Memory and Human Rights: Chilean Literature, Film & Media

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to address the discussion on memory and human rights, from the perspective of Chilean literary and cultural production of the dictatorial and post-dictatorial period. Through the sessions the course will review some of the most important works published and performed within the last four decades. In order to provide a broad vision of the spectrum of works, the selection includes three main literary genres - novel, poetry and theater. The discussion of these readings will also include theoretical studies about the period, and the importance and difficulties of human rights and memory as social practices.

II. OBJECTIVES

By the end of the Chilean Literature, Film and Media course, students should be able to:

- Relate the Chilean case to other contexts where traumatic historical events and collective memories are at play.
- Establish connections between Chilean cinema and other art forms and cultural manifestations in the context of the postdictatorship.
- Analyze specific texts and films and their aesthetic, narrative, and discursive strategies to deal with the question of memory.
- Comprehend the ways in which human rights issues and the politics of memory persist in today’s Chile.
- Read and discuss Chilean literary works from the dictatorial and post-dictatorial period.
- Understand the relations between cultural production and the socio-political context.
- Study the links between arts, collective memory and human rights.
- Analyze the different forms of literary production as resistance and political statement.
III. CONTENTS

Introduction. Cinema, Literature and Memory: The case of Chile
Topics:
- Dictatorships in the Southern Cone
- September 11, 1973 and its aftermaths
- Transition to Democracy and the Politics of Memory
- Cinema and the question of Memory

Films:
Chile, Obstinate Memory (Patricio Guzmán, 1997)
Nostalgia for the Light (Patricio Guzmán, 2010)

Poetry:
Millán, Gonzalo; Muñoz, Silverio comp. Post-coup Chilean poetry: a bilingual anthology.

Readings:

Exile and Return
Topics:
- Theories of exilic cinemas
- Chilean exile cinema
- Exilic subjectivity

Films:
Dialogues of Exiles (Raúl Ruiz, 1974)
Unfinished Diary (Marilú Mallet, 1982)
The Return of a Library Lover (Raúl Ruiz, 1983)

Novel:
Distant Star (Roberto Bolaño, 1996)

Readings:

Syllabus for 2017. Final syllabi for subsequent years may be subject to change.
Cultural struggle and political resistance during the dictatorship

Topics:
- Chile in the 1980s: Political and economic context
- Popular strategies of resistance
- Beyond cinema: video-art and activism
- Gender and political struggle

Films:
Clips from Teleanálisis
Ay, Sudamérica (CADA, 1981)
Somos + (Pedro Chaskel and Pablo Salas, 1985)
Fragments of an Unfinished Diary (Angelina Vázquez, 1983)

Play:
Children of Fate (Hechos consumados). (Juan Radrigán, 1981)

Readings:

Sites of Memory

Topics:
- Theories of sites of memory
- Monuments, memorials, museums
- Case study: Lonquén Furnaces in documentary and TV dramas.

Films:
No olvidar (Ignacio Agüero, 1982)
City of Photographers (Sebastián Moreno, 2006)
Los archivos del cardenal, season 1 episode 1 (TVN, 2010)

Play:
Town + Discourse (Guillermo Calderón, 2011)

Readings:
Human Rights, Justice, and Cinema

Topics:
- Truth commissions
- Pinochet’s trial
- Torture and cinema
- Victims and perpetrators

Films:
The Pinochet Case (Patricio Guzmán, 2001)
Reinalda del Carmen, mi mamá y yo (Lorena Giachino, 2006)
El mocito (Marcela Said and Jean de Certeau, 2011)

Novel:
The fourth world (Diamela Eltit, 1989).

Readings:

The Generation of Postmemory

Topics:
- Memory and postmemory
- Childhood and cinema
- First person films

Films:
El edificio de los Chilenos (Macarena Aguiló and Susana Foxley, 2010)
El eco de las canciones (Antonia Rossi, 2010)
Mi vida con Carlos (Germán Berger, 2010)

Readings:

Critical Nostalgia

Topics:
- Collective memory
- Nostalgia
- Politics of the trace
- Image, fetish and commoditization

Films and TV:
NO (Pablo Larraín, 2012)
Los 80 (Canal 13, 2008)

Readings:

Syllabus for 2017. Final syllabi for subsequent years may be subject to change.

**Mediascapes of Memory**
Topics:
- Broadcasting the event
- Chilean TV and the coup
- Proliferation of screens

Clips:
- Aylwin’s address to the nation (1991)
- Opening of Morandé 80 (2003)
- Clips from the special programs of the 30th and 40th anniversary of the Coup (Canal 13, TVN, 2003 and 2013)
- *Chile, las imágenes prohibidas* (CHV, 2013)

Readings:

**Social Movements**
Topics:
- Cultural and political struggle today
- Re-appropriations of the past for the present
- Educational struggles and student protests (2006 and 2011)
- New media, performance, and street demonstrations today

Films:
*Actores Secundarios* (Pachi Bustos and Jorge Leiva, 2004)
*La revolución de los Pingüinos* (Jaime Díaz Lavanchy, 2007)
*El vals de los inútiles* (Edison Cajas, 2013)

Readings:

**Human Rights Today**
Topics:
- Gay rights, sexual dissidence, and queerness
- Indigenous Peoples: the Mapuche

Films:
*Newen Mapuche* (Elena Varela, 2011)
*El juicio de Pascual Pichún* (María Teresa Larraín, 2007)
*Empaná de Pino* (Wincy, 2008)

Syllabus for 2017. Final syllabi for subsequent years may be subject to change.
Young & Wild (Marialy Rivas, 2012)

Readings:


IV. ASSIGNMENTS

40% Class work. Students are expected to be thoroughly familiar with the material assigned before coming to class. Participation is expected both individually and in group activities.

60% Essays. Students will have to compose two short essays analyzing a literary text, and establishing a link with one of the theoretical readings.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will result in lowering of the final grade. The quality and quantity of class participation will be evaluated on a daily basis.

IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY


Calderón, Guillermo. Villa + discurso.


Radrigán, Juan. *Children of Fate (Hechos consumados)*. London: Oberon, 2013.


