Course Description

Artists, intellectuals and politicians have debated Mexico’s *apertura* throughout the twentieth-century, which means “opening” but also refers to the lens of a camera and the revelation of something hidden. This undergraduate course explores historical (social, technological) and aesthetic linkages and affinities between filmmakers and photographers working in greater Mexico.
Mexico, including prominent visitors and Americans of Mexican descent. We will consider how Mexican culture is represented but also how borders between Mexico and the wider world—as well as among media—were blurred or brought into sharper focus. Cinema did not replace photography when it appeared; they borrowed from one another (techniques, modes of vision), and relied on one another for self-definition as they appeared to capture—and applaud, and critique—the fleeting or imperceptible but nonetheless real shocks and tempos of modernity.

Required Texts

- Texts posted on Canvas or available online

Learning Goals

At the end of the course you will be prepared to:

- Identify the work of major photographers and filmmakers practicing in greater Mexico, and their engagement with national and international historical and aesthetic currents
- Map the connections and influences among these practitioners, especially those that supplement and redefine their respective media
- Further develop fluency with art historical and film studies methods, including close reading and visual analysis, to investigate and synthesize findings into coherent verbal and written arguments.

Assignments

In order to assess your progress in reaching the above goals you will be evaluated in the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Paper 1: Dolores del Río Reflection, 4 pages</td>
<td>February 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Exam 1 (Take-home)</td>
<td>March 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Paper 2: Buñuel Paper, 6 pages</td>
<td>March 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Exam 2 (In-class)</td>
<td>May 4</td>
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Paper 1

Drawing from *María Candelaria*, as well as assigned readings and our conversations, write a 4-page response paper that meditates on Dolores del Río as the “face” of a post-revolutionary Mexico. By face you might consider literally her visage (its physical features) as featured in films and criticism but also a surface onto which ideas and politics can be projected. You may want to consider the following (by no means comprehensive) questions: What role does film and other cultural industries contribute to a nation’s sense of self/selves? What happens when people do not look like the image presented to them as national? Are sex and gender relevant issues?
Paper 2

Drawing from Luis Buñuel's *Exterminating angel*, and pointing to specific visual and narrative examples in this film, write a 6-page paper that discuss the relationship between surrealist and other experimental elements employed by the filmmaker and his various social commentaries. How does he use these elements to comment on society, his audience, and the role of the artist-filmmaker-critic?

Participation, Civility and Technology

Please:
- Arrive on time, late arrivals are disruptive
- Do not schedule competing engagements during class time or expect to leave before the end of the allotted period
- Complete all assigned reading *prior* to class and bring a copy of the text(s), whether a required book, course reader or PDF posted to Canvas and be prepared to actively contribute to class conversation
- Respect your fellow classmates and instructor by raising your hand to speak and participating only in class-wide or work group discussions
- Mobile phone use (including texting) is not permitted
- Let me know immediately if you have any issue that is preventing you from performing satisfactorily in this class.

Attendance

Attendance is required and will normally be taken in the form of a sign-in sheet. You are allowed up to 2 absences for whatever reason, no explanation needed. Beyond those your grade will suffer and documentation may be required.

Late Work and Missed Exams

To be eligible for an extension you must contact the instructor to negotiate a new date only in advance of the original deadline. Make-up assignments offered at the instructor's discretion.

Honor Code

The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Students who intentionally plagiarize the intellectual work of others will receive an “F” for the assignment and will be reported to the appropriate university authorities for further action. If you have questions about how to cite the works of others please ask me.

For more information see: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/.
Recommended Resources

- http://fotografica.mx/ (Televisa Foundation Archive)
- http://fototeca.inah.gob.mx/fototeca/ (Mexican National Photo Archive)
- http://www.cinetecanacional.net/ (Mexican National Film Archive)

- Frieddrich Kittler, *Gramophone, Film, Typewriter* (Stanford 1999)
- Lynda Nead, *The Haunted Gallery: Painting, Photography, Film c. 1900* (Yale 2007)
- Paul Julian Smith, *Mexican Screen Fiction: Between Cinema and Television* (Polity 2014)

Grade Scale

Your final grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (4.00)</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A- (3.67)</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+ (3.33)</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (3.00)</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B- (2.67)</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+ (2.33)</td>
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<td>C (2.00)</td>
<td>74-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>C- (1.67)</td>
<td>70-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+ (1.33)</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (1.00)</td>
<td>64-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D- (.67)</td>
<td>60-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F (0.00)</td>
<td>≤59</td>
</tr>
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Religious Holy Days
It is university policy that you must notify me of a pending absence at least 14 days prior to the
date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, assignment, examination or
in-class project in order to observe, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work
within a reasonable time after the absence.

Course Website

In this class I use Canvas—a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at https://canvas.utexas.edu/—to distribute course materials and collaborate online. If you require support in using Canvas call the Information Technology Services Help Desk at 512-475-9400, Monday-Friday, 8AM-6PM.

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence

Since email is an official method of receiving university and course communications, it is important that your e-mail address on file with the university is kept up-to-date. I will only be able to contact you through the address on file. You should check your e-mail regularly to stay current. You can find instructions for updating your address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/.

Documented Student Disability

The University provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 512-232-2937 (video phone).

Other Resources Available

The University has numerous resources for students to provide assistance and support for your learning:

- The UT Learning Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/utlc/
- Undergraduate Writing Center: http://uwc.utexas.edu/
- Counseling & Mental Health Center: http://cmhc.utexas.edu/
- Career Exploration Center: http://www.utexas.edu/student/careercenter/
- Student Emergency Services: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors
• Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the University Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services

Behavior Concerns Advice Line

If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center, the Employee Assistance Program, and The University of Texas Police Department. Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safe.