This course focuses on the artistic, cultural, and urbanistic practices of modernism as it emerged south of the Rio Grande. Starting from Garcia Canclini’s provocative definition of modernism before modernization, the course uses modern architecture as a departure point for investigating the political, social and economic factors as well as the artistic expression of what has been called "peripheral modernization" in the twentieth century. The course included most Latin American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Organized mostly around discussions and student presentations, the course requires students to analyze artistic and cultural manifestations of a variety of modernist manifestations. The first half of the course is devoted to the ideas behind the concepts of modernity, modernization and modernism, paying special attention to the ways ideas and periodization vary in different national contexts. The second half of the course uses Latin American Modern Architecture as a case study for exploring how these concepts were expressed through specific artistic and urbanist form. Students will then produce an original final paper on a case study of their choice and a podcast based on our class discussions.

fernandolara@utexas.edu
ASSIGNMENTS:
Student should read the assigned texts for each class, write a paragraph on Blackboard before each meeting, and be prepared to discuss the main issues when prompted. Participation on the discussions is an integral part of the evaluation. Each student will make at least one presentation on a topic of their choice (20% of grade). Besides class participation, 2 short essays, one podcast, and a final paper will be required. Before the final papers are due, one section will be devoted to presenting the scope of their investigations to be discussed by the whole class.

1st short paper - 15% of grade
due Feb 18
5-7 pages reflecting on the ideas of modernism, modernization and modernity as discussed in the first 3 sections

2nd short paper - 20% of grade
due April 1
5-7 pages reflecting on the peripheral modernisms based on the previous presentations.

final paper - 30% of grade
due May 5
10-15 pages on a theme of your choice regarding any aspect of 20th century architecture in Latin America.

podcast – 15% of grade
due May 10
record our conversation and edit a 30 min podcast to be released to the public at the end of the semester

Prof. Lara Office hours are Thursday 1-3pm, online by appointment.
SCHEDULE and READINGS:

jan 21

introduction and course presentation


jan 28

the modern


feb 4

peripheral modernisms


mar 4 Argentina/Chile


mar 11 - Visit to Blanton museum – Schedule individual times this week

mar 18 - Spring Break

mar 25 Uruguay + Paraguay

second paper due


El Taller Torres-García: The School of the South and Its Legacy (Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1992),

SILVA-CONTRERAS, Mónica. “New experiences with reinforced tile for Eladio Diste when building the Cristo Obrero Church” Building Knowledge, Constructing Histories – Wouters, Van de Voorde, Bertels et al. (Eds)Brussels, Belgium, 2018


LARA, Fernando. “Brazilian Architecture and the Automobile, the Marriage of the Century”, in City and Movement: Mobility and Interactions in Urban Development (Krause, Balbin & Link, organizers), Brasília: IPEA, 2016, pp. 125-136


may 5 final papers are due

may 12 podcasts are due

suggested readings:


DEL RIO, Vicente, Beyond Brasilia: Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil, Gainesville, UPF, 2009.

HERNANDEZ, Felipe (et alli), Transculturation – Cities, Spaces and Architectures in Latin America, Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2005.


Acknowledgements:

In this course e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and announcements.

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html.

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471–6259 voice or 471–4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. Five business days before an exam the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed.

This course uses Canvas, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. Student enrollments in each course are updated each evening. Blackboard can be used to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to take online quizzes and surveys.

You will be responsible for checking the Canvas course site regularly for class work and announcements. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notification of these disruptions will be posted on the Canvas login page. Scheduled downtimes are not an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

Academic Integrity: According to the General Information catalog, “the value of a university degree depends on the absolute integrity of the work done by each student for that degree, a student should maintain a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work” (page98). Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.
**Class recordings:** Class recordings are reserved only for the use of members of this class (students, TAs, and the instructor) and only for educational purposes. Recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

**Land Acknowledgment**

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the Indigenous lands of Turtle Island, the ancestral name for what now is called North America.

Moreover, I would like to acknowledge the Alabama–Coushatta, Caddo, Carrizo/Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Kickapoo, Lipan Apache, Tonkawa and Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, and all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories in Texas.