

University of California, San Diego
Global Seminars I
Summer 2023

Religion 188
**Literature, Politics and Religion in Latin
America**

Monday & Tuesday
Lectures & discussions
1:00pm-4:00pm
Wednesday, Thursday Excursions

(Santiago, Chile)

Summer Session I
July 3-August 4
Global Seminar
UCSD

Professor: Babak Rahimi
Literature Building, 3rd floor: 3324
Phone: 858-534-2147
Email: brahimi@ucsd.edu

Description:

This course examines Latin American religion and politics through literary works ranging from poetry to novels. It surveys Central and South America, focusing on culture, literature and politics, especially from Modernismo movement to post-Boom counter-culture in contemporary era. We will do close reading of writings of Roberto Bolaño, Jorge Luis Borges, José Donoso, Gabriela Mistral, Pablo Neruda, Antonio Skarmeta, among others. Our critical analytical study of various literary texts will be contextualized within local and global politics of the Cold War and post-Communist era. The course will also explore themes such as class, gender, race and political activism through characters and narrative structure of key texts.

DESCRIPTION AND THE PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

The basic goals of the course are as follow:

1. To acquire basic understanding of Latin American literature (in translation) from a historical, political and literary perspective.
2. To understand how the intersections between politics and religion can be connected with global cultures.
3. To gain familiarity with non-European cultures.
4. To gain knowledge of Latin American history and religious cultures in the context of global politics.
5. To engage in intensive university-level writing and to improve one's analytical and critical skills.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

1. **Course Reader** (Cal Copy)
2. *Curfew*, José Donoso
3. *The Savage Detectives*, Roberto Bolaño
4. *The Postman*, Antonio Skarmeta

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Assignments:

Assignments and grades will be determined as follows:

Reading Group Assignments	30%
Final Exam	40%
Excursion reviews	20 %
Class participation	10%

EXAMS:

- **Reading Group Assignments:** In the beginning of the summer term the class will be divided up into a number of groups (27 students in total: 3 students in each group; a total of 9 groups). Each group will be responsible for reading, discussing and summarizing the assigned novel or secondary source during the lecture day, when the readings are due. Each group will also write up a collective essay on the Sunday of that week (submit at 11:59pm to religion101ucsd@gmail.com). We will have a total of 3 Reading Group Assignments for the summer term. For each essay submitted members of the group will receive credit. The essay should not be more than 500 words (excluding the references) and should make reference to the reading assignment. You may use MLA or any other reference style. Write the topic (the assignment you have discussed), your group name and members of that group on top of the paper. As for the name of the group, you can choose any name you like. My suggestion: choose the name of your favorite anime. The essays should be an analytical reflection and a summary of the assignment discussed in class. As for who writes the essay, you can rotate authors on a weekly basis.

- **Literary Project:** 2500 to 3000 words (excluding references) literary work (diary, poetry, etc.) on literature and the everyday.

- **Excursion reviews:** 200 to 300 words review of excursion. They can be informal. I simply want to hear about your reflections. No need to make references.
Due: everyday Sunday at 11:59pm. religion101ucsd@gmail.com

- You must complete all parts of the writing assignment, attend section, and submit all exams in order to pass the course.

CLASS POLICY & GUIDELINES:

Attendance and Participation

Active participation for each week comprises 10% of your grade. Students are expected to come to the lectures and are required to attend the sections. Students are also expected to have read the assigned reading materials and be prepared to talk about the reading material and lectures during discussion sessions. You can certainly ask questions during the lectures.

Late Papers

You must complete all assigned papers in a timely manner to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each class that they are late.

Plagiarism

The major part of your course assignments and exams involves writings based on your assigned reading. So, make sure to cite your sources, either quoted directly or paraphrased, so to avoid plagiarism. In other words, submit your own original work! See me if you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism. If you are caught cheating you will automatically fail the course.

Assistance

In case of disability that may require accommodation, please see me. ☺

Schedule for the course

- Monday and Tuesday: 1:00pm – 4:00pm in class
- Wednesday and Thursday – Excursion only day.
- There will be no scheduled activity on Fridays and weekends.

Schedule of Lectures**WEEK 1: July 3-7**

July 3, Monday: Orientation in the morning

***1:00pm-4:00pm: Introduction to REL 188
(Lecture in a Classroom)**

*** A tour of the city.**

July 4, Tuesday: Introduction to the course and cultural politics in the Twentieth Century

Lecture Site:

1. Plaza de Armas
2. Santuario de la Inmaculada Concepción

July 5, Wednesday: Colonial and Nineteenth-century Literature

Lecture Site:

1. Grand Santiago Tower
2. Barrio Brasil

July 6, Thursday: Excursion

1. Museo Historia Nacional
2. Castillo Hidalgo

July 7, Friday: No Class

WEEK 2: July 10-14

July 10, Monday: Romanticism, Realism and Spiritualism

Lecture Site:

1. Palacio de los Tribunales de Justicia
2. Estación Central.

July 11, Tuesday: Modernismo I

1. Centro Gabriela Mistral

July 12, Wednesday: Excursion

1. La Chascona house
Barrio Bellavista
2. Santiago Museum of Contemporary Art
3. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes

July 13, Thursday: Excursion

1. Los Andes (outside of Santiago)

July 14, Friday NO CLASS

July 15, Sunday: Excursion to Isla Negra

WEEK 3: July 17-21

July 17, Monday: Modernismo II

Lecture site:

1. Palacio de la Moneda
2. Cripta de Bernardo O'Higgins

July 18, Tuesday: Modernismo III

1. TBA

July 19, Wednesday: Excursion

1. La Sebastiana, Valparaíso

July 20, Thursday: Excursion

1. Metropolitan Cathedral
2. Centro Cultural Palacio de la Moneda y Plaza de la Ciudadanía
2. Plaza Nunoa
3. Plaza de La Constitución

July 21, Friday NO CLASS

WEEK 4: July 24-28

July 24, Monday: The Boom and the Age of Magical Realism

1. Basílica de La Merced

July 25, Tuesday: The Boom and post-Communism

1. El Palacio Falabella

July 26, Wednesday: Excursion

La Serena

July 27, Thursday: Excursion

La Serena

July 28, Friday:

La Serena

WEEK 5: July 31-August 4

July 31, Monday: Post-Boom and Post-modernity

August 1, Tuesday: Subaltern literature & religion

The Swell Mining Town

August 2, Wednesday: Excursion

The Swell Mining Town

August 3, Thursday: Excursion

No lecture

August 4, Conclusion & Goodbye dinner