Course Syllabus

Course Information
Course Number: MLS 610
Course Title: Voices from Latin America: The Modern Period
Term: Spring Second Session 2015
Professor: James Wood
Email Address: *still waiting for this-should have it soon

Course Description
This course aims to educate students about contemporary Latin American society and culture from the perspective of historical memory. After brief explorations of Latin America's modern history and historiography, the course delves into the study of historical memories of the Cold War period in two Latin American countries: Chile and Guatemala. The course looks at the relation between history and memory through documentary films, a classic novel, and some scholarly sources.

Student Learning Objective
The ultimate learning objective of this course is to prepare students to be able to reflect critically on the question of how historical memories of the Cold War era are impacting contemporary Latin American society. Students will demonstrate their learning of this objective by creating a final project e-portfolio based on a Latin American country using WordPress.com.

Required Textbooks
• Plus two additional chapters on e-reserve (Units 4 and 5)

Grading Policy
Final Grades will be based on the following three components with these percentages:
• Written Assignments = 30%
• Discussion Board Participation = 40%
• Final Project E-Portfolio = 30%

Grading Scale
A (94-100), A- (93-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77), C (76-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-67), D (66-60), F (Below 60)
*Kisha: do you guys use the plus/minus grading scale? Is the above scale correct?

Written Assignments
In the first three units of the course you will be required to turn in original written assignments based on the readings. These will be located in the Canvas Learning Management System. These assignments are designed to help you develop your understanding of modern Latin American history and historiography. Follow the specific instructions included in each unit to complete the assignment. As a general rule, try to explain your thinking fully in these assignments while staying within the word count limits. Use quotes and/or specific examples from the reading to illustrate the points you are making. Also define any key terms you might use in the assignment. Please proofread your work for grammar, spelling, and clarity. I will evaluate the assignments as we go, providing some feedback to students along with my assessment of the work.
Discussion Board Participation
Throughout this course you will be required to post comments on the discussion boards located on the Canvas Learning Management System. The links to the various discussions will be easy to identify. Within each discussion board you will find a question or series of questions that you are expected to comment. In most cases you will not be able to see your classmates’ comments until you post your first comment. In posting your comments, please observe the normal courtesies of respectful speech. Disagreements are fine if they happen, but please remain civil at all times. The discussion boards have limited availability so make sure you post your comments before the unit deadline.

I will monitor the discussion boards and make my evaluations of your comments as we go. Please try to organize your thoughts, write in complete sentences, check your grammar and spelling, and refer directly to the readings or films. Avoid simply agreeing with or repeating what others have already said; instead, add a new thought or provide a new example of the issue. Also please observe the word count limits if there are any (this will vary by discussion board). Ideally, each student will post one major comment and also comment on two other students’ comments each week. In general I am looking for quality over quantity on the discussion boards.

Final Project E-Portfolio
The course requires the use of the free blogging Web site WordPress.com to create an electronic portfolio of work related to one particular Latin American country (excluding Chile and Guatemala, which will be our collective focus). Early in the session you will be asked to do some thinking about your personal interest in or relationship with Latin America in order to choose a country for your final project. At the end of the third unit of the course we will pause our normal weekly operations and you will turn in the first draft (so to speak) of the e-portfolio. Then at the end of the session you will turn in the finished product and in the process gain access to the work of your fellow classmates. Please keep in mind that you have an ungraded discussion board dedicated solely to your questions and/or comments about the e-portfolio or WordPress to other classmates that will be available throughout the course. Use it as needed. Also keep in mind that the staff of the Division of Continual Learning is also available for help with technical issues. See Unit 3A and Unit 7 for more specific details about the final project e-portfolio.

Other Course Policies
Late Work: Written assignments will be marked down one letter grade for each day late. Deadline extensions will be granted by the instructor only in special circumstances. Discussion Boards comments and the final e-portfolio cannot be submitted late.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic honesty is absolutely essential to our mission. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and penalties will be severe.