This preliminary course outline may be subject to change.

LACS*6010 Latin American Identity & Culture

Fall 2022

Section(s): C01

School of Languages & Literatures
Credit Weight: 0.50

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This is the first of the two required LACS culture core courses. They will address theoretical issues relevant to Latin American identities, communities and cultures and will use theoretical concepts as heuristic devices in the study of major and marginalized cultural events, narratives, and visual and linguistic expressions.

1.2 Course Description

In LACS*6010 students will explore different types of identities highlighted by the time of globalization and postcolonial consciousness raising. The concepts of “hybridity” and “magical realism” will be studied as well as the ways in which hybridization incorporates past with the present, Indigenous and African cultural with European and US developed cultural forms and modes of thinking.

1.3 Timetable

Thursdays 2:30-5:20 pm face-to-face delivery

1.4 Final Exam

There will be NO final exam in this course.

2 Instructional Support

LACS*6010 will be team taught in form of a seminar. The coordinator of the course will be present at all seminars to ensure unity and cohesion, and because the essay proposal and the final essay will be marked by the course coordinator.

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Dr. Gordana Yovanovich, gyovanov@uoguelph.ca
The best way to reach instructors is via email. Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:20 or by appointment via zoom.

2.2 Guest Lecturers
Dr. Rosario Gomez, rogomez@uoguelph.ca  
Dr. Susan Douglas sdoig@uoguelph.ca

3 Learning Resources
It is suggested that novels be read in Spanish.

3.1 Required Resources: Students are encouraged to acquire these books from their preferred bookstore or from Amazon.

Manuel Puig, *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*

Manuel Puig. *El beso de la mujer araña*

Gabriel García Márquez, *Cien años de soledad*

Gabriel García Márquez, *A Hundred Years of Solitude*

Various books and articles will be available on Course Link or online

4 Learning Outcomes
4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand how identities are constructed, and how essentialist approaches are subverted.
- Analyze representative artistic works and explain them within a theoretical framework.
- Assess the changing relationship between the center and the periphery.
- Develop an informed argument centered on a single thesis statement.
- Select appropriate methodologies in conducting research and in writing essays.
- Communicate orally in seminar type of environment.
- Generate topics for original research.
5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Seminar

Thursday Sept. 15 Introduction: questions concerning identity and culture
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1O1aPB2Ifd8 Understanding the Global Community - Latin American Identity, Part I GY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L0iv-hUsQTs CBNS101 - Caribbean Identity and Culture (good introductory video)

Thursday, Sept. 22 Identity and Globalization: Time of hybridization

Néstor García Canclini’s De Los Inconvenientes De Ser Latinoamericano; Desarrollo Con Deudas, Apertura sin Rumbo (2002)
George Yúdice, Introduction to The Imagined Globalization (2014) available online

Thursday, Sept. 29 Postcolonial approach to identity: (10%)

Walter Mignolo’s The Idea of Latin America
Gloria Anzaldua’s “La conciencia de la nueva mestiza/Towards New Consciousness” GY

Answer the following questions regarding Mignolo’s book:
1. Briefly explain who has participated (inside and outside) in the development of the idea of “Latin” America and why. Provide some significant names, dates, and terms in your answer.

2. What does Mignolo mean by terms such as “modernity”, “coloniality” and most importantly by “de-coloniality”?

3. Why is it difficult to change the consciousness of being “Latin” American?

4. What does Walter Mignolo mean by the concept “the colonial wound”? Explain by providing some quotes from the book.

5. Your answers should be no longer than 3 double-spaced pages.
Also, ask 4 questions which would open a discussion of most important points raised by Anzaldua in her article.
Your answer should be handed in on CourseLink no later than midnight, Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Thursday, Oct. 6 Magical Realism and Latin American Identity
Luia Leal, “Magical Realism in Latin American Literature”

Amaryl Chanady, “The Territorialization of the Imaginary in Latin American Self Affirmation and Resistance to Metropolitan Paradigms”
Thursday, Oct. 13 The question of Identity in Gabriel García Márquez, *Cien años de soledad/One Hundred Years of Solitude* (10%)

1. Referring to concrete examples in the novel, discuss if Latin American identity is determined/constructed by internal or external forces?
2. Again, referring to specific situations, ascertain if García Márquez’s approach to life and identity is essentialist or a constructionist?

Choose one of the two topics and be as specific as possible in your discussion which should not be longer than 5 double spaced pages. Your assignment should be handed in by midnight, Wed. Oct. 13.

Thursday, Oct. 20 Gender Identity and Political Ideology: (5%) Manuel Puig’s *Beso de la mujer araña/ Kiss of the Spider Woman* GY


After the class discussion write a 4-page resumen of our discussion and explain how the polyphony works in one of these two works.
Your assignment is to be handed in on Friday, 11:59pm, Oct. 21.

Thursday, Oct. 27 Race/Ethnic Identity and Language Rosario Gomez (15% for this Module)

Thursday, Nov. 03 Race/Ethnic Identity and Language Rosario Gomez

Thursday, Nov. 10 Nation and National Identity
La mexicanidad

Thursday, Nov. 17 The paintings of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo (10%)
Choose 3 paintings by each artist and discuss the question of national identity in their works

Thursday, Nov. 24 Visual Art in Latin America Today Susan Douglas

Thursday Dec. 6 Make-up class for Sept. 8 Presentation of Essay Proposals in class (10%)
Proposals with annotated bibliography are to be submitted on Friday, Nov. 25

Final essay due: Dec. 16
6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Theory and theoretical frameworks 35%
Linguistics module 15%
Quality of class participation and discussion 15%
Essay proposal and annotated bibliography 10%
Essay based on a theoretical framework and discussed in relation to the material from at least two (2) modules 25%

*Late submissions will carry a penalty of 5% per day.*

Oral and Written Seminar Participation

Each student will be asked to comment on a few readings throughout the course, or answer questions related to the readings. Student introductory presentations should highlight key issues and concepts, articulate various strengths and weaknesses of the readings, and raise several questions for further discussion. Criteria for the evaluation of this course component will include: the understanding of the readings; the degree to which the 15-minute presentation is made interesting for others; the ability to draw links between the weekly topic and with broader course themes; and the effectiveness of the questions posed to the class and the quality of the discussion facilitation. Students who are not leading discussion will be evaluated on their readiness to participate, their familiarity with the material presented, and their thoughtful contributions in class.

**Essay proposal and annotated bibliography** consist of a thesis statement and at least 5 articles or books not studied in class. The thesis statement is to be one or two sentences. The length of the final essay is 12-15 pages double spaced.

**Evaluation Criteria for the Final Essay**

1. Strength of the argument: Your essay should have a clear focus and an argument that is logically constructed. Your argument should reflect a theoretical position studied in the course and should be informed by analysis of two works of art (fiction, music, visual art) studied in two of the three modules. You should ensure that you have a thesis statement in the introduction, that in the body of the essay you support your claims with evidence and with carefully chosen quotes from primary or from secondary sources, and that your conclusion summarizes your findings and outlines any questions or avenues for future research.
2. Research: In addition to careful analysis of primary sources, your essay should incorporate ideas and research from at least five secondary sources relevant to your topic.

3. Language and Style: Your languages and style should be academic, free of colloquial expressions and repetitions, and your essay should define key terminology. It should also be free of grammatical, spelling and typographical errors. References can be in MLA or any accepted style, but the same format must be used consistently. Your footnotes and bibliography must be accurate.

Originality: It can come for example from the unique perspective you take on the material studied, from new connections you establish, new questions you raise.