LACS/Latinx/Theatre 324
Theatre in the Americas: Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Drama

Dates: Fall 2018
Credits: 3 (~145 hours)
Location & Meeting Time: Online
Instructor: Alvaro Rios
Contact Information: riosa@uw.edu
Office: Theatre 280, Peck School of the Arts
Office Hours: By appointment
Teaching Assistant: Brittany Curran bncurran@uwm.edu

Course Description: This course is a survey of Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latin@ theatre and performance. Students will read/watch and discuss various productions written by or about Latinos in the Americas. Students will explore the history and events of the Americas that shape these productions.

Course Goals and Outcomes:
1. To analyze Latin American and Latina/o playwrights and performance groups.
2. To explore the historical and social influence of Latin American and Latina/o culture expressed through the art of theatre.
3. The student will explore relevant performers and plays that have contributed and shaped Latin American and Latina/o Theatre.
4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of how Latin American/Latina/o culture and history is reflected in the art of theatre.
5. The student will research and produce either a research paper or a creative project exploring the topics we have discussed.

Required Texts:

The above texts have been place on order at uwm.ecampus.com

Here are additional required scripts and viewings that will be provided to you on the D2L site.
1. “Performance and Conquest,” Los Vendidos, and other articles and videos can be found on The Hemispheric Institute site. http://hidvl.nyu.edu/video/j6q573x5.html

*Plays in American Theatre Magazine are available free online through the UWM Library System.
Recommended Readings:
7. List of plays also available on D2L.

Computer Requirements
1. As this is an online course, you must have access to a computer with high speed Internet access (dial-up connection is insufficient).
2. You must be able to view, edit, and create Word files and view PowerPoint files. You must be able to view Adobe PDF (portable document files, .pdf) files. You must be able to view video clips on YouTube and The Hemispheric Institute.
3. You must backup your work often to a USB drive to ensure you don’t lose anything due to a system crash. You must have a “back-up plan” to complete the course work on time should you run into a problem.

Computer or Internet connection problems will not be valid excuses for not turning in work on time.

UWM Policies:
Please refer file://localhost/to http://www4.uwm.edu:secu:SyllabusLinks.pdf for information regarding general UWM Policies as they relate to this syllabus and course.

UWM Resources:
The UWM Writing Center: http://www4.uwm.edu/writingcenter/
Libraries: http://www4.uwm.edu/Library/
Panther Academic Support Services (tutorial assistance): http://www4.uwm.edu/pass/
On campus computer lab information: https://www4.uwm.edu/uits/services/campus/ccls/index.cfm
The UWM Bookstore: https://uwm.ecampus.com/
The UWM TechStore: http://www4.uwm.edu/techstore/
University Information Technology Services (Help Desk): https://www4.uwm.edu/uits/help/help_desk/index.cfm
Desire to Learn (D2L) Help: https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/groups/sa/ltc/public/D2L student help files/

Grades:
There are 200 points possible.
Your grade will be based upon the following criteria:
1. Discussion postings and responses 40%
2. Midterm/Final 20% (10% each)
3. Paper/Creative Project 25% (broken down into three parts)
4. Producer Pitch 15%

Grading scale: 190-200 A 146-153 C
180-189 A- 140-145 C-
174-179 B+ 134-139 D+
166-173 B 126-133 D
160-165 B- 120-125 D-
154-159 C+ 0-119 F
**Midterm/Final Exams: 40 points**
There will be two exams given over the course of the semester. They will be short answer and essay questions. The exams will be available on D2L under the “Quizzes” tab. You have advance notice of the exams and you will have one week to complete them, therefore exams cannot be made up.

**Discussion Postings/Written Responses: 80 Points**
Each week we will explore a text/performance. You will communicate your ideas/reactions to the text/performance by posting on the “Discussion” board. Because of the advance notice and significant amount of time to complete the assignments, no late submissions will be accepted.

**Discussion of plays – Each week we will look at one play/performance. You must complete number 1 & 2 below each week.**

1. **Quick gut reaction response.** You will do this for at least 10 plays/performances. By Wednesday you will post three specific elements about the work you read/watched: something you liked, something unclear, a strong image, interesting line (i.e. 1. Emma looks like she was in a concentration camp. 2. The costumes described are like starving homeless people–haunting 3. I don’t understand why x character repeats this phrase, it made be smile…etc.). These are short gut reactions to the piece (no minimum/maximum words) posted on the Discussion Board. **Please note there are 11 plays. There is no “make-up” if you miss a response, however, you do have an opportunity to miss one week with no penalty.**

2. **Discussion response.** You will do this for at least 10 plays/performances. By Sunday you will respond to one classmate’s post. Again, this is a short response that furthers the discussion about something they brought up. (no minimum/maximum words) (Please note if you miss the Wednesday posting, you can still join the discussion before Sunday and receive partial points!)

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<th>8 points</th>
<th>4 points</th>
<th>0 points</th>
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**GER Assignment: Research Paper/Creative Project: 50 Points (Choose one)**

1. You may choose to write a research paper that investigates a particular aspect of Latin American or Latina/o Theatre. Using the historical perspectives, survey of plays, and discussion over the semester you will focus on one topic that you can more fully analyze and explore. The paper must be 8-10 pages, double space typed, Times Roman 12 pt Font, include footnotes/endnotes, and a bibliography. TOPIC MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PROFESSOR.

2. You may choose a creative project. This option will allow you to synthesize analysis and understanding of Latin American or Latina/o Theatre with the creative process of theatre. For example, if you have taken a design course, you may research and design a set or costumes for one of the plays. If you have taken a creative writing course, you may consider writing an acto. The idea is to build on skills you already have. If you have not learned about the design process for theatre, then it is not a good idea to design a show. You will turn in a shortened 2-3 page paper discussing the research on the aspect Latin American or Latina/o Theatre you have explored and bibliography of research along with the project. Please know this is the more time consuming choice. PROJECTS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PROFESSOR.
Both the paper and the project will be broken down into three components due throughout the semester.

GER Assessment (see attached rubric for detailed example): This assignment is evaluated using a rubric that results in the grade of A, B, C, D, & F. Rubric follows on page 5 and assesses the analysis and understanding of how Latin American/Latina/o culture and history is reflected in the art of theatre through written critical analysis and/or the creative process of producing a design or play that reflects that analysis and understanding.

**Producer Pitch: 30 Points**
The Royal Mexican Players Theater is looking to produce a Latinx play that reflects current events in the Americas. You have been asked to pitch a play to the producers.

You will find a list of Latin American/Latinx plays in the content section (You are also welcome to choose a play not listed, but you must receive approval from the professor). Choose a play that you would like to read and explore on your own (you may not choose one of the eleven plays on our reading list). READ THE PLAY CAREFULLY AND THOUGHTFULLY. You will articulate why you believe the play has relevance and is important to produce. You will make a creative “pitch” presentation explaining why the play should be produced.

Your pitch must include:

1. A summary of the plot, main characters and themes surrounding the piece in your own words (do not copy and paste from the internet);
2. Relevance to current events and why it should be done in your own words (How does this play reflect Latin American/Latinx culture? How does it speak to our current state of affairs?);
3. Information on the playwright(s) in your own words (do not copy and paste from the internet. It is considered plagiarism); and
4. Anything else that is unique to the play.

Creativity strongly encouraged. Use images, data, research to present why this play is important. Plagiarism is strongly discouraged. Do your own work. Get YOUR play produced!

**Assessment:**

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<tr>
<th>Discussion postings and Responses</th>
<th>EXCEPTIONAL A 100-90%</th>
<th>ABOVE- AVR B 80%</th>
<th>AVERAGE C 70%</th>
<th>SUBSTANDARD D 60%</th>
<th>FAILING F &lt;60%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thoughtful postings with support from literature/materials</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Late/No posting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Paper</strong></td>
<td>Excellent understanding of the cultural, historical, and artistic aspects of the material. Excellent critical response and analysis of topic. Well-supported thoughts. Well organized/structured paper complete with biblio.</td>
<td>Good understanding of the cultural, historical, and artistic aspects of the material. Some critical response and analysis of topic. Supported thoughts. Well organized/structured paper complete with biblio.</td>
<td>Lacks understanding of the cultural, historical, and artistic aspects of the material. Response and analysis of topic is weak. Paper is not organized/structured well. Insufficient sources.</td>
<td>Poor organization and/or research. Unsupported thoughts. Poor structure of paper.</td>
<td>Did not follow guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creative Project</strong></td>
<td>Excellent understanding of the cultural, historical, and artistic aspects of the material. Excellent analysis of topic as expressed in the successful artistic design or completion of one aspect of production collaboration. Well organized/structured short paper complete with biblio.</td>
<td>Demonstrates understanding of the cultural, historical, and artistic aspects of the material. Good analysis of topic as expressed in the successful artistic design or completion of one aspect of production collaboration. Organized/structured short paper complete with biblio.</td>
<td>Creative project with some understanding of the cultural, historical, and artistic aspects of the material. Some analysis of topic as expressed in the artistic design or completion of one aspect of production collaboration. Lacks organization/research, reasoning, critical thinking.</td>
<td>Project lacks understanding of the cultural, historical, and artistic aspects of the material research, supportive materials that demonstrate themes or issues discussed.</td>
<td>Did not follow guidelines</td>
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<td><strong>Producer Pitch</strong></td>
<td>Excellent &amp; creative presentation with research, clear understanding of play, its relevance to today's society and surpasses minimum requirements.</td>
<td>Creative presentation with research, clear understanding of play, its relevance to today's society and meets minimum requirements.</td>
<td>Good presentation with some research and understanding of play, most of the requirements.</td>
<td>Presentation lacks research and/or clear understanding of play and/or does not meet the minimum requirements.</td>
<td>Did not follow guidelines</td>
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## INTRO

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<th>Dates</th>
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| Tues Sep 4-Sun Sep 9 | • Listen/Read Intro. Lecture: Latin American vs. Latina/o and Theatre vs. Performance.  
• Recommended (but not required) reading "Performance and Conquest" | 1) Introduce yourself. Please post your first name (the name by which you like to be called), reason for taking this course, and 2 quick responses to the Intro lecture. A selfie is optional.  
2) Download and read the syllabus for this course CAREFULLY.  
3) Explore the course site. All Due by 11:59pm Sep 9th. |
### Augusto Boal & Denise Stoklos
- Read *Denise Stoklos in Mary Stuart* pp 281-290 (Taylor)
- Watch clip on Boal & Stoklos

#### MIDTERM

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| Mon Oct 15 - Sun Oct 21 | • Prepare for Midterm Exam  
                               • Research Paper Topic  
                               • Research Play for Producer Pitch | 1) Midterm must be completed on D2L by 11:59pm Oct 21st |

#### MAESTRA Y PADRE DE U.S. LATINX THEATRE

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<th>Dates</th>
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| Mon Oct 22-Sun Oct 28 | • Read/watch Lecture 6- U.S. Theatre: Maria Irene Fornes  
                               • Read *Conduct of Life* (PDF on Content page) | 1) Quick response due by 11:59pm Weds Oct 24th  
                                               2) Discussion response due by 11:59pm Oct 28th; |
| Mon Oct 29-Sun Nov 4 | • Read/watch Lecture 7- Chicano Theatre: Luis Valdez  
                               • Watch *Los Vendidos*. Available on HIDLV | 1) Quick response due by 11:59pm Weds Oct 31st  
                                               2) Discussion response due by 11:59pm Nov 4th  
                                               3) Paper topics Due by 11:59pm Nov 4th |

#### U.S. THEATRE

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| Mon Nov 5-Sun Nov 11 | • Read/watch Lecture 8- U.S. Latinx Theatre: Luis Alfaro, Quiara Alegria Hudes, John Leguizamo, and Alvaro Saar Rios  
                               • Read *Electricidad* | 1) Quick response due by 11:59pm Weds Nov 7th;  
                                               2) Discussion response due by 11:59pm Nov 11th; |
| Mon Nov 12-Sun Nov 18 | • Read *26 Miles*  
                               • Work on Producer Pitch  
                               • Research Paper Topic | 1) Quick response due by 11:59pm Weds Nov 14th;  
                                               2) Discussion response due by 11:59pm Nov 18th; |
| Mon Nov 19-Sun Nov 25 | • Watch *Mambo Mouth*  
                               • Work on Producer Pitch  
                               • Research Paper Topic | 1) Quick response due by 11:59pm Weds Nov 21st;  
                                               2) Discussion response due by 11:59pm Nov 25th;  
                                               3) Research Paper bibliography due by 11:59pm Nov 25 |
### Mon Nov 26-
Sun Dec 2
- Read *Luchadora*!
- Work on Producer Pitch Research & Write Paper

1) Quick response due by 11:59pm Weds Nov 28\textsuperscript{th};
2) Discussion response due by 11:59pm Dec 2\textsuperscript{nd};

### Mon Dec 3-
Sun Dec 9
- Finish Producer Pitch
- Research & Write Paper

1) Producer pitch due by 11:59pm Weds Dec 5\textsuperscript{th}

### Mon Dec 10
Thur Dec 13
- Finish Paper

1) Paper is due by 11:59pm Thur. Dec 13th

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<th>Dates</th>
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| Sat Dec 15-
Thur Dec 20 | Study for Final Exam
Final Exam is available starting Saturday(Dec 15) and will take approximately 1.5-2 hours | 1) Final must be completed on D2L by 11:59pm Dec 20\textsuperscript{th} |

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**GER Rationale**

This course is part of the GER Breadth requirement, it satisfies the Arts requirement, and focuses on UWM Shared Learning Outcomes (SLO) as well.

Theatre 324 addresses Arts GER Criteria because it:
- Focuses on comprehension of the historical events that shape and influence Latin American and Latina/o Theatre;
- Applies knowledge of Latin American and/or Latina/o Theatre practices and general collaborative theatre practices in order to envision and present a plan for a production in the Producer Pitch Project; and
- Compares and contrasts the Latin American and/or Latina/o cultural traditions in theatre through an analytical Final Research Paper/Original Creative Project.

Theatre 324 addresses the following Shared Learning Outcomes:

*Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Natural World through Critical and Creative Thinking Skills:*

Theatre 324 focuses on the history and events of the Americas that shape and influence Latin American and Latina/o Theatre.
- Assignment: Final Research Paper/Creative Project
- Course Goal: To explore and analyze the historical and social influence of Latin American and Latina/o culture expressed through theatre.
- Outcome: Students will research and examine a specific topic in relation to the themes and materials presented in class. The analysis and understanding of that
research will be presented in a formal analytical paper OR in a short paper and creative project that allows the student to synthesize the research and creative process in order to create a design or original script.

- Assessment: See rubric on page 5 of syllabus.

**Effective Communication Skills and Intercultural Knowledge and Competence:**

- Assignment: Producer Pitch
- Course Goal: Demonstration of an understanding of how Latin American/Latina/o culture and history is reflected in the art of theatre.
- Outcome: Students research, conceptualize, envision and create a proposal for a particular production based on their knowledge and understanding of the unique aspects of Latin American and/or Latina/o Theatre. The presentation must effectively communicate not only an clear understanding of the play, but how the material is relative to current events, historical perspectives, and an important contribution to human experience.

Assessment: See rubric on page 5 of syllabus.

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**PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You must write your own work. Here are some helpful tools.

[http://guides.library.uwm.edu/noplagiarism](http://guides.library.uwm.edu/noplagiarism)


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**Using UW-Milwaukee Desire2Learn (D2L) course web sites**

Materials for this course are available on a Desire2Learn (D2L) course web site. You may see these materials there anytime you wish, using a standard web browser.

**Recommended browsers:** For a PC-compatible computer, use either Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox. For Apple (Mac) computers, it is best to use Safari or Firefox. Be sure your browser also has “Sun Java Runtime Environment” (Java-scripting) enabled for a recent version of Java. (If you have any questions about these requirements, contact the UWM Help Desk, as described at the bottom of this page.)

In order to find and browse the D2L course web site:

1. Open your web browser and go to the UWM home page: [http://www.uwm.edu](http://www.uwm.edu) (OR go directly to the D2L login page at [http://D2L.uwm.edu](http://D2L.uwm.edu) and skip to #3 below).

2. From the UWM home page, click on the dropdown menu, and select **D2L Course Access**.

3. On the Desire2Learn **Welcome** screen, you will see a location to enter your **Username** and **Password**.

4. Type in your ePanther **Username** (your ePanther campus email, but without the “@uwm.edu”). Hit the [Tab] key on your keyboard, or use the mouse to click in the box next to Password.

5. Type in your ePanther **Password**. Then hit [Login].
6. On the **MyHome** screen, find the area called **My UW-Milwaukee Courses**. You’ll see your active courses here, arranged by Semester, with the newest semester at the top.

7. Click on the title of any course to go to the course’s Course Home page. Click Content in the navigation bar to begin exploring the site.

8. If you have any difficulty getting into the course web site, please close down your web browser completely and open it up again. Then try logging on again, using the instructions above. If you do not know your ePanther username or password, please get help as indicated below.

9. When you are finished looking around your D2L course sites, always click on **Logout**. This is especially important if you are in a computer lab. Otherwise, the next person who uses the machine will be using your D2L account!

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**What to do if you have problems with Desire2Learn (D2L)**

If you have problems with your login (e.g., you forgot your password, or if you just can’t get on) or if you run into any other difficulties with D2L, help is available from the UWM Help Desk. If your trouble is with D2L, contact the Help Desk, not your instructor! (If you have course-specific questions, then you contact your instructor.) You may do one of the following:

- Send an email to help@uwm.edu
- Call the UWM Help Desk at 414.229.4040

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**How to take quizzes and exams in Desire2Learn (D2L)**

Click on [Quizzes] in the main navigation bar, then click on the name of the quiz you are to take. Then, when you’re ready to start, click on [Start Quiz]. You will have a very limited amount of time to take your quiz, so you’ll probably not have time to look up the answers in your course materials!

Make sure you [Save] each answer as you take the quiz, then [Save] and [Submit] the entire quiz when you get to the end. **Note:** do not take your quiz on a wireless connection (or on a dialup phone line). These are inherently unreliable!

**What do I do if I have trouble taking a quiz in D2L?**

These trouble-shooting tips will fix 99% of all D2L problems. You should proceed in the order that they are listed.

1. Close down your browser. Then, login again.
2. Restart computer.
3. Switch to different browser
4. Switch to different computer
5. Contact the 24/7 Help desk at help@uwm.edu or 229.4040