

SAN JOAQUIN DE FLORES INSTITUTE

COURSE	LATIN AMERICAN CINEMA APPRECIATION
CREDITS	3
CLASS HOURS	3 HOURS PER WEEK
CLASS SCHEDULE	
PERIOD	
PROFESSOR	
OFFICE HOURS	

DESCRIPTION:

In this course, students will experience Latin America through its film production, including the particularities that make us so different from one another and from other cultures.

Even though the course uses an approximation methodology based on the analysis of the structure, this does not interfere with the change to value different subjects, both from a plastic (formal) and content based perspective. This analysis will allow students to follow the approximate route chosen by the director to address such subjects, which include historical, political and social aspects, as well as an unavoidable and very much present sexual component. This leads to a deeper understanding of Latin American idiosyncrasy.

Movies have been selected taking into account their complexity level according to the progression of the course, and balancing genres, contents and nationalities; including drama, comedies, thrillers and more.

OBJECTIVES:

GENERAL: allow students to develop a technique of deconstruction to find the essence of cinematographic creation and be able to follow the process of the writer and director to tell a story that, in our case, reflects the Latin American idiosyncrasy in its multiple sides.

SPECIFIC:

- Learn about the basic elements for a structural and content analysis of the movies.
- Promote interest in Latin American identity and culture through the analysis of the historical, political, economic and cultural transformation processes present in the movies.
- Value the contribution of the writer and director in the creation of the film.

CONTENTS:

- Film aesthetics.
- Basic elements for film analysis.

EVALUATION:

PARTICIPATION	PR	20%
PRESENTATION I	P1	25%
PRESENTATION II	P2	25%
COSTA RICAN SHORT ANALYSIS (2) 15% each	CSA	30%

METHODOLOGY:

The professor will explain the different contents necessary to analyze the movies. One movie will be watched every week and the students will complete the structural analysis in groups after watching the movie with the guidance by the professor.

There will be **two group presentations** and a final theoretical/practical **group exam**.

PRESENTATION I	
PRESENTATION II	

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Casetti, Francisco y Di Chio, Federico. COMO ANALIZAR UN FILM. Ediciones Paidós Ibérica, S. A. Barcelona, España. 1991.

Bobker, Lee R. ELEMENTS OF FILM. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. New York. 1974.

Mast, Gerald y Cohen, Marshall. FILM THEORY AND CRITICISM. Oxford University Press. New York, 1977.

Moreira, Edgardo. UNA VISION CRITICA DEL CINE. Editorial Nueva Década. San José. 1986

CHRONOGRAM:

	DATE	MOVIE	SYNOPSIS AND INFORMATION	ACTIVITY
1.		1. MUJERES AL BORDE DE UN ATAQUE DE NERVIOS (Women On The Verge Of A Nervous Breakdown) Running time: 1:29	Directed by: Pedro Almodóvar SYNOPSIS: Pepa and Iván are dubbing actors. Through his job, he has declared his love to the most beautiful women on the screen. The problem is, those have not been the only ones. After years of being together, he breaks up with Pepa by leaving a message on her answering machine telling her to prepare a suitcase with his things. Pepa cannot stand the house filled with memories and decides to rent it. Ivan never shows up or calls, and while Pepa is waiting for him; the house is suddenly filled with people who help her discover many things about loneliness and insanity (FILMAFFINITY). Year: 1988 Country of origin: Spain	PRESENTATION OF THE COURSE SYLLABUS, CHRONOGRAM AND CONTENTS Homework 1: Movie: FRESA Y CHOCOLATE Group 1: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the economic, social and political context at the time the movie FRESA Y CHOCOLATE was filmed? 2. Who are the directors? Refer to their biographical aspects. 3. Which are their most important works? 4. Who is Jorge Perugorría, the leading actor in FRESA Y CHOCOLATE?
2.		2. FRESA Y CHOCOLATE (Strawberry and Chocolate) Running time: 1:51	Directed by: Tomás Gutiérrez Alea and Juan Carlos Tabío SYNOPSIS: David (Vladimir Cruz) is a communist man who studies sociology in the University of Havana. Diego (Jorge Perugorría) is a homosexual artist suffocated by the homophobia of the regime. In spite of their abysmal differences, the two men develop a deep friendship (FILMAFFINITY). Year: 1993 Country of origin: Cuba	Homework 2: Movie: PIXOTE Group 2: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What was the situation for homeless children in Brazil in 1981? 2. What is the current situation for homeless children in Brazil? 3. Who was Fernando Ramos Da Silva and what happened to him?
3.		3. PIXOTE, LA LEY DEL MAS DEBIL (Pixote, the Law of the Weakest)	Directed by: Héctor Babenco SYNOPSIS: the story of Pixote, a 10 year old boy from Sao Paulo, is just one of the many thousand stories of homeless children who wander around the favelas in Brazil, surrounded by misery, violence, abuse and poverty (FILMAFFINITY).	Homework 3 Movie: TAXI PARA TRES Group 1: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current social and economic situation in Chile?

		Running time: 2:07	Year: 1981 Country of origin: Brazil	<p>2. What were the main statistics about crime in Chile during 2001?</p> <p>3. Why is the belief in aliens important in Chile?</p> <p>4. Which are the main characteristics of the movie TAXI PARA TRES?</p>
4.		5. TAXI PARA TRES (Taxi for Three) Running time: 1:30	Directed by: Orlando Lübbert SYNOPSIS: A taxi driver overwhelmed by his numerous debts decides to associate with two young thieves in this bitter comedy about Chilean society (FILMAFFINITY) Year: 2001 Country of origin: Chile	
5.		6. EL LADO OSCURO DEL CORAZÓN (The Dark Side of the Heart) Running time: 2:07	Directed by: Eliseo Subiela SYNOPSIS: This is the story of a poet in his thirties who survives by editing commercial poetry while he travels around Buenos Aires. The only thing he wishes is to find the woman of his dreams who can understand him and make him fly. The movie was another risky choice for Subiela, with a poetic approach that received good reviews from the critics (FILMAFFINITY). Year: 1992 Country of origin: Argentina	Group discussion guided by the professor.
6.		Presentation I INTRAMUROS (Inner Walls) Running time: 19 min.	Text: ELEMENTS OF FILM Written and directed by: Jurgen Ureña SYNOPSIS: Armed with a straightforward and unpretentious visual language, the director shows the life of its anonymous characters and we are introduced into a poor home that contrasts abysmally with the surroundings where the characters make a living. Year: 2003 Country of origin: Costa Rica	Group 1: pages 9-26. Analysis of the way the movie is told (visual-script relation), the theme and the structure of the movie. Group 2: pages 37-56 (and part of page 58) Describe which shoot was the most interesting and why. What is the use of music ? How many types of light are used in the movie? Describe them and comment why the director used them in such a way.

				<p>Homework 4: Movie: MACHUCA Group 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who was Salvador Allende? 2. What happened in Chile after Salvador Allende was overthrown?
7.		<p>3. MACHUCA Running time: 2:00</p>	<p>Directed by: Andrés Wood SYNOPSIS: Chile, 1973. Father McEnroe, with support from a group of parents, integrates underprivileged boys from the town into an elitist school with the firm decision of having them learn to respect each other. This is how Pedro Machuca is in the same classroom with Gonzalo Infante, and they develop a friendship filled with discovery and surprises. But the objective difficulties of this integration attempt are added to the conflicted social environment of the Chilean society at the time (FILMAFFINITY). Year: 2004 Country of origin: Chile</p>	<p>Homework 5: Movie: ILUMINADOS POR EL FUEGO Group 1:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the Falkland Islands? Which countries disputed about them and why? 2. What happened in Argentina before the Falkland War? 3. Who made up the majority of the Argentinian army? 4. What is the current situation of the Falkland Islands?
8.		<p>5. ILUMINADOS POR EL FUEGO (Blessed by Fire) Running time: 1:40</p>	<p>Directed by: Tristán Bauer SYNOPSIS: Blessed by Fire tells the memories of Esteban Leguizamón, a 40-year old man who was taken to Falkland Islands as a soldier in 1982 when he was only 18. After one of his former brother-in-arms tries to commit suicide, Esteban is submerged in the memories of the war that he shared with two other young recruits: Vargas, the suicidal man, and Juan, who died in combat (FILMAFFINITY). Year: 2005 Country of origin: Argentina</p>	<p>Homework 6: Movie: CRONOS Group 2:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is Cronos in Greek mythology? 2. What is the story of "The Picture of Dorian Grey"? 3. What is Eros? What is Thanatos? 4. Which symbolic elements can be associated to the color blue? What about red? What about gray?
9.		FIELD TRIP	FIELD TRIP	FIELD TRIP
10.		<p>5. CRONOS Running time: 1:32</p>	<p>Written and directed by: Guillermo del Toro SYNOPSIS: Cronos is an artifact created by a medieval alchemist, with an insect locked inside that feeds on blood and can offer eternal youth. This award-winning movie was praised by</p>	

			the international critics (FILMAFFINITY). Year: 1991 Country of origin: Mexico	
11.		Presentation II 1. DE SOL A SOL (From Sun to Sun) Running time: 19 min.	Text: ELEMENTS OF FILM Produced, written and directed by: Marcos Ramírez SYNOPSIS: Domestic violence is used as a testimony to the changes in the social paradigm of our times and our surrounding. The “new” role for women dictates they will not be dominated by men, but also leads them to use the same weapons employed by men to victimize them in order to earn their place in society. These weapons range from verbal violence (coarse language) to physical violence. Year: 2005 Country of origin: Costa Rica	Group 1: pages 58-80 Describe character movement inside the frame. Which one was your favorite and why? Which is the only camera movement that expresses an emotion? Define the use of light and shadows in the movie, and why was it used in such a way by the director. Group 2: pages 82-106 What is “missing” in the sound of the movie? How many types of sound are present in the movie? Why did the director use it in such a way? Homework 7: Movie: EL BONAERENSE Group 1: 1. What was known as “La Bonaerense” in Argentina and what happened with it? 2. Which is the “last” crime they are being investigated for? 3. What is the international critics’ consensus about EL BONAERENSE?
12.		HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
13.		6. EL BONAERENSE (The Bonaerense) Running time:1:39	Directed by: Pablo Trapero SYNOPSIS: El Zapa is a locksmith from a small town in the Buenos Aires province. The town is quiet, there is not much work and the hours go by slowly. The owner of the store sends El Zapa to open a safe in an office and the following day he is arrested for theft. His uncle Ismael, a retired Bonaerense police officer,	Homework 8 Movie: LA SIERRA Group 2: 1. How many years has the internal military conflict in Colombia lasted?

			releases him and sends him to Buenos Aires with a recommendation letter. Zapa becomes a young aspirant to be part of the Bonaerense Police department (FILMAFFINITY). Year: 2002 Country of origin: Argentina	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Which are the armed forces fighting with the Colombian government? 3. What is the role of this conflict in the drug trafficking business? 4. How are civilians affected by the armed conflict?
14.	25/04	7. LA SIERRA Running time:1:26	Directed by: Scott Dalton, Margarita Martínez SYNOPSIS: Scott Dalton and Colombian journalist Margarita Martínez Escallón decided to create a documentary to describe the situation of young Colombians affected by armed conflicts and drug trafficking, particularly those who live in La Sierra, a neighborhood in Medellin (FILMAFFINITY). Year: 2005 Country of origin: Colombia	
15.	2/05	8. HABANA BLUES Running time: 1:55	Written and directed by: Benito Zambrano SYNOPSIS: Ruy and Tito have been orchestrating their dream for many years: to become famous musicians. Ruy lives with the mother of his two children, Caridad. One day, a couple of Spanish producers who recently discovered the extraordinary talent of Ruy and Tito offers them an international contract. Suddenly, the two musicians find themselves over a serious dilemma: are they willing to leave their deep relationships behind to follow their dream? (FILMAFFINITY) Year: 2005 Country of origin: Cuba / Spain	Group discussion guided by the professor.
16.	9/05	9. GESTACIÓN (Gestation) Running time: 1:30	Directed by: Esteban Ramírez SYNOPSIS: Jessie Madrigal is a pretty and energetic girl from a poor neighborhood, raised by a religious single mother. She studies at a conservative catholic school thanks to a scholarship. Jessie begins a love affair with Teo, an upper middle class boy. As a product of this relationship, Jesse becomes pregnant, which creates a dilemma for the girl: will she or won't she marry Teo? Year: 2009 Country of origin: Costa Rica	Group discussion guided by the professor.

FINAL GRADES
