ART 4356-90L Modern Art of South America and the Caribbean

Fall of 2019

Instructor: Dr. Carlos Roberto de Souza

Time and Place: MW 8:00 pm - 9:15 pm VISUAL ARTS BUILDING 1.123

Instructor email: carlos.desouza@utrgv.edu

Instructor office hours: Wednesday 1 to 3 pm VISUAL ARTS BUILDING 1.214

Required Texts:


Recommended Reading


Course Description:

Often, when Latin American and Caribbean arts art are discussed in a Western context, it is usually presented as derivative of European or North American art, or simply treated as the “other,” meaning different from and marginal to the Western might tradtion. The implication is that Latin America and the Caribbean art are of lower quality and of lesser value, lacking in thematic originally and formal innovation in comparison to art produced in Europe and the U.S. In ART 4356 we will examine art produced in these two regions from the end of the colonial period in the early 19th century to the Post-Modern present to dispute and correct this perception. This notion can be countered by exposing the many ways that artists adopted, rather than imitated these outside influences, and by demonstrating the manner through which these forms of exchange were reciprocal, rather than unilateral. Latin American and Caribbean art in fact maintains an ongoing dialog with Western Art, enriching and invigorating artistic trends with an innovating translation of iconography and formal solutions and, in some cases creating its own new and original artistic movements.

Another objective of the course is to study the relation between fine arts and the formation of national and continental identities in conjunction with the process modernization of these regions. The course will pay special attention to the national particularities of the majority of the more than twenty different countries comprising the two regions. This attention to national cases is important considering the
fragmented nature of the geopolitical concepts of Latin American and Caribbean vis-à-vis the larger cultural and economic differences existing between their constituting countries. We will also address the connection between the introduction of Modern art in these regions and their passage into modernity and from colonies to nation-states. This process, often arrested by uneven material progress, the frequency of political instability, aggravated by the adoption of authoritarian solutions, is perhaps the main subject of Latin America and Caribbean art in general.

Course Design:

The twenty-seven lectures will be divided in three large segments call modules. The first module will cover the period from 1785, the founding date of the Mexican Academy of San Carlos, the first modern art teaching institution in the Americas, to the turn of the 19th to the 20th centuries when modernism arrived in the continent. The second cover the progress of Modern Art during the first half of the twentieth century. The third module will discuss late modernism and post-modernism that is, art produced from the 1960s to the present-day.

Most of the documentation for this course including further specific readings, the grading assignments and the Power Point presentations of the lectures and videos are available in Blackboard. They are in the folder for the corresponding modules inside the Course Material area on the left of the page. It is, therefore, very important that you keep abreast of this material. You will not do well in this class without reading and studying and are spectated to dedicate around 7 hours weekly on homework.

Most of the videos you will find inside the folder for each lecture are in Spanish. Because of that they are not obligatory material for the course since not all of you speaks Spanish. That means, no grading evaluation will be generated from this material and those of you who do not speak Spanish will not be penalized. However, those of you who do could help non-Spanish speaker’s colleagues to have access to their content and will greatly enhance your comprehension of the subject by watching the videos.

Intended learning outcomes for B.F.A. and B.A. Students will demonstrate:

1) Knowledge of appropriate historical and contemporary artists and issues.

2) Visual communication skills of the materials, equipment, and processes relevant to their major.

3) Critical and creative/generative thinking skills.

4) Verbal and written communication skills

5) Ability to generate a cohesive body of art products and an overall capability to succeed.

Student Learning Outcome for Arts 4356:

1) Student will acquire a demonstrable understanding of Modern Art of South America and the Caribbean region from the end of the Colonial Period to the present by learning and expressing knowledge in discussions and written assignments of the following topics:

   Important works, artists, tendencies and styles in Latin American Modern art during this period.

   The name and qualities of the formal and iconographic elements of Latin American Modern art produced during this period.
Developing an appreciation for the quality and diversity of the fine arts created in the South American and Caribbean regions during the period studied.

2) Acquire an understanding of some of the key issues and questions essential to the study of Modern South American and Caribbean Art from the beginning of the 19th century to the present and the state of their discussion in the recently published and traditional bibliography by learning and expressing this knowledge in discussions and written assignments of the following topics:

Post-Independency Latin American Art considering and correlating to historical, cultural and anthropological knowledge.

The relationship of the Latin American and Caribbean art with International artistic trends such as Neoclassicism, Academicism, Romanticism, Surrealism Minimalism, etc.

The correct terminology pertinent to the history of Latin American and Caribbean art.

Identify (artist, title, date medium and country of production), and discuss around 130 seminal works produced in the region from the end of the colonial to the present.

3) Acquire an understanding of culture and history as well as the political geography of the South American and Caribbean regions as they relate to the particularities of the art produced in the region during the period studied by learning and expressing this knowledge in discussions and written assignments of the following topics:

Identify and discuss artists and works by country of origin.

Acquire an understanding of the basic cultural and political geography of South American and Caribbean regions as they relate to the particularities of the art produced in the region.

Relate the times when specific works were produced to the artists’ biography, the state of international art and the local historical conditions that these works may reflect or in which they were produced.

Connect the popular culture of the region with specific art works and artistic tendencies.

4) Acquire an understanding of basic art historical research on the Art of South American and Caribbean art by learning and expressing knowledge in discussions and written assignments of the following topics:

Ability to find and analyzing bibliographical sources and using them in argumentation.

Acquiring a demonstrable understand of the assigned readings and express the ability to summarize them in lectures, papers and other evaluations.

Conducting personal research on one or more artists and demonstrate the ability to discuss and debate the topic in written form.

**Grading requirements:**

Grades will be based on a 100-points scale awarded according to the successful completion on schedule of the following five Grading Assignments:

1) Three small take home quizzes covering the material presented in Modules #1, #2 and #3, worth 10 points each for a total of 30 points in the final grade. They are scheduled to coincide with the
conclusion of each module and are designed to assess your progress in studying and understanding the material but may include questions intended to connect the content of one module with ideas, concepts and images discussed in others. Each quiz is composed of one slide comparison in which the students must identify a pair of images (title of the work, name of the artist, date, and medium country of production) and write a small analysis comparing and contrasting the two images in a convincing argument. General directions on how to write a good slide comparison can be found on the web. The second question is an essay dissertation on a theme pertinent to the corresponding module.

2) Three one-page reaction papers each weighting 15 points for a total of 45 for the three of them. These are your reaction to a specific assigned reading but “A reaction paper is not just a paper where you express your opinion. These papers require a close reading of the assigned text that goes beyond its surface meaning. They should engage the article or chapter’s argument and demonstrate your accordence or discordance with it based on evidence and clear reasoning. You must respond to the implied ideas, and elaborate, evaluate, and analyze the author’s objectives and main points” (http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-ReactionPaper). Bibliographic citations are required. Establishing connections between the text and the material discussing in class and in other readings is another central criterion for grading.

3) The final exam will be cumulative and will be composed of three parts. Part one consists of ten fill-in-the-blank and multiple-choice questions. They are about terms, concepts and ideas pertinent to the material. Part two is composed of three pairs of images which students must identify (title of the work, name of the artist, date, medium and country of product) and write a small analysis comparing the two in a convincing argument. Part three consists of two essays on subjects covered in the readings and in class, one of them involving a single image, and the other one a text assigned for one of the previous lectures. The specific artworks to be used in the final will be selected from the 130 and canonic work mentioned above. Those will be place in a special folder in the web page one week before the final. Most of the images included in the exam can be found also in the textbooks or in the daily readings and all of them will be discussed in the lectures. The final account for a maximum of 15 points of the final grade. Tests include both what we cover in the lectures and the readings. All written assignments for this course with be typed on Times Roman 12-point font size, double space and margins at 1” on left, right, top, and bottom in a Word Document. A one-page of writing in double space should contain around 250 words. Failure to follow this format will result in proportional reduction of the grade for the assignment. All the grading assignments must be file on the backboard page before their due date. At the button of each module folder you will find the corresponding grading assignments. It is very important that you study all the assigned texts and lectures in preparation for them. Again, you will not do well in this class without reading and studying them. You are expected to dedicate at least 7 hours of outside classroom study per week.

4) The remaining 10 points will award according to the student’s involvement and participation in the following activities, procedures and criteria:
a) Number and duration of the student’s visits to the web page. The web page will be a central component of the course and the student’s visits to it will automatically recorded and factored in the item participation of the final grade.

b) Attendance to and participation in the lectures. Equitable participation in lectures does not necessarily mean that all students are expected to participate in the same way, or even the same amount, but you are required to demonstrate your ongoing engagement with the content discussed throughout the course by stressing points, asking questions and bringing in outside ideas to the discussion.

c) Punctuality and neatness in presentation of the assignments: No late assignments will be accepted without written medical justification.

d) Presentation of a hard copy of the two assigned books in class to the instructor on latter than the second week of classes.

e) Number and frequency of visits by the student to the web page: The web page will be a central component of the course and the student’s visits to it will automatically recorded and factored in the portion of the final grade associated with participation.

f) Demonstration of reading and understanding the assigned readings and lectures. And the due dates and format of assignments.

g) Attendance to extracurricular activities promoted by the department or suggested by the instructor such as talks, workshops, film presentations and museum exhibit. Students are responsible for documenting and demonstrate to the instructor their participation in these activities.

**Grading Policies:**

What is been measured here is your ability to make mental connections between the images and concepts discussed throughout the course and present your conclusions in clear writing and a convincing argument. It is fundamental that you demonstrate to the instructor that you read and understood the material discussed in the module by mentioning specific points and citing passages of the article. Mention to and discussion of topics presented in other readings and lectures in your answers as well as supplementary research of the topics are the best ways to obtain a good grade. Bibliographic citations are required.

Students are required to complete all of the above obligatory requirements to pass the course, but completing the requirements is not to be confused with receiving a passing grade. Grades will be based on the quality of the students’ performance in each task according to the instructor’s best judgment. What I am looking for in this course, is the type of learning resulting from the student’s own initiative expressed in a clear written and oral form. It is what you bring to the interpretation of the material, that extra element that will earn you an above-average grade. So, you are encouraged to make your own connections between the readings, the art work and your personal research and present your ideas in the grading assignments. Special attention will be paid to answers which combine information and insights from the different sources.

**Criteria for grades:**
A — Student must perform at the highest level, showing sustained excellence and a high degree of intellectual initiative in all the graded exercises and in class participation.

B — Student must perform at a high level, showing consistent and effective achievement in meeting requirements in all the graded exercises and in class participation.

C — Student must perform at an adequate level, meeting basic requirements in all the graded exercises and in class participation.

D — Student performance has been less than adequate, meeting only the minimum requirements.

F — Student performance has been such that minimum requirements have not been met

**Grade Scale:**

100-90 A  
89-80 B  
79-70 C  
69-60 D  
Below 60 F

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available: Fall 2019 (full semester) Nov. 15 – Dec. 6

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for
another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six courses drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

The instructor reserves the right to change any provisions of this syllabus as he sees fit to improve performance and accommodate unexpected circumstances.

Any suggestions as how to further a positive and open environment, improved or correct mistakes in this class will be appreciated and adopted if advantageous.