

**Tentative Syllabus - LIBA 497.002 (LBST 590.002)**  
**Literary Perceptions of Latin American History**

Instructor: Dr. Teresa Huerta  
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Office Hours: MWF 10:00 - 11:00  
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**Course Objectives**

1. To give students an opportunity to explore the perceptions that Latin American writers have of their history and their culture, as well as of the history and culture of the United States and Europe.
2. To help students deal with cultural diversity within the United States, and specifically with the increasingly more important role played by Hispanic minority groups within their country.
3. To allow students a closer look at the History of Latin American nations. Revolutionary upheavals and repressive responses in Latin America challenge United States foreign policy and affect United States interests.

**Required Texts**

Azuela, Mariano. *The Underdogs*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2008.  
Dorfman, Ariel. *Death and the Maiden*. New York: Penguin Plays, 1994  
García, Cristina. *Dreaming in Cuban*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1992.  
Hanke, Lewis and Jane M. Rausch. Eds. *People and Issues in Latin American History*. Princeton NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers, 2006.

**Requirements**

Class attendance	10%*
Class participation	25%**
Response Essay	20%***
Oral presentation	20%****
Research Essay	25%*****

- \* Two excused absences allowed. Two additional absences will lower the student's attendance grade one letter grade.  
\*\* Students will participate in class and take 4 quizzes on the materials discussed in class.  
\*\*\* Students will write a response essay (4 double-spaced pages) dealing with a specific aspect of a literary work discussed in class.  
\*\*\*\* Students will make a 15 minute oral presentation on events

relating to the history, the politics, or the economy of one of the Latin American countries discussed in class. A list of topics will be distributed to the students during the second week of class.

\*\*\*\*Students will write a formal research paper (10-15 double-spaced pages) to explore cultural issues and historical events as are portrayed in Cristina García's *Dreaming in Cuban* or in Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*. This essay must include parenthetical citations of primary and secondary sources and a bibliography.

### **Tentative Calendar**

#### **Weeks 1 and 2**

Introduction to course. An overview of Spanish American history and geography. Independence from Spain.

#### **Weeks 3 and 4**

The liberator Simón Bolívar.

#### **Weeks 5 and 6**

The Age of Caudillos.

#### **7, 8 and 9**

The Mexican Revolution.

#### **Weeks 10 and 11**

Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution.

#### **Weeks 10 and 11**

Augusto Pinochet and the 1973 military coup in Chile.

**Weeks 14 and 15.** Consolidation and Review.

**Important: A detailed list of readings will be added up to the syllabus soon.**