**Introduction to Foreign Studies: Hispanic Latin America**

[FL111c-WS1]

Winter 2024

[12/18/2023 - 01/07/2024]

Professor: Olga Bezhanova

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Office Hours: by appointment on Zoom

**I. Course Description, Aims and Objectives:**

This course aims to introduce the students to the milestones and the culture of Spanish America. We will talk about the people, the art, the history, and the politics of the region. By the end of this course, students will be familiar with the timeline of the history of Latin America, will know some of the major landmarks of Latin American cultural production, and will be able to discuss current political and cultural issues that the region currently faces.

**II. Format and Procedures:**

This is a Winter Semester course that in three weeks covers the material we usually study over a whole semester. In order to be successful in this course, you will need to follow the syllabus closely and make sure you keep up with the material and the readings. The course will be delivered **fully online in the asynchronous format**. This means that there are no specific meeting times. Every day that is marked in the syllabus as a class day, I will be posting on Blackboard a video lecture containing the class material. You are expected to watch the videos and do the assignments I specify in the videos. All assignments will be handed in by email. Make sure you reach out to me either by email or by setting a Zoom appointment whenever you feel lost or confused.

**Course readings (Textbook Rentals):**

**(a)** *It Would Be Night in Caracas*. Author: Karina Sainz Borgo. Translator: Elizabeth Bryer. HarperVia, 2019.

**(b)** *Senselessness*. Author: Horacio Castellanos Moya. Translator: Katherine Silver. New Directions, 2008.

**III. Grade Distribution:**

Participation: 20%

Midterm: 20%

Reading responses (2x15%): 30%

Final exam: 30% \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

100%

**IV. Academic Integrity**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the SIUE's "Student Conduct and Student Grievances: Rights and Responsibilities.” Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Copying parts of articles from the Internet, books, or articles without attributing **every single word that you quote** to a source constitutes PLAGIARISM. Retelling the information you gleaned from the Internet, articles, books, etc. in your own words does NOT mean that you do not have to attribute it to a source. All information, opinions, facts of knowledge, etc. that are not completely and entirely your own have to be attributed to a source in order to avoid plagiarism.

**V. Accommodations for students with disabilities**

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1270. You can also reach the office by e-mail at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling 618.650.3726. For more information on policies, procedures, or necessary forms, please visit the ACCESS website at www.siue.edu/access.

**VI. Tentative Course Schedule (*May change to accommodate student needs*):**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Homework for NEXT class** |
| **December 18** | Introduction  **Columbus’s journey**  **Tainos, Caribs, Mayas**  **Las Casas and the debate about indigenous rights** | Read Castellanos Moya’s *Senselessness*, Part 1 |
| **December 19** | **Conquest of Mexico and Peru**  **Aztecs and Incas** | Read Castellanos Moya’s *Senselessness*, Parts 2 and 3 |
| **December 20** | **The Spanish Empire**  **Latin American Independence** | Read Castellanos Moya’s *Senselessness*, Parts 4 and 5 |
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| **December 21** | **Guatemala: Jacobo Árbenz and an Attempt at Democracy**  **The Civil War in Guatemala** | Read Castellanos Moya’s *Senselessness*, Parts 6 and 7 |
| **December 22** | **El Salvador: The Civil War and its Consequences**  **Central American Gangs (*maras*)**  **Migration Crisis in the Northern Triangle** | Read Castellanos Moya’s *Senselessness*, Parts 8, 9 and 10 |
| **December 26** | **Mexico and the Fate of Democracy in the Region**  **Drug Cartels in Mexico** | Read Castellanos Moya’s *Senselessness*, Parts 11 and 12  Prepare to hand in written response #1 |
| **December 27** | **Cuban Revolution**  **Cuba Today**  Hand in written response #1 | Read Karina Sainz Borgo’s *It Would Be Night in Caracas*, pp. 1-45 |
| **December 28** | **Venezuela the Bolivarian Revolution**  **Venezuela Today**  **MIDTERM** | Read Karina Sainz Borgo’s *It Would Be Night in Caracas*, pp. 47-97 |
| **December 29** | **Bolivia and Evo Morales** | Read Karina Sainz Borgo’s *It Would Be Night in Caracas*, pp. 99-130 |
| **January 2** | **The Southern Cone: Dictatorships and Neoliberalism**  **Argentina and Chile** | Read Karina Sainz Borgo’s *It Would Be Night in Caracas*, pp. 131-163 |
| **January 3** | **Perú: The Shining Path and its Aftermath**  **Perú: Challenges and Achievements** | Read Karina Sainz Borgo’s *It Would Be Night in Caracas*, pp. 165-184 |
| **January 4** | **Dictatorships and Exile in Latin America**  **Latin America and Spain** | Read Karina Sainz Borgo’s *It Would Be Night in Caracas*, pp. 185-198 |
| **January 5** | **Latin America and the US**  **Latinos in the US** | Read Karina Sainz Borgo’s *It Would Be Night in Caracas*, pp. 199-223.  Prepare to hand in written response #2 |
| **January 6** | **Current Events in Latin America**  **Review for the final exam**  Hand in written response #2 | Work on the final exam |
| **January 7** | **Hand in the final exam** |  |