HIST/LATI/ENVI 294:
"The Garden in the Machine":
The City and Nature in Latin America in the 19th-20th Centuries

Spring 2013
M,W,F: 3:30-4:30
Old Main 011

Instructor Andrea Moerer
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Office hours:
M: 12-2, W: 9:30-10:30, F: 2-3

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
With Latin America's extreme urbanization and traditional socio-cultural divisions among city and country, this course questions nature in Latin American urban areas: how it has existed, changed, and been perceived and represented. After some foundational non-area specific readings, we will read and look at examples from the 19th through the 20th century. Visual (including film, photographic and painted images, species of flora and fauna, maps, and monuments) and literary products will be important sources for class discussion and for individual case studies students design.

Class will be largely discussion with explanatory lectures interspersed. Readings will include those on urbanism, nature and the environment, parks and forests, public space, sport, animals, food, travel, and film, among others. Grading will be based largely on class participation and on a student research paper including planning, execution, revision and final product. Assignments are detailed in subsequent document(s).

This is a writing-intensive course, so we will discuss and practice academic writing. However, active and prepared discussion is essential for the success of this course, therefore participation is heavily weighted. Please complete all of the readings and come prepared to talk about them.

Grading:
As will be given for outstanding work, Bs for strong, above average work, Cs for adequate work, Ds for marginal work, and Fs for failing or incomplete work. Final grades will be calculated according to the following weights:

30% participation (including preparedness and contributions; daily written responses; discussion summary leader; and final project presentation)
20% (2 x 10%) essay quizzes (completed before spring break)
10% planning for final (meetings, proposal, annotated bibliography)
10% research paper draft
30% final research paper

Required materials:

Further Resources:
I am committed to working with all students. Students with documented disabilities may need reasonable accommodations to participate in course activities or fulfill class requirements. Please come and talk with me, and/or visit Disability Services, www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices/

The Macalester Academic Excellence Center, located in Kagin Commons, has peer tutors available for assisting students in all stages of their writing. Please utilize this resource, www.macalester.edu/max/

This syllabus is a working document and subject to change. If you have any questions about this document, the class, or any other matter, I sincerely encourage you to talk with me. Furthermore and as our class is largely discussion-based, I require a considerate classroom. This does not mean that there may be lively disagreement, but that we all treat one another and our mutual endeavor respectfully.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

**UNIT ONE: INTRODUCTION**

1/28: Greeting, course assumptions, and review and amend syllabus,

1/30: Introduction to analytic tools: environmentalism, urbanism and Latin America

2/1: Discuss projects, Latin American geography

**LATIN AMERICA BACKGROUND**

2/4: Pre-conquest and Early Colonial
Primary Source:

2/6 Colonial and Independence

2/8 19th and 20th Centuries
URBANIZATION

2/11  Class topic: Urbanization

2/13  Class topic: Writing

2/15  Research paper proposal due
Class topic: 19th Century Urbanization in Latin America, European influences
Homework: Prepare for quiz

UNIT TWO: MICRO COSMS

FORESTS

2/18  Essay Quiz

2/20  Class topic: What are Urban Forests?

2/22  Class topic: Parque (park) or Bosque (Forest)?

2/25  Class topic: continue forest discussion

WEATHER and PESTS

2/27  Class topic: Transition from forest to pests; natural "disaster"

3/1  Class topic: disasters and Marxist versus Foucaultian approaches
CEMETERIES
3/4: Class topic: early urban reform movements and their inclusion of nature

UNIT THREE: ARTIFICE

LANDSCAPES
3/6 Class topic: Uses of Landscapes

3/8 Class topic: Infrastructural changes to landscapes

SPORT
3/11 Class topic: Sport in the environment

ANIMALS
3/13 Class topic: Writing discussion
Homework: Prepare for quiz

3/15 Essay Quiz

SPRING BREAK
3/25 Class topic: Gendering animals from wildlife to pets

ZOOS and MUSEUMS
3/27  Class topic: Zoos and Natural History Museums
Homework: "Changing Chapultepec: Construction, Conservation, and Cultural Politics in a Mexico City Forest," Andrea Moerer, dissertation-in-progress; newspaper articles from recent Natural History Museum fight in Mexico City

3/29  Class topic: Spectacle and simulacrum

FILM

4/1  Class topic:
Homework: View film, También la Lluvia (Even the Rain) in Media Services

4/3  No class meeting

4/5  Research paper annotated bibliography due, discuss film

UNIT FOUR: EMBODIMENT

PARKS

4/8  Class topic: Parks

4/10 Class topic: Public Space

4/12 Class topic: Political considerations in urban transformations

TOURISM
4/15  Class topic: flaneurism and "right to the city"

4/17  Class topic: Class and Latin American Leftism

4/19  Class topic: later 20th century Globalization and NGOs

4/22  Class topic: Tourisms: sustainable versus developmentalist

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

4/24  Class topic: Environmental Justice in Latin America

4/26  Research paper draft due
Class topic: E.J. continued

FOOD and MUSIC

4/29  Class topic: Food and nationalism

5/1  Drafts returned
Class topic: Rural imaginaries

PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

5/3  Present papers

5/6  Present papers

5/9  Final due