

Latin American & Latinx Theatre and Performance

Crosslisted as COML286, ENGL049, LALS286

Jennifer Joan Thompson, Theatre Arts

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Course Description:

This course will examine contemporary Latin American and Latinx theatre and performance from a hemispheric perspective. In particular, we will study how Latin American and Latinx artists engage with notions of identity, nation, and geo-political and geo-cultural borders, asking how we might study “national” theatres in an age of transnational globalization. Our consideration of plays, performances, and theoretical texts will situate Latin American and Latinx theatre and performance within the context of its politics, culture, and history. We will consider a wide range of theatre and performance artists working across the Americas including: Griselda Gambaro, José Triana, Las Yegas del Apocalipsis, LASTESIS, Guillermo Calderón, Teatro Campesino, Carmelita Tropicana, John Leguizamo, Quiara Alegría Hudes, and Lin Manuel Miranda.

Texts and Viewings

- **All texts and viewings for the course will be made available on Canvas.** They will include dramatic scripts, performance viewings, interviews with artists, academic literature, and theatrical theory.

Outline of Assignments & Assessments

Low-stakes assignments & Participation (30% of grade)

- Most weeks you will have a low-stakes assignment to allow you to engage with and reflect upon the course material. These may include timed free writes, participation in a discussion board, the formulation of discussion questions, or video responses. These assignments are intended to help you engage with course material and formulate your thoughts prior to our meetings so that we can have robust discussions. They will be graded on a check, check plus, check minus scale.

Writing Assignments (40% of grade)

- 1 short paper (4-5 pages in length)
- 1 research paper (10-12 pages in length)

Facilitation (10 percent of grade)

- You will be asked to facilitate one class session. This will include a short introductory research presentation about the artist in question (10-15 minutes), and the development of 3 discussion questions for the class. You will conclude with your reflections about the key themes the artist brings up for you personally, and how you might relate their work to other topics we have studied.