

HS 362 CHILEAN IDENTITY: HISTORY AND SOCIETY

IES Abroad Santiago

DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an in-depth exploration of Chile's rich history, culture, and society through a combination of academic study and immersive experiences thorough course related trip visits. Emphasizing critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and analytical skills, the course invites students to engage directly with the cultural, historical, and socioeconomic dynamics that shape Chile. Special attention is given to Chile's role within Latin America, exploring shared regional processes and developments such as colonization, agrarian reform, the relationship with the Catholic Church, political turmoil, and the role of indigenous groups.

This course emphasizes the importance of intercultural competence, encouraging students to view Chile's history and culture through multiple lenses. By getting to know diverse communities, such as the Mapuche, immigrants, and LGBTQ+, and exploring cultural expressions like music, film, and art, students will gain insight into the complexities of Chilean identity. The course also places Chile within the broader context of Latin America, examining shared historical experiences such as agrarian reform, the influence of the Catholic Church, and the experiences of indigenous groups across the region.

CREDITS: 3**CONTACT HOURS: 45****LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English**PREREQUISITES:** None**ADDITIONAL COST:** None**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

Flip class, instructor directed tasks, group work, class discussion, site visits, and audio-visual material projection.

STUDENT PROFILE:

Students' active participation and engagement are crucial for this course. Students are encouraged to immerse themselves fully in the experiences offered (field site visits) and to approach each topic with an open and critical mind.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

1. **Essay on a Chilean film (20%):**
Students will select a film from a provided list and write a reflective essay connecting the film's themes with course content, considering the broader Latin American context.
2. **Podcast on a Chilean/Latin American song (15%):**
Students will create a podcast discussing the significance of a selected Chilean song, explaining its background, its connection to a social/political event, Chilean/Latino-American social perspectives, and students' personal reflection.
3. **Forum Participation (10%):**
After the visit to some of the field sites, students will share their impressions and thoughts in an online forum. Participation and engagement in this discussion will be graded.

4. **Final Group Project (25%):**

Students will demonstrate an understanding of Chilean history and culture through a visual project, incorporating ethnographic and intercultural perspectives.

5. **Final Individual Essay (30%):**

Students will write an in-depth essay on a controversial issue or recent development in Chilean and Latin American society. The essay should include analysis from multiple perspectives and demonstrate critical thinking.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to achieve the following outcomes:

- Articulate key events, figures, and cultural practices that have shaped Chile's history and its connections with broader Latin American developments.
- Examine and assess various aspects of Chilean history, politics, and culture within a Latin American framework, drawing connections between regional historical events and current issues.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of Chilean and Latin American cultural norms, values, and perspectives, reflecting on their own cultural assumptions.
- Express insights and analyses clearly and effectively through essays, discussions, and multimedia presentations.
- 1. Work collaboratively to explore and present complex cultural and historical topics, demonstrating the ability to engage in group projects and discussions.
- 2. Engage in self-reflection to assess how immersion in Chilean and Latin American culture influences their worldview and understanding of global cultural diversity.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance and punctuality are mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related excursions. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than 1.5 classes (for courses taught once a week) or 2.5 classes (for courses taught twice a week) in any course, the final grade will be reduced by one-third of a letter grade (for example, A- to B+) for every additional unexcused absence. Six absences in any course will result in a failing grade. Punctuality: Students who are late to class will receive a .5 absence. Arriving in class more than 15 minutes late will result in 1 absence. Attendance is 90% for regular class and 100% for field studies.

COURSE TOPICS AND FIELD SITE VISITS:

Students will explore the diverse elements that have contributed to the formation of Chilean identity, including sociocultural, historical, and socioeconomic factors, within the broader Latin American context.

Topics will include:

- **Sociocultural Influences:** Examination of Chilean customs, traditions, and values, and their connections to broader Latin American cultural practices.
- **Historical Development:** Understanding key historical events such as colonialism, independence, and agrarian reform and their impact on both Chile and the region.
- **Socioeconomic Development:** Analysis of Chile's economic evolution, social inequality, and the impact of neoliberal policies, with comparisons to other Latin American countries.
- **Religious Transformation:** Investigation of the decline in religious influence in Chile and Latin America, with a focus on the Catholic Church's role in both societies.

- **Migration and Diversity:** Study of the increasing migration to Chile and Latin America, the diversity of immigrant populations, and how this influx is reshaping national and regional identities.
- **Indigenous Issues:** Exploration of the experiences and struggles of indigenous groups in Chile and Latin America, including their relationship with the state and society.
- **Feminisms and Diversity:** An exploration of the powerful new social movements emerging in Chile and Latin America, which are reshaping public discourse on diversity, citizenship, and human rights.

REQUIRED READING:

- Assigned readings and multimedia resources will be provided through the course's online platform (see below).
- Chilean and Latin American movie list will be provided. All movies will be available either on DVDs, YouTube videos or online platforms.
- Additional recommended texts and films will be available in the course bibliography (see below).

CONTENTS:

WEEKS	CONTENT	Readings & Assignments
1	Introduction to Chilean and Latin American History and Culture • Objectives: ○ Understand the foundational elements of Chilean identity within the Latin American context. ○ Explore the historical and cultural connections between Chile and the broader Latin American region. • Content: ○ Overview of key events, figures, and cultural practices in Chile and Latin America. ○ Introduction to course structure, expectations, and assessments. • Field Site Visit: Santiago Historic and Civic Center	Selected chapter/pages from The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Selected chapter/pages from A History of Chile, 1808-2002
2	Colonialism and Independence • Objectives: ○ Analyze the impact of colonialism and independence movements on Chilean and Latin American societies. ○ Explore the legacy of colonial structures in contemporary Chile and Latin America. • Content: ○ Examination of colonial history and the struggle for independence. ○ Discussion on the effects of colonialism on indigenous populations and national identities. • Course related visit: Cerro Santa Lucía	Selected chapter/pages from The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Selected chapter/pages from A History of Chile, 1808-2002
3	The Mapuche People: History, Culture, and Contemporary Issues • Objectives:	Selected chapter/pages from The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Selected chapter/pages from A History of Chile, 1808-2002

	○ Understand the history and culture of the Mapuche people and their impact on Chilean identity. ○ Explore contemporary issues facing the Mapuche community. • Content: ○ Study of the Mapuche resistance to colonization and their cultural significance. ○ Discussion on modern-day challenges and rights of indigenous peoples in Chile. • Course related Visit: Museum of Pre-Columbian Art • Course related Visit: Mapuche Community	
4	Agrarian Reform in Chile and Latin America • Objectives: ○ Analyze the historical context and consequences of agrarian reform in Chile and Latin America. ○ Discuss the role of land distribution in shaping socioeconomic structures. • Content: ○ Examination of agrarian reform policies in the 20th century. ○ Comparison of land reform impacts across different Latin American countries.	Selected chapter/pages from The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Selected chapter/pages from A History of Chile, 1808-2002
4	Religion and Society in Chile and Latin America • Objectives: ○ Explore the role of religion in shaping Chilean and Latin American societies. ○ Understand the decline in religious influence and the rise of secularism. • Content: ○ Analysis of the Catholic Church's influence in politics and social life. ○ Examination of religious transformations and contemporary spiritual practices.	Selected chapter/pages from The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Selected chapter/pages from A History of Chile, 1808-2002 Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Zi4hp8hJRM Suggested activity: Visit historic churches downtown Essay on a Chilean film
5	Coup d'État in Chile and the Dictatorship • Objectives: ○ Explore the events leading up to the 1973 coup d'état in Chile and the subsequent military dictatorship. ○ Analyze the impact of the dictatorship on Chilean society, politics, and human rights. • Content: ○ Examination of the political and social climate preceding the coup. ○ Discussion on the repression, human rights violations, and societal changes during the dictatorship.	Selected chapter/pages from The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Selected chapter/pages from A History of Chile, 1808-2002 Watch the following videos in Moodle https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8R7MNnoYktM&t=3s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mPeqB-QXa8&t=1s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfRXLjhsSy4

	• Course-related Visit: Villa Grimaldi • Course related Visit: Museum of Memory and Human Rights	Course related visit Forum 2 (in Moodle)
6	Economic Development and Social Inequality in Chile and Latin America • Objectives: ○ Analyze the evolution of economic policies and their impact on social inequality in Chile and Latin America. ○ Compare the effects of neoliberal policies across the region. • Content: ○ Study of Chile's economic development, from import substitution to neoliberalism. ○ Discussion on the intersection of economic policies and social inequality. • Course-related Visit: National Cemetery	Selected chapter/pages from The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Selected chapter/pages from A History of Chile, 1808-2002 Field Site Visit: Santiago's neighborhoods Watch the following videos: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SCkTFPLL-Lk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I74_s2cMMTY https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-JKy_9PfBg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uyEsymTkiU Podcast on a Chilean/Latin American Song
	Feminisms, Diversity, and Social Movements in Chile and Latin America • Objectives: ○ Examine the emergence of new social movements and their impact on public discourse. ○ Understand the role of feminism and diversity in shaping contemporary Chilean and Latin American societies. • Content: ○ Exploration of recent social movements advocating for gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and indigenous rights. ○ Discussion on the intersectionality of these movements and their impact on national and regional identities. • Course-related Visit: Fine Arts and Contemporary Arts Museum	Field Site visit Forum 3 (in Moodle) Watch the following videos https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8zv03IBCcA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJ3Gr58dpWM
8	Final Project Showcase Students are required to create a visual project to be presented during the course's final session. This project should involve original research on a topic related to Chile's history or culture that has not been addressed in any other course taken in Chile. The project must include an ethnography component that reflects the students' engagement with the society, culture, and the subject selected, as well as their personal reflections and understanding of Chilean history and culture.	Final Group Project and Final Individual Essay

	Students are encouraged to show the new insights and perspectives they have gained throughout the course and to integrate these into their creative interpretation of the topic.	
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REQUIRED READINGS:

- Collier, S., & Sater, W. F. (2004). A History of Chile, 1808-2002 (Vol. 82). Cambridge University Press.
- Hutchinson, Q., Miller Klubock, T., Milanich, N., and P. Winn (eds). The Chile Reader: History, Culture, Politics. Duke University Press.
- Skidmore, T., Smith, P., and J. Green (2014) Modern History of Latin America. Oxford University Press, 8th Edition

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- Bresnahan, R. (2003). Chile since 1990: The contradictions of neoliberal democratization. Latin American Perspectives, 30(5), 3-15.
- Dinges, J. (2005). The Condor years: How Pinochet and his allies brought terrorism to three continents. The New Press.
- Fernández Jilberto, A. (2004). Neoliberal restructuring: the origin and formation of economic groups in Chile. Journal of Developing Societies, 20.
- Galeano, E-(1997) The Open Veins of Latinamerica.
- Guardiola-Rivera, O. (2013). Story of a death foretold: the coup against Salvador Allende, 11 September 1973. A&C Black.
- Klubock, T. M. (2003). History and Memory in Neoliberal Chile: Patricio Guzman's Obstinate Memory and The Battle of Chile. Radical History Review, 85(1), 272-281.