

**Pro Seminar:** Chilean Identity through History, Politics, Culture, and Social Movements  
4 credits / Fridays 11am – 2pm / 72 class hours/ 18 weeks  
Seminar Director: Pilo Mella, Harvard University  
Consortium of Advanced Studies Abroad (CASA), Santiago de Chile; Fall 2024

“Pero porque pido silencio  
no crean que voy a morirme:  
me pasa todo lo contrario:  
sucede que voy a vivirme.  
Sucede que soy y que sigo.”  
— Pablo Neruda, *Pido Silencio*

## I. Course Description

This advanced-level seminar conducted in Spanish aims to identify and analyze the historical processes that form the complex narratives surrounding citizenship, collective memory and human rights today in Chile. Through extensive readings, a series of weekly faculty lectures, site visits, and expository and reflective writing assignments, students will learn to analyze Chilean history through the lens of gender, health, social movements, and indigenous rights. Six thematic modules will provide the framework for students to pursue their own research on a topic within Chilean history.

## II. Course Methodology

This course will combine lectures, delivered weekly by local faculty (using visual presentations, maps, videos and more), with local site visits and recommended readings. There are six thematic modules used to analyze Chilean history composed of lectures and site visits. Students will ask questions and discuss with the faculty and their peers on the presented topics. Five critical reflection essays will be completed, each paired with one module, written in Spanish. Students will investigate a topic of their choice, that will culminate in an investigative research paper and oral presentation.

### III. Learning Outcomes and Objectives

By the end of the semester, students will be able to do the following:

- Understand Chile's most pressing social problems contextualized in its political history.
- Examine the political, economic and spatial effects of globalization and neoliberalism in Latin America.
- Analyze the region's current social movements and its relationship with cultural and artistic identities and urban territories.
- Critically examine indigenous peoples' history and roles in the development of a Chilean nation, and their current political and social demands.
- Analyze the dynamics of environment and sustainability through a critical lens to examine hegemonic narratives in Chilean history.
- Apply complex lens of analyses to investigate a topic in depth, tying historical and systemic structures of power to contemporary political actors and demands.

### IV. Course Requirements

#### **1. Program Participation (10%)**

This seminar depends on active class discussion, which demands timely attendance. Students will be expected to provide questions and critical analysis at each seminar meeting, informed by the required readings. Students must communicate directly with the Seminar Coordinator, Pilo Mella, should illness prevent them from attending a lecture or site visit. Consistent tardiness will also affect the participation grade.

#### **2. Critical Reflection Essays (30%)**

Throughout the semester, students will write five critical reflection essays (800-1000 words) regarding the themes presented in the paired module. The essays should have a central thesis supported by relevant Pro Seminars and other scholarly sources. Due dates will be communicated directly to students.

#### **3. Research Project (60%)**

- **Research project proposal (10%)**  
Students will present a written research project proposal of 500-800 words outlining their research question, the historical context, the connections to thematic modules and lectures, and 3-5 potential scholarly sources.
- **Oral presentation (20%)**  
In a succinct manner, synthesizing their research question, methods, and findings, students will present their research to the class and CASA Chile staff. Students will be graded on presentation style and content. Visual aids are suggested. Presentations should be no more than **15 minutes** in length.
- **Final research essay (30%)**  
Throughout the academic semester, each student will develop a research project that culminates in a final essay of no less than **10 pages**. This essay will explore one of the topics presented in a thematic module supported by extensive research. A faculty member of a local university, or CASA Chile staff, will advise the student on their project proposal, drafts, oral presentation, and final essay.

## V. Evaluations

Attendance and participation: 10%  
Critical Reflection Essays: 30% (5 total)  
Research project proposal: 10%  
Oral presentation (research project): 20%  
Final research essay: 30%

### Grading Scale

94-100% A Excellent  
90-93% A-  
87-89% B+  
84-86% B Above Average  
80-83% B-  
77-79% C+  
74-76% C Average  
70-73% C-  
67-69% D+  
64-66% D Below Average  
< 64% F Fail

## VI. Course Policies

**Attendance and Participation:** All students are required to attend all lectures and site visits, barring illness documented by a health professional. Unexcused absences or tardiness will result in a lower grade for the course. Students are expected to contribute actively and thoughtfully, as well as are expected to have thoroughly revised all required readings as scheduled.

**Late Work:** Any coursework submitted late will be deducted 1/3 of a grade point per day.

**Plagiarism:** It is expected that all assignments submitted for academic credit will be the student's own. All CASA students will adhere to the Harvard College Honor Code. For more on Harvard's plagiarism and collaboration policy, see the following link: <https://college.harvard.edu/academics/academic-integrity>

## VII. Course Syllabus and Required Readings

Session	Class Content	Required Readings
Module 1 – Chilean Politics: History and National Identity		
July 24	<p>Historical walking-tour guided by Annette Garcia, Historian and Executive Director of Cultura Mapocho.</p> <p>Cultura Mapocho is an NGO that provides educational resources on Chilean national heritage, connecting civil society to local and national policy-making channels.</p>	<p>Garretón. 2010. <i>La democracia incomplete en Chile: La realidad tras los rankings internacionales</i>. Revista de ciencia política, Vol 30, N. 1, pp. 115-148.</p> <p>Godoy Arcaya, Oscar. 1999. <i>La transición chilena a la democracia: pactada</i>. Estudios públicos, 74.</p> <p>Goicovic Donoso, Igor. 2000. “Del Control Social a La Política Social: La Conflictiva Relación Entre Los Jóvenes Populares Y El Estado En La Historia de Chile.” <i>Ultima Década</i> 8 (12): 103–23.</p> <p>Valenzuela, Germán Urzúa. 1992. <i>Historia política de Chile y su evolución electoral: desde 1810 a 1992</i>. Editorial Jurídica de Chile.</p> <p>Vergara, Gabriel Salazar, Julio Pinto Vallejos, and Julio Pinto. 1999. <i>Historia contemporánea de Chile: Estado, legitimidad, ciudadanía</i>. Lom Ediciones.</p>
July 29	<p>Lecture: <i>Creating a new constitution in Chile</i> Claudio Fuentes Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Academic and Associate Professor at the School of Social Sciences at Diego Portales University</p>	<p>Casals, Marcelo. 2017. “Democracia y dictadura en el Chile republicano. Prácticas, debates y conflicto político”. En <i>Historia política de Chile, 1810-2010</i>. Santiago: FCE, 331-360.</p> <p>Correa, Sofía y Ruiz-Tagle, Pablo. 2010. “Estructura y funciones del Estado”. En <i>Ciudadanos en democracia. Fundamentos del sistema político chileno</i>. Santiago: Debate, 241-272.</p>
July 30	<p>Lecture: <i>Chilean History through the years</i> Pablo Chiuminatto Ph.D., Professor of Social Sciences and Art, Academic and Associate Professor at the School of Letters at Pontifical Catholic University</p>	<p><a href="#">Historia de Chile</a></p> <p>Larraín B, F., Sachs, J. D., &amp; Warner, A. M. (2000). <i>A Structural Analysis of Chile's Long-Term Growth: History, Prospects and Policy Implications</i>.</p>

Module 2 – Indigenous Rights Movement: History and Politics		
August 30	Lecture: <i>The Mapuche conflict</i> Claudio Fuentes Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Academic and Associate Professor at the School of Social Sciences at Diego Portales University	Ranjan, R., Castillo, A., & Morales, K. (2021). Mapuche cosmovision and territorial rights: An interdisciplinary approach to understand the conflict of Wallmapu, Chile. <i>Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities</i> , 13(1), 1-20.  Maher, R., Pedemonte-Rojas, N., Gálvez, D., & Banerjee, S. B. (2023). The role of multistakeholder initiatives in the radicalization of resistance: The forest stewardship council and the Mapuche conflict in Chile. <i>Journal of Management Studies</i> .
September 5-8	Viaje a San Pedro de Atacama • Tour: Valle de la Luna • Tour: Piedras Rojas, Salar de Atacama • Tour: Geyiser de Tatio y Pueblo de Machuca Tour: Astronomic SpaceObs	Barros van H., Alonso. 2004. “Crónica de Una Etnia Anunciada: Nuevas Perspectivas de Investigación a 10 Años de Vigencia de La Ley Indígena En San Pedro de Atacama.” <i>Estudios Atacameños</i> , no. 27: 139–68.  Tarragó, Myriam Noemí. 1977. “Relaciones Prehispánicas Entre San Pedro de Atacama (Norte de Chile) Y Regiones Aledañas: La Quebrada de Humahuaca.” <i>Estudios Atacameños</i> , no. 5: 50–63.
November 9	Historical walking-tour through Huemul and Franklin neighborhoods, guided by Annette Garcia, Historian and Executive Director of Cultura Mapocho	<a href="#">Huemul neighborhood</a>  <a href="#">Franklin neighborhood</a>
Module 3 – Social Inequalities and Inclusion: Gender and Immigration		
July 26	Historical walking-tour through Patronato neighborhood, guided by Annette Garcia, Historian and Executive Director of Cultura Mapocho	<a href="#">Patronato neighborhood</a>  <a href="#">La Chimba neighborhood</a>
September 27	Lecture: <i>Social Inequalities in the Chilean society</i> Macarena Orchard Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Academic and Associate Professor at the School of Sociology at Diego Portales University	PNUD (2017). "Desiguales. Orígenes, cambios y desafíos de la brecha social en Chile". Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo: Santiago de Chile.
October 4	Lecture: <i>The recent history and current state of immigration in Chile</i> Carol Chan Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology and Migration, Academic and Associate Professor at the School of Anthropology at Diego Portales University	Riedemann, A., & Stefoni, C. (2015). Sobre el racismo, su negación, y las consecuencias para una educación anti-racista en la enseñanza secundaria chilena. <i>Polis. Revista Latinoamericana</i> , (42).  Finn, V., & Umpierrez de Reguero, S. (2020). Inclusive language for exclusive policies:

		Restrictive migration governance in Chile, 2018. <i>Latin American Policy</i> , 11(1), 42-61.
October 25	Lecture: <i>Urban Sociology: Territory, Segregation and Inequality</i> Miguel Pérez, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology, Academic, Associate Professor and Director of the School of Anthropology at Diego Portales University	Pérez, M., Palma, C. (2021). Peripheral Citizenship: Autoconstruction and Migration in Santiago, Chile. In: Kuppinger, P. (eds) <i>Emergent Spaces</i> . Palgrave Studies in Urban Anthropology. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.  Pérez, M. (2022). <i>The Right to Dignity: Housing Struggles, City Making, and Citizenship in Urban Chile</i> . Stanford University Press.
<b>Module 4 – Security and Organized Crime</b>		
November 8	Lecture: <i>Security and Organized Crime in Chile</i> Lucía Dammert, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science, Academic and Associate Professor of the School of Government at University of Santiago	<a href="#">Organized Crime Index: Chile</a>  Morandé, J. A. (2018). Government and Governance of Security. The Politics of Organized Crime in Chile. <i>Estudios internacionales (Santiago)</i> , 50(191), 109-115.
<b>Module 5 – Memory, Human Rights and Transitional Justice</b>		
August 9	Site Visit: <i>Guided tour of the Museum of Memory and Human Rights</i>	<a href="#">Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos</a>
August 23	Lecture: <i>The role of the United States in the Chilean dictatorship</i> Mauricio Paredes Ph.D., Professor of History, Academic and Resident Director of Syracuse Santiago	New York Times Archives, March 21, 1972. “Anderson Charges ‘Plot Against Allende by I.T.T. and C.I.A.’”  <a href="#">nsarchive2.gwu.edu</a> : “The Pinochet File: U.S. Declassifies Missing Documents”, “Prisoner Abuse: Patterns from the Past”, “Secret CIA Report: Pinochet ‘Personally Ordered’ Washington Car-Bombing”, “Pinochet and the Letelier-Moffitt Murders: Implications for US Policy”
November 22	Lecture: <i>Humand Rights and Environmental Rights</i> Bernardita Boock Mg (c), President of the administrative board of Amnesty International Chile	<a href="#">Documental 1: "El río sueña" / SECAS - DEFENSORAS DE LAS AGUAS</a>  Larraín, S. (2006). El agua en Chile: entre los derechos humanos y las reglas del mercado. <i>Polis. Revista Latinoamericana</i> , (14).  Campos, M. F. A. (2020). Derechos humanos y medioambiente: La situación de los defensores ambientales en América Latina, y los obstáculos legales e institucionales para su actuar. <i>Anuario de Derechos Humanos</i> , 16(1), 61-79.

Module 6 – Arte, Cultura y Sociedad		
July 25	Historical walking-tour through the Lastarria neighborhood, guided by Annette Garcia, Historiadora y Directora Ejecutiva de Centro Cultural Mapocho	Borsdorf, Axel, and Rodrigo Hidalgo. 2013. “Revitalization and Tugurization in the Historical Centre of Santiago de Chile.” <i>Cities</i> 31 (April): 96–104. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2012.09.005">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2012.09.005</a> .  Lopez-Morales, Ernesto. n.d. “Gentrification by Ground Rent Dispossession: The Shadows Cast by Large-Scale Urban Renewal in Santiago de Chile.” <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> 35 (2): 330–57. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2427.2010.00961.x">https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1468-2427.2010.00961.x</a> .
July 30	Site visit to Cerro San Cristobal, church and pilgrimage site	Bleiker, Roland. 1999. “Pablo Neruda and the Struggle for Political Memory.” <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 20 (6): 1129–42. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/01436599913325">https://doi.org/10.1080/01436599913325</a> .
September 5-8	Site Visit: San Pedro de Atacama <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tour: Valle de la Luna</li> <li>• Tour: Experiencia Atacameña and Salar de Atacama</li> <li>• Tour: Geyiser de Tatio y Pueblo de Machuca</li> </ul> Tour: Astronomic SpaceObs	Barros van H., Alonso. 2004. “Crónica de Una Etnia Anunciada: Nuevas Perspectivas de Investigación a 10 Años de Vigencia de La Ley Indígena En San Pedro de Atacama.” <i>Estudios Atacameños</i> , no. 27: 139–68.  Tarragó, Myriam Noemí. 1977. “Relaciones Prehispánicas Entre San Pedro de Atacama (Norte de Chile) Y Regiones Aledañas: La Quebrada de Humahuaca.” <i>Estudios Atacameños</i> , no. 5: 50–63.
September 13	Lecture: Chilean Music Rocio Rojas University of Santiago	<a href="#">Chile y su Música</a> <a href="#">El Folclor musical de Chile y sus tres grandes raíces</a> <a href="#">Las dos décadas que cambiaron la música chilena</a>
October 17-20	Site Visit: Coyhaique, Patagonia. Historical presentation and discussion with historian of the region.	<a href="#">Patagonia Azul</a> <a href="#">Estado Salmonero</a> <a href="#">Preguntas por mi tierra</a>
November 15	Site Visit: Isla Negra Tour home of Pablo Neruda	<a href="#">Casa Museo Pablo Neruda</a>

Critical Reflection Essays	
#1: Friday, August 9	#4: Friday, October 25
#2: Friday, September 13	#5: Friday, November 22
#3: Friday, October 4	

Final Research Project	
Project Proposal	Friday, October 25
Faculty Conferences	Regularly throughout semester
Final Presentation	Friday, December 6
Final Research Paper	Friday, November 29

### VIII. Complementary materials

Galeano, Eduardo. 1997. *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*.

Baradit, Jorge. 2016. *Historia Secreta de Chile*.

Suggested films:

- "Machuca" (2004).
- "The Chicago Boys" (2015).
- "Una mujer fantástica" (2017).
- "El primero de la familia" (2016).
- "Mary & Mike," Chilevisión (2018).