

LP2 STUDY GROUP PROPOSAL

Study Group Name: South American Film III – Six from Brazil and

Chile **Coordinator(s):** Harold Berkowitz, Ted Dreyfus

Study Group Description:

This study group is a six-week version of the 12-week ones offered in the Springs of 2019 and again in 2021. All films are spoken in the original Spanish or Portuguese with English sub-titles. Dramatic political changes in both countries since 2019 have changed the perspective for the films since we first presented them.

You may know Brazil and Chile as five-star tourist destinations. But they also produce insightful, dramatic on current and recent historic, social, cultural, and political issues and events. Our six films include the coming and going of dictatorships and revolutions; changing national self-image, urban and rural misfortunes, drugs and violence; white privilege, injustice to indigenous peoples, income inequality; and political organizing. Also, every day concerns of post-middle age dating, big city housing, and social mobility. The three films from Chile and three from Brazil trace the arc of development in the countries over the last 50 years. Participants should take away greater understanding of challenges of politics, culture, and society in both countries. And, of course, the films are great entertainment with some real prize-winners.

Coordinator Biographies: Harold Berkowitz has been a member of the IRP since 2010. Having done undergraduate and graduate work in Latin American Studies his interest in Latin America is long standing. He has coordinated a Study Group on Colonial Latin American History and co coordinated a study group on Forgiveness which looked at how countries in South America recovered from dark episodes in their past. Most of all he is fascinated by life and culture south of the U.S. border. He coordinated sessions on Brazil in the earlier versions of this study group and does so again.

Ted Dreyfus lived for over 30 years in Latin America as an exchange student, Peace Corps Volunteer, banker, turn-around manager, and rancher. He lived in Chile for 11 years and Brazil for four. experiencing many of the events and trends shown in our films. He still visits regularly especially to his tree farm and horse ranch in Uruguay. He has coordinated study groups on Environmental Threats, Global Warming, and Narrative Non-Fiction. He

will again coordinate the sessions on Chile.

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Type of Study Group: Presentation on the films viewed beforehand and then discussion in class. Background readings on the country, highlighting relevant history, society, and culture are suggested for reading before or after class. There is no coursepack.

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

Films with sub-titles in English are available on Amazon Prime, Netflix, and/ or YouTube. Links and costs are shown below. Additional background reading is suggested for each film.

***** SYLLABUS - A WORK IN PROGRESS *****

WEEK 1:

TOPIC: *Machuca* (2004) (Chile)

https://www.amazon.com/Machuca-Mat%C3%ADasQuer/dp/B01M2WND7I/ref=sr_1_1?

[crd=36JG8RQ4ACJO9&keywords=machuca+movie&qid=1551724643&s=instant-video&sprefix=Machuca%2Cinstant-video%2C137&sr=1-1-catcorr](https://www.amazon.com/Machuca-Mat%C3%ADasQuer/dp/B01M2WND7I/ref=sr_1_1?crd=36JG8RQ4ACJO9&keywords=machuca+movie&qid=1551724643&s=instant-video&sprefix=Machuca%2Cinstant-video%2C137&sr=1-1-catcorr) Link available from Fandor for \$3.99/month, cancelable any time (i.e. after first week).

Machuca is the only Fandor film we'll see in the study group. In 1973 Chile, a coming-of-age story of two 12-year-old boys from opposite extremes of society who become friends in the last days of Allende and the first days of Pinochet.

READINGS:

1. 1973 Chile Coup D'état, Wikipedia, read Introduction and Political Background (at least)
2. An Eyewitness Account of Pinochet's Coup 45 Years Ago, Smithsonian.com, 2018, for a left-wing view <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/eyewitness-account-pinochets-coup-45-years-ago-180970241/>
3. What Pinochet Did for Chile, The Hoover Institute (2007) for a right-wing view <https://www.hoover.org/research/what-pinochet-did-chile>

QUESTIONS:

1. How does *Machuca* portray different points of view about the coup? 2. How aware of the developing situation are each of the boys? 3. What do you think of the school's integration strategy? Implementation? Any relation to efforts in the U.S. then and now?

4. How would each of the boys reflect back on their experience that day? 2

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WEEK 2:

TOPIC: **No** (2013) (Chile)

https://www.amazon.com/No-Gael-Garcia-Bernal/dp/B00DHLL70Q/ref=sr_1_10?dchild=1&keywords=No%2C+film&qid=1602533880&sr=8-10 Rent HD \$3.99, SD\$2.99

In 1988 the Pinochet government calls for a referendum on his presidency. Opposition leaders hire an ad exec to lead their campaign. **READINGS:**

1. Chile's Pinochet Beaten In Plebiscite on Rule, Washington Post, 1988

https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1988/10/06/chiles-pinochet-beaten-in-plebiscite-on-rule/cbc2e773-f1cc-4c37-bcb5-91b9de1e8084/?utm_term=.80d646dca84a

2. The Boys Who Got to Remake an Economy, Slate, 2018 <https://slate.com/business/2016/01/in-chicago-boys-the-story-of-chilean-economists-who-studied-in-america-and-then-remade-their-country.html>

3. Piñera y los Leones de Sanhattan: Crónica del auge de la elite financiera chilena, Chapter 1 (*in Spanish for the highly motivated, on Amazon Kindle, \$10.99*)

QUESTIONS:

1. How could Chile have a democratic Referendum about continuing a dictatorship?

2. Is the ad campaign necessary and sufficient to lead to the result? 3. What else besides the ad campaign was going on in Chile before the Referendum?

4. Why did the Pinochet government respect the outcome of the Referendum?

WEEK 3:

TOPIC: **Gloria** (2013) (Chile)

https://www.amazon.com/Gloria-English-Subtitled-Paulina-Garcia/dp/B00JM04DX4/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=Gloria&qid=1551723889&s=instant-video&sr=1-4

Rent HD & SD \$3.99

In contemporary Chile a modern woman faces life, love, and disappointment with determination and spirit.

READINGS:

Gloria, Variety, 2013

<https://variety.com/2013/film/reviews/gloria-1117949217/> **QUESTIONS:**

1. How has Gloria's Chile changed from the films we've seen in the first two weeks?

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2. How do Gloria's and Rodrigo's behavior and attitudes reflect the "Pinochet Generation"?
3. Do you think Gloria's expectations and requirements are reasonable in her context?
4. How do the economic circumstances of Gloria's Chile reflect the Pinochet government's economic and social policies? Can you see what's coming???

WEEK 4:

TOPIC: *Bye Bye Brazil* (1979) (Brazil)

https://tubitv.com/movies/487393/bye_bye_brazil

Register on tubi.

WEEK 5:

TOPIC: *City of God (Cidade de Deus)* (2002) (Brazil)

https://www.amazon.com/s?k=city+of+god+movie&i=instant-video&crd=20T1N0C6F5Y2V&spre fix=city+of+god%2Cinstant-video%2C69&ref=nb_sb_ss_deep-retrain-ln-ops-acceptance_2_11

Rent HD \$2.99

WEEK 6:

TOPIC: *Aquarius* (2016) (Brazil)

https://www.amazon.com/Aquarius-Sonia-Braga/dp/B076DMNCYC/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Aquarius+Sonia+Braga&qid=1603120895&sr=8-1 Rent

HD \$3.99

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