Class Syllabus


Office Hours & Contact Information:
Mondays & Wednesdays: 9:00-9:20a
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:10a-12:30p (Also available by appointment)
Office Location 433D
Phone: (831) 479-6141
E-Mail: clclose@cabrillo.edu / Website: http://www.cabrillo.edu/~cclose/
Salsa Contact Page: https://www.cabrillo.edu/salsa/listing.php?staffId=812

Grading:
How points are achieved:
Short Papers (4 @ 50 points each)-----------------------------200
Film Exercise (1 @ 50 points)-------------------------------50
Reading Quizzes, Group Exercises, Homework-------------------250

Total Possible Points ----------------------------------------500

How grades are assigned:
A = 450 points and above or 90% and above
B = 449-400 points or 89 – 80%
C = 399-350 or 79 – 70%
D = 349-300 or 69 – 60%

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 Jan</td>
<td>Intro to Class/&amp; First Class Exercise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 Jan</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>S.pp1-8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Schedule is subject to change depending on students’ interest and/or difficulty with the material.
2 These are the readings that should be completed prior to the corresponding class day
2 Feb Gracia, “Ethnic Labels and Philosophy…” E.pp57-67

4 Feb García-Márquez’ Nobel Prize speech, “The Solitude of Latin America” E

9 Feb “Marx’s Concept of Socialism,” Erich Fromm5 E
https://www.marxists.org/archive/fromm/workss/1961/man/ch06.htm


16 Feb Holiday

18 Feb Mariátegui & Socialism S.pp35-71

23 Feb Film: “When Worlds Collide” http://vimeo.com/14861182


2 Mar The Problem of Cultural Identity S.73-107

4 Mar Martí, “Our America” G.pp245-252
Martí, “My Race” G.pp253-257

1st Short Paper Due


18 Mar Film: “When the Mountains Tremble” (1984)6

23 Mar The Search for Freedom S.pp109-140

Bolívar, “Address Delivered at the Inauguration of the 2nd…” G.pp67-71

2nd Short Paper Due

30 Mar – 3 Apr Spring Break

6 Apr Zea, “The Actual Function of Philosophy in Latin America” G.pp357-368
Roig, “The Actual Function of Philosophy in Latin America” G.pp399-414

8 Apr Miró Quesada, “Man without Theory” G.pp145-158

13 Apr Consciousness on the Side of the Oppressed S.pp141-174

15 Apr Freire, “The Pedagogy of the Oppressed” – Chapter 1 7 E.pp.41-69
https://libcom.org/files/FreirePedagogyoftheOppressed.pdf

---


4 E=Document to be emailed to class if no link is provided


6 When the Mountains Tremble, a documentary directed by Pamela Yates and Thomas Sigel; cinematographer, Mr. Sigel; edited by Peter Kinoy; music by Ruben Blades; produced by Mr. Kinoy; released by Skylight Pictures. Running time: 83 minutes. This film has no rating. With: Rigoberta Menchú as the storyteller.
Course Comments

“The people of the United States will do anything for Latin America, except read about it.”

...Dies slowly he who does not travel, does not read, does not listen to music, who does not find grace in himself. ....

Though the meaning of the title of this course is philosophically problematic, we can begin with the definition offered by Jorge Gracia in the Stanford Encyclopedia: “Latin American philosophy is generally understood to be philosophy produced in Latin America or philosophy produced by persons of Latin American ancestry who reside outside of Latin America.” Accordingly, this course introduces students to the philosophical trends of Mexico, Central and South America and includes essays from Augusto Salazar Bondy, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Jose Carlos Mariategui, Octavio Paz, and Leopoldo Zea. These essays broadly range from the 16th century to contemporary publications. Topics will include issues of justice and political legitimacy, the human condition, identity, values and the role of religion. Though one can find the influence of

---

European and Northern American thought, including idealism, existentialism, positivism and Marxism, Latin American philosophers should be recognized as presenting their own distinctive and insightful treatments of these issues. During this process of thinking about these philosophical problems, you will also develop skills of reasoning helpful in other areas. Philosophy is not something one has; it is something one does. Philosophy is a discipline which focuses on the need for developing and analyzing clear reasons for acting.

**Core Competencies & Anticipated Learner Outcomes**

This class offers opportunities to expand one’s skills in all of Cabrillo’s four core competency areas:

I. Communication  
II. Critical Thinking and Information Competency  
III. Global Awareness  
IV. Personal Responsibility and Professional Development

By the conclusion of class, I hope each of you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a facility with the vocabulary and concepts associated with Latin American philosophy.  
2. Critically evaluate philosophic arguments identifying the structure and strategy employed.  
3. Construct expository and argumentative essays.

**Short Papers:**

These four assignments have been included in order to give you an opportunity to stretch your skills in comprehending, articulating and critically evaluating theoretical principles and constructing your own philosophical arguments. **Each completed assignment should be two pages long, (approximately 1400 words) using 12 pt. fonts and single spacing with one inch margins.** I will not accept hand-written work nor will I accept emailed submissions except under extraordinary circumstances. Complete instructions including rubrics and a sample completed assignment are posted on the web page for this class. My late policy for the first three assignments is 15% off the total possible points for the first class day late with an additional 10% off for each subsequent class day the assignment is not turned in. **However, no late papers will be accepted for the fourth assignment without very compelling reasons and all requests are subject to my approval!**

**Film Exercise:**

Since a good part of Latin American Philosophy is developed by poets, novelists and filmmakers, it seems appropriate that this last component is not neglected in our study. The principle purpose of this assignment is to help your analytic skills expand in application to artistic expressions of ideas. Complete instructions including the list of approved films, questions to be answered, format for the assignment and grading rubrics are posted on the web page for this class. **The completed assignment should be one page long, (approximately 750 words) using 12 pt. fonts and single spacing with one inch margins.** I will not accept hand-written work nor will I accept emailed submissions except under extraordinary circumstances. My late policy for this assignment is 15% off the total possible points for the first class day late with an additional 10% off for each subsequent class day the assignment is not turned in.
**Reading Quizzes/Group Exercises/Homework**

I have included several short assignments, some of which may be offered in-class and others as take-home. Generally these assignments will ask you to identify the core question, the author’s position on the issue and key supports offered to defend that position. You may also be asked to explain specific passages, define argument strategies or construct a rebuttal to a particular argument. As these assignments are also designed to stimulate regular attendance, **no makeups will be allowed for these assignments** except under extraordinary circumstances and subject to my approval. I will offer at least one extra assignment (15 pts total extra) to give you the opportunity make-up missed points or, for those who complete all the assignments, as an extra-credit opportunity.

**Grading**

I’m adding your points not averaging them & I also am not curving the class scores. This means that every point counts – the last thing you would want me to do is to drop your lowest score! The 250 quiz/homework/group project points are relatively easy to earn but are critical to your successful grade. You can give yourself daily updates on your progress in this class by simply adding the number of points you have earned and subtracting that from the minimum total needed for the grade for which you’re aiming. Take that number and subtract it from the number of points still to come and you’ll know whether you’re on track for that grade. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target grade= A =&gt; minimum points:</th>
<th>450</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of points earned after 2nd paper (including quiz scores):</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of points needed:</td>
<td>236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of points still possible = 275 =&gt; A is possible if a minimum of 86% of the remaining points is earned!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policy on Cheating & Plagiarizing:**

I encourage studying together but I expect that assignments handed in will be your own original work. Except when specifically assigned as such, I will not accept group efforts. If I find that the answers in two or more papers or exams are too similar then none of the answers in question will receive any points. If you are found plagiarizing12 or cheating in any other way on any of the exams or assignments, you will receive a grade of “F” and could face possible suspension from Cabrillo College.

**Enrollment and Classroom Etiquette**

It is the student responsibility to drop this class in Web-Advisor if you choose not to stay in this class.

If you must miss a class, here’s a short list of do’s and don’ts:

- Do contact me via email to check if you missed a take-home quiz. If you miss class on the day I hand out the quiz but will return to class on the day it is due, I am happy to send you an electronic copy of the quiz and you may then print it out, complete it and hand it in on time with the rest of the class. Note that this offer does not include quizzes that are done in class on the day you missed.

---

12 Plagiarism is the conscious or inadvertent failure to identify the contributions of others. It occurs when someone borrows any part of another’s work and submits it as his or her own work without crediting its author. (Cabrillo College Faculty Resource Guide)
• Do contact me ahead of time if it is a planned and unavoidable absence so we can strategize how you can stay caught up on the work and determine what can be done if the absence will occur on an exam day. I am far more charitable towards those students who make responsible and proactive plans.
• Do contact another student in the class – forming collaborative connections and cooperative learning communities is a great strategy for success – and ask if there were important announcements made, to get notes and to find out whether we are still on track with the schedule.
• Do review the power-points for the lecture you’ve missed – they are all online on my website. If you cannot attend another section, the notes from that other student plus the power-points should help you catch up.
• Don’t ask me to reprise lectures. One of the most dreaded and clueless kinds of questions instructors sometimes hear is, “I wasn’t here for the last class, what did I miss?”
• Don’t just assume that the power-points include all the relevant information you will need.

If you are a bit delayed arriving to class, just enter as quietly as possible and if there is a quiz due that day, hand it to me immediately before you sit down. Some of the do’s and don’ts from above will reasonably apply depending on how late you are. If you have an appointment or job conflict and must leave early, you must tell me before the beginning of the class and then try to leave as unobtrusively as possible. I will give you a copy of the quiz if there is a take-home in advance if you talk to me about your need to leave early. If you just get up and leave for any reason other than an emergency, I will view this behavior as not only impolite and uncivil but also potentially disruptive and may report your behavior as such to the Dean of Student Services.

While I welcome the use of tablets and laptops for notes, etc., I do not tolerate the use of cell phones or any other electronics in the classroom that is not directly relevant to the material we are covering. Prohibited uses include but are not limited to texting, phoning, social media, watching movies, playing games, etc.

Your student rights and responsibilities are more fully detailed including issues of classroom management, academic integrity, student behavior expectations and progressive consequences for failure to follow these guidelines in the following pdf document: http://cabrillo.edu/services/studentaffairs/documents/SRRFinal4.3.2012_Edited4-15-14.pdf. If you have any question regarding the information on this link, please contact the Dean of Student Services, Ext. 6525.