century of Wind, to selected passages.
Nov. 22

Thanksgiving Have a lovely holiday!

Fifteenth week: Tuesday: Carlos Fuentes, The Buried Mirror, Chs. 16-18

Nov. 29, Dec. 1

Thursday: Review for Final

Attendance is required; if more than three absences occur before the mid-way point in the semester, it is my policy to drop you from the course.

Reading is required, and will be covered in the **quizzes and final examination**, along with the material covered in class discussion.

Quizzes: As noted on the syllabus, there will be reading quizzes designed to assure that you are up to date on your reading. These quizzes will consist of three or four questions about plot, character, setting, etc., that you will be able to answer easily if you've done the reading. Please note that 40% of your grade is based on these quizzes, plus class participation.

Web Project: You will work with Mary Gray in the Writing Lab to create a visual/verbal essay on a topic that addresses the literature and history of Latin America that we are studying in this course. Professor Gray will take into account that some of you are more "fluent" than others with the internet and its various languages. Attendance, involvement and effort will be taken into account in your grade, as well as your final product.

Final Paper: 7 to 10 pages of literary critical analysis on a topic that engages Magical Realism in selected work(s) of fiction, with the possibility of extending your discussion to the visual arts and/or film. You may use information from your web project, but you may not repeat yourself.

Turn it in: I will ask you to turn in your final papers to the web site Turn it in, to assure that your text is properly documented.

Grades are determined as follows:

Web Project	20%
Final exam	20%
Final paper	20%
Class Participation and Quizzes	40%

