

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

**The Art of Human Rights
UGS 303 Spring 2011**

Course Unique Number: 64110

Schedule of Class Meetings: MW 10:00 to 11:00am Room: PAR 201

Instructor: Prof. Luis E. Cárcamo-Huechante

E-mail address: carcamohuechante@austin.utexas.edu

Office Hours: M Th 2:00 to 3:30 Office: BEN 3.146

Sections: 64110, 64115 & 64120

Schedule of Section Meetings: Friday 1:00 to 2:00pm; 2:00 to 3:00pm; 3:00 to 4:00pm.

Room: MAI 220D

Assistant Instructor: Joseph Pierce

E-mail address: jpierce@mail.utexas.edu

Office Hours: MW 11:00am to 12:30pm (BEN 5.100; Desk 27a)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will analyze and discuss the creative ways in which issues of human rights, indigenous rights and sexual minority rights have been incorporated in literature and other forms of aesthetic expression in South America, particularly during and after the periods of authoritarian regimes in Argentina (1976-1983) and Chile (1973-1990). Key topics include: the relationship between literary, artistic and cultural production and the experience of human rights abuse; cultural production and the representation of political history; the role of literature and the arts in challenging authoritarian regimes and in rebuilding a democratic, public culture; and, the political power of metaphorical and allegorical language.

In order to develop an interdisciplinary approach to the aforementioned issues we will scrutinize literary works, *testimonios*, films, political songs, journalistic writing, archives and historical documents. Based on critical analyses of these materials, we will pay particular attention to the intersection of aesthetics and ethics in times and contexts of state repression, political violence, inequality, discrimination and social exclusion. Literary texts, works of art and historical documents to be studied relate to these historical processes: first, the dictatorships of the 1970s and 1980s in Argentina and Chile; second, the emergence of social movements in human rights, indigenous rights and sexual minority rights in these countries. This course will also attend to the implications of these processes for the United States and the international community.

A major goal of this course is to train students in the creative use of conceptual and technical tools for developing literary and cultural analysis and interpretation across different genres (i.e. poetry, fiction, film, *testimonio*, diaries). Understanding historical context will play a central role

in this critical endeavor. In order to fully accomplish this objective, this course provides students with methodological tools for academic writing, critical reading, and library research.

Required Readings:

1. Books available at The Coop:

The Little School: Tales of Disappearance and Survival in Argentina by Alicia Partnoy

Chile, Pinochet, and the Caravan of Death by Patricia Verdugo

Distant Star by Roberto Bolaño

Kiss of the Spider Woman by Manuel Puig

2. Course Packet available at Jenn's Copy (available by January 21st)

3. Readings and other materials available on the Course Blackboard.

4. Films available at the Fine Arts Library.

5. All the required texts will be on reserve at the Benson Library.

Calendar – Spring 2011 – The Art of Human Rights

Monday - January 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday (No classes)

On the Notion of Human Rights

Wednesday – January 19

Course Introduction: A brief presentation on the notion of human rights.

Friday – January 21 [sections]

On the notion of Human Rights:

Readings;

Go to the *Gale Virtual Reference Library*:

Human Rights. Winifred Tate. *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture*. Ed. Jay Kinsbruner and Erick D. Langer. Vol. 3. 2nd ed. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2008. pp. 763-767.

Human Rights: Overview. Cary J. Nederman. *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*. Ed. Maryanne Cline Horowitz. Vol. 3. Detroit: Charles Scribner's Sons, 2005. Pp. 1014-1019.

Human Rights. *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. Ed. William A. Darity, Jr. Vol. 3. 2nd ed. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008. Pp. 512-515.

Monday – January 24

The “Universalization” of Human Rights:

Reading: Universal Declaration of the Human Rights

Human Rights, Political Violence and *Testimonio* in Times of Dictatorships: Argentina and Chile

Wednesday – January 26

The death of a songwriter and an artist: Victor Jara. The historical context of General Augusto Pinochet’s and the Junta’s regime (1973-1990) and the violation of human rights in Chile; the political and aesthetic role of the diary and other *testimonios*.

Reading: “The Pinochet Years” from Simon Collier and William Sater’s *A History of Chile* (pp. 359-389)

Friday – January 28 [sections]

Diary of a Concentration Camp by Hernán Valdés

Monday – January 31

Diary of a Concentration Camp by Hernán Valdés

Wednesday – February 2

Argentina 1970-1983: The Issues of Human Rights and Democracy in Argentina
Reading: “The New Autocracy, The New Democracy” from David Rock’s *Argentina 1516-1987: From Spanish Colonization to Alfonsín* (pp. 367-403)

Friday – February 4 [sections]

The Little School by Alicia Partnoy

Monday – February 7

The Little School by Alicia Partnoy

“Never Again” by the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons in Argentina

Poetry, or the Power of Metaphorical Language in Times of Censorship and State Repression

Wednesday – February 9

Basic categories in poetry and poetic language: tone and rhythm; metaphor, symbol, and allegory; connotation, elusiveness, and interpretation.

Reading: “Ode to the Air,” a poem by Pablo Neruda

Friday – February 11 [sections]

“Corpses” by Néstor Perlongher

Monday – February 14

“Arrival,” “Hell and Solitude,” “Roads,” “Notes,” “Wire Meshes,” “Beyond Torture,” “The Blindfold,” and “No Greater Pain Beneath the Trees,” poems from *Dawson* by Aristóteles España

Cinematic Solidarity, or the Role of Movies in Times of Human Rights Abuses

Wednesday – February 16

Lecture on the cinematic genre of the documentary and politically committed filmmaking; the film *Official History* and its contexts.

* Special film session (TBA): *Official History*

Friday – February 18 [sections]

Discussion of the film *Official History*

Monday – February 21

- Class meets at the Benson Library

Introduction to the Benson Collection and the Horman Papers at the Benson Library (hosted by UT Archivist Christian Kelleher).

Reading: “The Chilean Road to Socialism, 1970-73” from Collier and Sater’s *A History of Chile* (pp. 330-358); “Introduction” from *The Pinochet Files* by Peter Kornbluh.

* Special film session (TBA): *Missing*

Wednesday – February 23

The film *Missing* and its contexts.

Special guest: Ms. Joyce Horman, presenting on the case of Charles Horman and the role of the film “Missing”.

Friday – February 25 [sections]

Discussion of *Missing* and the intersection of film, collective memory and political history.
Guidelines for the **Essay #1** (A Critical Response Paper)

Effects and Affects in Times of Human Rights Violations

Monday – February 28

Affect, Kinship, and Performance in Times of the *Desaparecidos*

Readings: “The Madwomen at the Plaza de Mayo” by Hebe de Bonafini and Matilde Sánchez; excerpt from Diana Taylor’s *Disappearing Acts*.

Wednesday – March 2

The *Cueca Sola* Dance by the Mothers of the *Desaparecidos* in Chile

Guidelines for **Mid-Term** (Take-Home)

Friday – March 4 [sections]

Guidelines for **Mid-Term** (Take-Home)

Workshop on how to conduct library research on human rights (sessions led by UT Benson Collection Librarian Adrian Johnson)

Turn in **Essay #1**.

Mid-Term (Take-Home) starts.

Media, Journalism and the Art of Truth under Authoritarian Regimes

Monday – March 7

Journalism, ethics and human rights: a video on journalists and free speech in Chile during the Pinochet regime; the work of Patricia Verdugo, and the profession of journalism under authoritarian regimes

Wednesday – March 9

Chile, Pinochet and the Caravan of Death by Patricia Verdugo

Turn in **Mid-Term**.

Friday – March 11 [sections]

Chile, Pinochet and the Caravan of Death by Patricia Verdugo

Monday – March 14 – Friday, March 18

*** *Spring Break* ***

The Voices and Sounds of Human Rights Activism in the Times of a Censored Audio Sphere:

Monday – March 21

Under censorship: “Another Brick on the Wall” by Pink Floyd and other banned songs and singers in the Argentina and Chile of the Juntas period.

Wednesday – March 23

Victor Jara, his testimonio and his legacy.
Reading: “Chile Stadium” by Victor Jara

Friday – March 25 [sections]

American singers and artists in solidarity with the human rights victims of Argentina and Chile.

Monday – March 28

Special guest: to speak about the Human Rights project at the UT Libraries.

Wednesday – March 30

From class to sexual politics? Lessons from Manuel Puig’s literature.

Readings: *Kiss of the Spider Woman* by Manuel Puig; excerpts from “The Dialogic Imagination” by Mikhail Bakhtin

Friday – April 1 [sections]

Discussion of *Kiss of the Spider Woman* by Manuel Puig

Monday – April 4

Kiss of the Spider Woman by Manuel Puig

Wednesday – April 6

Performance art by the *Yeguas del Apocalipsis* in Santiago, Chile.

Friday – April 8 [sections]

Guidelines about **Essay #2**; brainstorming about potential topics.

Aesthetics of Memory and Exile**Monday – April 11**

Visual artworks by Catalina Parra

Readings: Excerpts from *The Arts of Transition* by Francine Masiello

Wednesday – April 13

Distant Star by Roberto Bolaño

Friday – April 15 [sections]

Distant Star by Roberto Bolaño

Monday – April 18

The history of the human rights committees in Austin. Guest speaker Mr. Carlos Lowry.

Turn in **Essay #2** (A Research-Based Paper)

Post-Junta, Post-Pinochet, and Collective Memory:**Wednesday – April 20**

Sites of memorialization in Argentina and Chile.

Friday - April 22 [sections]

Discussion on the issue of memory in post-dictatorship societies.

Monday – April 25

Selection of poems from *INRI* by Raul Zurita

Wednesday – April 27

Lecture: Indigenous Rights: Beyond Human Rights?

Special Guest: **TBA**

Reading: Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Friday – April 29 [sections]

Poems by Mapuche writers Leonel Lienlaf (Chile) and Liliana Ancalao (Argentina)

Monday – May 2

Video: “Wixage anai!” (about a Mapuche radio show in Santiago, Chile).

Reading: “Wixage anai!: Mapuche Voices On the Air” by Luis Carcamo-Huechante.

Toward A Transnational Understanding of Human Rights**Wednesday – May 4**

Lecture: The Transnational Scope of Human Rights Issues

Special Guest: TBA

Friday – May 6

A Letter on September 11th by Ariel Dorfman; final discussion

Friday – May 13

Spring Semester Final Examination: 9:00 – 12:00 noon

GRADING

1. Essay #1: A critical response paper; 4-5 pages, double spaced: 20%
2. Essay #2: A library research-based paper; 5-6 pages, double spaced: 20%
3. Mid Term (Take-Home): 20%
4. Final Exam: 20%
5. One written report (2-3 pages each, in English or Spanish) about a university lecture: 10%
6. Attendance and participation: 10%

Guidelines for Writing: a set of specific guidelines for your writing assignments will be posted on the course’s Blackboard page. A goal of the course will be to contribute to the improvement of students’ writing skills in both Spanish (Essay 1 and 2) and in English (Essay 3).

Classroom and Blackboard Participation: students are expected to actively contribute to class discussions as well as to participate in the Discussion Forum on Blackboard. Additionally, each student will be able to keep a Journal on Blackboard, in order to weekly write brief reflections and comments about the material we are studying.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. If you are unable to attend a class and you have a valid reason (for example, illness, family emergency or religious holiday), then you should inform me about it, and we can arrange an appointment for a make-up during my office hours.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty--cheating, plagiarism, turning in work done by someone else--will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment in question. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be referred to Student Judicial Services.

Important Notice for All the Enrolled Students:

-Accommodations: students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

-Recommendations on Influenza H1N1: students and professors should closely follow the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended responses to the potential spread of influenza (H1N1) during the academic year 2010-11. Please look for guidance at the following web address,

<http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/higheredguidance.html>