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### SPNS 331.01: Cultures and Societies of Latin America

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# SPNS 331: CULTURES AND SOCIETIES OF LATIN AMERICA

Spring 2022

**Instructor: Professor Clary Loisel**

**Office: LA 428**

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**Telephone: 406-243-2720**

**Office hours: MWF 8:30-9:00 and 11:00-11:30**

**Course Meeting Times: MWF 9:00-9:50**

**Course Location: LA 201**

*"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." - John Dewey*

*"Spanish. Bestow great attention on this and endeavor to acquire an accurate knowledge of it. Our future connection with Spain and Spanish America will render that language a valuable acquisition." -- Thomas Jefferson (1787)*

**From the Provost: Please note the bullets below are written with a student audience in mind (the "you" being students):**

**Mask use is required within the classroom or laboratory.**

**If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.**

**If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress.**

**UM recommends students get the COVID vaccine and booster. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to the Curry Health Center.**

**Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.**

## Announcements:

Suggested syllabus language about COVID from the Provost:

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Drinking liquids and eating food is discouraged within the classroom.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>

If you are a student with a disability and wish to discuss reasonable accommodations for this course, please contact me immediately via an office visit to discuss the specific course accommodations you wish to request. Please be advised that I request you to provide a letter from Disability Services for Students verifying your right to reasonable modifications. If you have not yet contacted Disability Services located in Lommasson Center 154, please do so in order to verify your disability and to coordinate your reasonable modifications. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at [www.umt.edu/dss/](http://www.umt.edu/dss/).

**Course Description:** <sup>[SEP]</sup> (Taught in Spanish). SPNS 331 is an interdisciplinary introduction to Latin American culture, society, and history with emphasis on contemporary aspects. Focusing on the social and political development of Latin America, the course will reveal the unity and diversity that characterize contemporary Latin American culture. Typical topics for study include: the pre-Columbian civilizations and their cultural legacy; the conquistadores and the

colonial period; the independence movements, the search for and the definition of an American identity; the twentieth-century dictatorships; and the move toward democracy.

#### Goals:

- 1) Acquire general knowledge about the different cultures and countries of Latin America. Be able to locate specific countries, capitals, and other geographical features on a map.
- 2) Recognize that different variables and expectations, such as sex, social class, religion, race, place of residence, etc., affect the way a person thinks, speaks and behaves.
- 3) Understand that in order to effectively communicate with people from other cultures, it is necessary to discover and understand the images and literature that are part of a cultural, political, social and economic heritage.
- 4) Improve proficiency in oral and written Spanish through reading, participation in discussions, presentations in class and writing assignments and exams. Receive the fundamental critical analytical tools for advanced courses in Spanish (at the 400 level).

#### Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Identify the main indigenous groups in pre-Colombian societies and the impact conquest and colonization by European monarchies had on them.
  - 2) Identify the main ethnic groups that comprise Latin American societies today.
  - 3) Understand the problems of racial conflicts throughout Latin American history.
  - 4) Discuss the participation of women in history, politics, and culture.
  - 5) Identify Latin American immigration patterns (internal and external).
  - 6) Understand the importance that art, literature, and music had and still have in shaping cultural identity.
  - 7) Attain an understanding of how Latin American societies have dealt with political leadership, including authoritarian dictatorships.
  - 8) Understand the importance of US/Latin American relations.
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#### General Information:

- Prerequisite: SPAN 202 with a grade of C or better.
- Students need to complete all the readings assigned for each class and be prepared for active discussion in Spanish. Student will arrive to class with answers to assigned questions on each chapter to generate discussion.
- Students will be given instructions for their written assignments and for the final oral presentation.

**Required Text:** *Latinoamérica: su civilización y su cultura* by Eugenio Chang-Rodríguez. Fourth Edition. (Available at the UM Bookstore in the UC)

Regarding the textbook, here is a message from one of the company

representatives:

Message from Ann M. Borland ([ann.borland@cengage.com](mailto:ann.borland@cengage.com))

This book is available as an ebook -- ISBN: Latinoamérica: su civilización y su cultura **9781133378785** for \$30.99

Would you let your students know it is also available as an ebook in Cengage Unlimited for \$119.99 and they can rent a printed text for \$7.99 (free shipping and handling).

Again Cengage Unlimited gives them access to ALL Cengage titles for that price for the term.

Thanks!  
Annie

Required viewing of videos/movies OUTSIDE of class:

The movie “La historia oficial” will (hopefully!) be streamed.

The movie “City of God” is available on Amazon Prime.

### Assessment:

The course is structured so that the student regularly receives feedback so that (s)he can achieve the stated outcomes. Progress toward the stated outcomes is assessed using the following criteria:

Attendance:	10%
Active participation/preparation:	20%
Chapter Quizzes:	25%
Two 3-4 page papers (each is worth 15%):	30%
Oral Presentation:	15%

### GRADING SCALE

A = 94-100	C+ = 77-79	D- = 65
A- = 90-93	C = 73-76	F = 64 and below
B+ = 87-89	C- = 70-72	
B = 83-86	D+ = 68-69	
B- = 80-82	D = 66-67	

**Attendance:** Consistent attendance is essential to acquire the skills needed to improve your Spanish. The material in this course is cumulative and requires

constant practice. If you miss an important step along the way, your understanding of future concepts may be significantly impaired. Students are responsible for class work and assignments they miss. Please get the phone number from at least two of your classmates during the first week of classes. Please do not call or write me and ask me what you missed.

### ***Participation and Preparation:***

A satisfactory participation and preparation grade assumes that you come to class each day prepared to be actively engaged in all class activities. You will have the responsibility of reading over new material on your own before we go over it in class so that class time can be used to answer questions and go beyond what is in the textbook.

**Chapter Quizzes:** Open Book. Your best ten grades will count. These quizzes are intended to improve your reading comprehension in Spanish.

**Papers:** You will write two papers during the semester. Each paper must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point type, one-inch margins, and three to four pages in length. We will talk about paper topics at least one week in advance of the due date. Be sure you have a thesis statement—in fact, please underline it.

**If you do not turn in your paper at this stated time, your grade for the paper will be zero. I will only accept a late paper if you can provide a verifiable, documented excuse. I will NOT accept any type of technical problem as an excuse. If you are sick on the day in which a paper is due, be sure to get a note from your doctor; otherwise, I cannot accept your paper.**

I am interested in seeing how well you have synthesized the material presented in class during the semester as well as your ability to work independently. I, of course, will try to help you the best I can, but please do not expect me to pick a topic for you, tell you how to organize your paper, tell you what to say, or how to conclude. Furthermore, I will not answer specific questions concerning grammar or vocabulary. You may not ask anyone outside of this class for help; this includes proofreading and editing. Please do your own work. I would be happy to help guide you after you have chosen a topic and decided on a thesis. All the creative work, however, will be yours.

The Writing and Public Speaking Center provides one-on-one tutoring to students at all levels and at any time in the writing process. Visit now. Visit often. They're ready when you are. [www.umt.edu/writingcenter](http://www.umt.edu/writingcenter).

**There are no make-ups for quizzes. If you miss a reading quiz, whatever grade you make on the final oral presentation will substitute for the missing grade(s).**

**Final Oral Presentation:** In consultation with me, you will select a topic related to Latin America. Please feel free to peruse any of the chapters we did NOT cover in class for ideas. See chapters 17-19 in particular.

**Content Warning:** This course deals with several difficult topics, including gender-based violence and sexual assault. I will not take attendance during the discussions about Gendered Violence. All you need to do is send me an email stating that you are unable to attend class on that day. No details are needed. There are other topics in this class that may also trigger difficult memories for you. You should feel free to talk to me about any issues you have with the topics we are discussing and ask for excused absences.

### Calendario (tentative)

- Jan. 19: Introduction to the course.  
21: Chapter One: Unidad del mundo latinoamericano
- 24: Chapter One:  
26: Chapter One. Quiz due.  
28: Chapter Three: Las grandes civilizaciones precolombinas
- 31: Popol Vuh (fragmentos)
- Feb. 02: **No Class: Presidents' Day**  
04: Chapter Three. Quiz due. Chapter Four: Las exploraciones, la conquista y su significado
- 07: Chapter Four. Quiz due.  
09: Hernán Cortés  
11: Chapter Five: El regimen colonial y su legado
- 14: Chapter Five. Quiz due.  
16: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz "Nota biográfica y Hombres necios que acusáis"  
18: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz "Respuesta a Sor Filotea de la Cruz"
- 21: Chapter Eight: Las guerras por la independencia hispanoamericana  
23: Chapter Eight. Quiz due.  
25: Chapter Nine: Brasil monárquico y republicano
- 28: Chapter Nine. Quiz due.
- Mar. 02: Movie Preparation: "City of God"  
04: Discussion of movie
- 07: Discussion of movie (continued)  
09: Chapter Ten: Los países del Río de la Plata (Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay).  
11: Chapter 10. Quiz due. **First paper due**
- 14: Movie Preparation: "La historia oficial"  
16: Discussion of movie

- 18: Chapter Eleven: Los países andinos meridionales (Chile, Bolivia, Perú)
- 21: Spring Break  
23: Spring Break  
25: Spring Break
- 28: Chapter Eleven. Quiz due.  
30: Chapter Twelve: Los países andinos septentrionales (Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela)
- Apr. 01: Chapter Twelve. Quiz due.
- 04: Chapter Thirteen: México y su revolución  
06: Chapter Thirteen. Quiz due.  
08: The Storm that Swept Mexico (Documentary)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVWcgOcvgV0>  
**Second Paper Due**
- 11: Chapter Fourteen. Quiz due.  
13: Chapter Fourteen: Centroamérica republicana (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá)  
15: Chapter Fifteen: La personalidad hispánica de las Antillas Mayores (Cuba, República Dominicana, Puerto Rico)
- 18: Chapter Fifteen. Quiz due.  
20: Chapter Twenty: Feminismo en Latinoamérica e hispanos en EE. UU.  
22: Chapter Twenty. Quiz due.
- 25: Oral Presentations (Three per day)  
27: Oral Presentations (Three per day)  
29: Oral Presentations (Three per day)
- May 02: Oral Presentations (Three per day)  
04: Oral Presentations (Three per day)  
06: Last Class Day. Conclusion. Reminder about Course Evaluations.

**Finals begin: May 9 and end May 13**

**The day and time of the final exam cannot be changed. Please plan accordingly.**

**Mandatory Final Meeting: Comentario sobre las presentaciones orales.**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2022 from 10:10-12:10 in this classroom.**



**Grade Sheet: SPNS 331**

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendance: (10%)** \_\_\_\_\_

_____	_____
Participation/Preparation: (20%) _____	_____
_____	_____
Quizzes (25%) _____	_____
_____	_____
First Paper (15%)	_____
Second Paper (15%)	_____
Oral Presentation (15%)	_____
Course grade:	_____