

## FILM 233 Film Cultures

### Trimester 2 2012

16 July to 17 November 2012

20 Points



*Días de Santiago* (2004) Dir. Josue Mendez

#### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	16 July to 19 October 2012
Mid-trimester break:	27 August to 9 September 2012
Last piece of assessment due:	19 October 2012

#### WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

#### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Dr. Miriam Ross

Email: [Miriam.Ross@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Miriam.Ross@vuw.ac.nz) Phone: 463 9655 Room: 312, 83 Fairlie Terrace

Office Hours: Mon 1-2pm; Tue 1-2pm Tutors: tbc

## CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

### Lectures

Monday	9-12pm	77 Fairlie Terrace Room 306
Tuesday	9-11am	77 Fairlie Terrace Room 306

### Tutorials

Tutorials begin in WEEK 2. Please register for tutorials via the FILM 233 site on Blackboard: go to "Tutorials" and then follow the instructions under the "SCubed - Tutorial Enrolment Instructions" link. Please read the instructions carefully. Tutorial rooms will be listed on S-Cubed, Blackboard and on the bulletin board outside the SEFTMS Reception, 83 Fairlie Terrace.

## TEACHING LEARNING SUMMARY

This course will involve two lecture/screening sessions per week. Normally, the film will screen in advance of the lecture. Lectures may be interactive. There will also be a weekly tutorial where students will discuss the issues raised by screenings, lectures and readings.

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Additional information will be announced at the start of lectures; in tutorials; posted on blackboard; and via email. In particular, you should be sure to check Blackboard frequently for further updates, suggested readings and other material.

## COURSE PRESCRIPTION

A study of the cinema of a selected country or countries from cultural, historical, and economic perspectives. In 2012 the course will explore South American Cinema.

## COURSE CONTENT

This course examines the existence of a shared South American film culture that is fostered through production, distribution and exhibition practices. It takes into account the industrial, cultural and socioeconomic conditions that lead to the emergence of this film culture and the impact this culture has on its surroundings. The course will explore similarities and differences amongst South American films through a week by week focus on different thematic units such as third cinema, genre films, gender and sexuality, co-productions, Andean images, exile cinema and film festivals. Students will engage with relevant critical concepts such as realism, transnationalism, indigeneity and diaspora.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will acquire a good understanding of South American cinema. They will be:

- Familiar with the commercial and artistic nature and history of South American cinema, and its impact on world cinema;
- Able to critically analyse the narrative, thematic, and audio-visual conventions of films made in South America (by certain directors, genres, and in relation to historical issues and ideological conditions and trends);
- Able to examine the cultural issues that South American Cinema raises for the Western viewer;
- Able to recognise and critically comment on the formal and stylistic qualities of films made in various South American countries

The course will enhance the analytical and critical skills of students. It will improve their proficiency at film analysis and independent research. It will further develop their written and oral communications skills, as well as their capacity to work with others.

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 20 point course is 200 hours spread evenly over the 12 week trimester and breaks, or 13 hours per teaching week.

In addition to attending lectures, screenings and tutorials, you should spend about eight hours per week during the teaching period on reading, preparing for tutorials, working on assignments, and reflecting on lectures and screenings. The remaining hours should be devoted to assignments and other related workload.

## GROUP WORK

Students will undertake group work for assessment purposes as part of Assignment Three. This will involve working in a team of four or five and making a presentation in tutorials in week 9 which will be marked as a group. Students will also undertake informal group work regularly during tutorials, but this will not be counted for assessment.

## READINGS

### Essential texts:

A list of weekly readings will be posted. These readings will be available through Electronic Closed Reserve in the library and will be accessible via the Internet. All students must read these in advance of the classes.

### Recommended Reading:

The library holds a number of books dealing with South American cinema and has access to all major the journals that contain articles dealing with this topic. Students should use their research skills to seek out these resources and read around the themes covered in class.

**Recommended Films:**

The library has additional South American films, as do many video stores in Wellington. Students should seek out and watch further films in order to enhance their knowledge of South American cinema.

**ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

The assessment for this course will be internal. Further information about assessment will be distributed during the course and placed on Blackboard.

**Assignment One: Article Review (15%)**

**Due Date: Wednesday, August 1, 3pm**

**Length: 350 words**

Description:

This assignment asks you to seek out and review an academic article on South American cinema via the MLA or the JSTOR databases (both available through the library website). The article may relate to wider topics concerning Latin American cinema and culture but should have a significant proportion dedicated to South American film. Your review should summarise the main points in the article and suggest why it is useful for understanding South American cinema.

Assessment Criteria:

- Fulfilling the set task in a clear, direct, relevant and complete manner
- Use of the correct databases
- Clear analysis of the material presented in the article.
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts used in the article
- Quality and fluency of your expression
- Accurate and complete referencing of the article

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will enable you to develop your skills at independent research, as well as your ability to summarise academic arguments. It will also enhance your written skills.

**Assignment Two: Essay (35%)**

**Due Date: Wednesday, August 22, 3pm**

**Length: 2000-2500 words**

Description:

This assignment will cover topics discussed in the first five weeks of the course, such as cinematic stereotypes, Third Cinema, and depictions of Third World identity. You will conduct independent research into your chosen topic, develop a critical position on the topic, and construct a persuasive argument in essay form to communicate your findings.

Assessment Criteria:

- Fulfilling the set task in a clear, direct, relevant and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in class
- The originality and quality of your findings. This will include your ability to conduct independent research from reputable academic sources, synthesise research materials, engage in textual analysis, and develop and express your ideas
- Coherency, structure and argumentation of your essay
- Quality and fluency of your expression
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources, including a bibliography and filmography

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will improve your knowledge of one of the topics studied in the first five weeks of the course. It will enable you to develop your skills at independent research and textual analysis, as well as your ability to construct and sustain a critical argument. It will also enhance your written skills.

**Assignment Three: Group Presentation (15%)**

**Due Date: Tutorials in week 9**

**Length: 10 minutes**

Description:

You will work with other students in your tutorial to create a South American film festival programme that consists of 8 to 10 films. In your presentation you will explain your choice of films, how they are thematically linked and what kind of information about them you would present to the public. You will include reference to at least THREE scholarly works on film festivals to explain your reasoning. You should provide your tutor with a hard copy of the film festival programme. The presentation will take place during tutorials in week 9.

Assessment Criteria:

- Fulfilling the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, complete and **timely** manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in the course
- The originality and quality of your findings. This will include your ability to research your chosen films and create a film programme.
- Coherency, structure and argumentation of your presentation
- Quality, creativity, and fluency of your presentation, including your verbal expression, teamwork and ability to use audiovisual aids
- Understanding and application of relevant film terms and concepts

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will enhance your research and analytical skills, and your ability to sustain a persuasive argument. It will further develop your written and oral communication skills, as well as your capacity to work with others. It will enable you to acquire a deeper understanding of South American films and how they are exhibited.

**Assignment Four: Essay (35%)**

**Due Date: Friday, October 19, 3pm**

**Length: 2000-2500 words**

Description:

This assignment will cover topics discussed in the last seven weeks of the course, such as film festivals, co-productions, Andean identity, South American genre films, gender and sexuality, exilic cinema and new technology. You will conduct independent research into your chosen topic, develop a critical position on the topic, and construct a persuasive argument in essay form to communicate your findings.

Assessment Criteria:

- Fulfilling the set task in a clear, direct, relevant and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in class
- The originality and quality of your findings. This will include your ability to conduct independent research from reputable academic sources, synthesise research materials, engage in textual analysis, and develop and express your ideas
- Coherency, structure and argumentation of your essay
- Quality and fluency of your expression
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources, including a bibliography and filmography

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will improve your knowledge of one of the topics studied in the last seven weeks of the course. It will enable you to develop your skills at independent research and textual analysis, as well as your ability to construct and sustain a critical argument. It will also enhance your written skills.

**ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS**

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

## **EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES**

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

## **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for a pass in this course you must:

- Attend 8 tutorials
- Submit all work for assessment.

## **CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

## **STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY**

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Where handwritten work is required you are expected to write clearly. If this is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## TURNITIN

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

## WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study).

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).



**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1	16 July	Introduction: South American Cinemam Stereotypes and Preconceptions	
Week 2	23 July	Third Cinema Revolutions	
Week 3	30 July	Repression and Exile	<b>FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE WED 3PM</b>
Week 4	6 August	Third World Poverty	
Week 5	13 August	Third World Elites	
Week 6	20 August	Film Festivals and Awards	<b>SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE WED 3PM</b>
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 27 August to Sunday 9 September 2012			
Week 7	10 September	Co-productions	
Week 8	17 September	Andean Images	
Week 9	24 September	Genre Films	<b>PRESENTATIONS IN TUTORIALS</b>
Week 10	1 October	Gender and Sexuality	
Week 11	8 October	New Technology	
Week 12	15 October	Current Issues	<b>FOURTH ASSIGMENT DUE FRI 3PM</b>