

María Gracia Ríos
Fall 2015

Classroom: TBA
T- Th 10:00-11:45
Office hours: TBA

Introduction to Colonial Latin American Literature

Course Description

This course explores the origins of a Latin American literary tradition. We will read the works that defined and interpreted Latin America for the first time in alphabetic language: the newly found lands, the inhabitants and their customs; their present and their future. Beginning with Christopher Columbus' first attempt to read America, we will read texts produced during the conquest and early evangelization of America, taking into consideration the polemical debates that aroused from European occupation in the New World. We will continue with the writings that presented the formation of *criollo* mentalities, and finish with one contemporary reading of colonial Latin America in cinema. The class is conducted in Spanish.

Course Objectives

- To become familiar with the works that defined and fostered the beginnings of a Latin American literary tradition;
- To understand colonial Latin American through the writings of the first Europeans who arrived to America, the heirs of the Aztec pictographic tradition, the heirs of the Andean *quipus* tradition, and the *criollos*;
- To discuss recent readings of colonial Latin America debates;
- To develop analytical reading and writing skills.

Required Texts

Adorno, Rolena. *Colonial Latin American Literature: A Very Short Introduction (CLAL)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

All other readings will be available in PDF format on the class website. Please make sure to bring a copy of the appropriate readings to class.

Requirements and Grading

- 1. Class attendance and participation (15%)**
- 2. Reader's responses (15%)**
These are brief response papers of no more than 500 words in which students present and discuss class readings. They are due at the beginning of class on the days marked **RR** on the schedule.
- 3. Midterm exam (25%)**
The midterm is scheduled to take place in class on October 15.
- 4. Mashup (15%)**
Students will record their answers on a Mashup of the film *También la lluvia* (hosted at <http://clear.msu.edu/mashups/30084>). This exercise is due on December 10.
- 5. Final essay (30%)**
A final essay on a topic to select, 15 to 18 double-spaced pages. This exercise is due on December 15.

Schedule (subject to change)

1. Introduction

Week 1

Th Sept. 3 Introduction to the cultural history of colonial Latin America/ *CLAL*, Introduction

Further reading

- Mignolo, Walter. "Afterword", *Dispositio* 36-38 (1989): 333-337.
- Zamora, Margarita. "Historicity and Literariness: Problems in the Literary Criticism of Spanish American Colonial Texts." *Modern Language Notes* 102: 2 (1987): 334-346.

2. First Encounters

Week 2

T Sept. 8 Cristóbal Colón, "Carta del descubrimiento"/ *CLAL*, Chapter 1

Th Sept. 10 Cristóbal Colón (cont.) (**RR**)

Week 3

T Sept. 15 Pero Vaz de Caminha on the discovery of Brazil

Th Sept. 17 Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo on nature/ *CLAL*, Chapter 2, 21-28.

[Class activity: Oviedo's Method of Description]

Further reading

- Myers, Kathleen Ann. *Fernández de Oviedo's Chronicle of America. A New History for a New World*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007. (Chapter 1)
- Williams, Jerry M. "Pero Vaz de Caminha: The Voice of the Luso-Brazilian Chronicle" *Luso-Brazilian Review* 28: 2 (1991): 59-72.
- Zamora, Margarita. "Reading Columbus" In *Reading Columbus*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, Oxford: University of California Press, 1993.

3. "Are They Not Men?": The Debates on the Right to Conquest

Week 4

T Sept. 22 Bartolomé de las Casas/ *CLAL*, Chapter 2, 28-34;

Th Sept. 24 Bartolomé de las Casas and Sepúlveda (**RR**) / *CLAL*, Chapter 3

[Class activity: The Valladolid Debate]

Further reading

- Losada, Ángel. "Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda y su *Demócrates Secundus*". In Sepúlveda, *Demócrates Segundo*, vii-xxxii.

- Pagden, Anthony. "Ius et Factum: Text and Experience in the Writings of Bartolomé de las Casas". *New World Encounters*. Ed. Stephen Greenblatt. Berkeley, Los Angeles, Oxford: University of California Press, 1993: 85-100.

4. The Conquest of Mexico

Week 5

T. Sept. 29	Hernán Cortés on the Conquest of Mexico/ <i>CLAL</i> , Chapter 4, 42-46.
Th. Oct. 1	Hernán Cortés (cont.)

Week 6

T Oct. 6	Bernal Díaz del Castillo/ <i>CLAL</i> , Chapter 4, 48-52.
Th Oct. 8	<i>Crónicas aztecas</i> : Diego Muñoz Camargo

Week 7

T Oct. 13	<i>Coloquios de la verdad</i> : Fray Bernardino de Sahagún/ <i>CLAL</i> , Chapter 1, 18-20.
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Further reading

- Elliott, J.H. "The Mental World of Hernán Cortés" In *Spain and Its World (1500-1700): Selected Essays*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989: 27-41.
- León Portilla, Miguel. "Introducción" In *Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España* by Bernal Díaz del Castillo, edited by Miguel León Portilla. *Crónicas de América* 2. Madrid: Historia 16, 1984: I: 7-58.
- León Portilla, Miguel. *Bernardino de Sahagún: First Anthropologist*. Translated by Mauricio J. Mixto. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2002. (Introduction)
- Thomas, Hugh. *Conquest: Montezuma, Cortés, and the Fall of Old Mexico*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1993. (Chapter 4)

Th Oct. 15	Midterm exam
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Week 8

T Oct. 20	October recess
Th Oct. 22	October recess

5. Pilgrimage and Captivity: Cabeza de Vaca's *Relación*

Week 9

T Oct. 27	Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca on natives/ <i>CLAL</i> , Chapter 5
Th Oct. 29	Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (cont.) (RR)

Further readings

- Bauer, Ralph. *The Cultural Geography of Colonial American Literatures. Empire, Travel, Modernity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. (Chapter 2)
- Pastor, Beatriz. “Desmitificación y crítica en la Relación de los *Naufragios*”. *Discurso narrativo de la conquista de América*. La Habana: Casa de las Américas, 1993. 294-337.

6. The Chilean Resistance: Alonso de Ercilla’s *Araucana*

Week 10

T Nov.3	Alonso de Ercilla on the Araucanian warriors/ <i>CLAL</i> , Chapter 6, 63-68.
Th Nov. 5	Alonso de Ercilla (cont.)

Further readings

- Herrera, Bernal. “*La Araucana*: conflicto y unidad”. *Criticón* 53 (1991): 57-69.
- Lerner, Isaías. “Introducción” *La Araucana* by Alonso de Ercilla y Zúñiga. Ed. Isaías Lerner. Madrid: Cátedra, 1993: 9-54.

7. The Conquest of Peru

Week 11

T Nov. 10	Inca Garcilaso de la Vega on the Incas/ <i>CLAL</i> , Chapter 6, 63-68.
Th Nov. 12	Inca Garcilaso de la Vega on the conquest of Peru/ <i>CLAL</i> , Chapter 6, 70-76.

Week 12

T Nov. 17	Guaman Poma on the conquest of Peru/ <i>CLAL</i> , Chapter 7, 77-87.
Th Nov. 19	Guaman Poma on colonial Peru (RR) [Class activity: Guaman Poma’s Illustrations]

Further reading

- Adorno, Rolena. “El autor Ayala”. *Cronista y príncipe. La obra de don Felipe Guamán Poma de Ayala*. Lima: Fondo Editorial de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, 1989. 47-82.
- Durand, José. “El Inca Garcilaso, clásico de América”. *El Inca Garcilaso, clásico de América*. México: SepSetetas, 1976.
- Hemming, John. *The Conquest of the Incas*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1970. (Chapter 1: Cajamarca)

Week 13

T Nov. 24 **November recess**

Th. Nov. 26 **November recess**

8. Creole Imagination: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

Week 14

T Dec. 1 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and her defense on reading and writing: “Respuesta a Sor Filotea de la Cruz” and “Carta de Sor Filotea de la Cruz”/ *CLAL*, Chapter 8, 95-104

Th Dec. 3 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (cont.)

Further reading

- Ludmer, Josefina. “Tretas del débil” *La sartén por el mango. Encuentro de escritoras latinoamericanas*. P.E. González and E. Ortega eds. San Juan: Ediciones Huracán, 1984: 47-54.
- Peremulter Pérez, Rosa. “La estructura retórica de la Respuesta a Sor Filotea” *Hispanic Review* 51.2 (1983): 147-158.

9. Contemporary Readings

Week 15

T Dec. 8 Film projection: *También la lluvia*;

Th. Dec. 10 *También la lluvia* (discussion). Final review of the course. **Mashup due**

Final essay due: December 15