

## Spanish 2215F/G – Exploring Hispanic Cultures I



**Professor: Rafael Montano**  
**AHB 3R02, Arts and Humanities Building**  
**E-mail: [rmontano@uwo.ca](mailto:rmontano@uwo.ca)**  
**Office Hours: T: 3:00-4:00 or by appointment**  
**Classes: Tuesday: T: 4:30-6:30; TH: 4:30-5:30**  
**Classroom: TC201**

**Antirequisite:** Spanish 2219F/G

**Please Note:** You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

### Academic Policies

<http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>

This page outlines and explains all the Academic Policies for undergraduate courses offered in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. All undergraduate course outlines refer to this page. Please also note the Departmental Practices and Support Services for Students.

### Course Content and objectives

This course is an introduction to reading, writing and researching in the Hispanic visual, performing, literary arts, and in socio-linguistics. The course has a double objective. First, to improve the Spanish language conversation, reading and writing skills of all students; and second, through the realization of research projects on the cultural

production of the Hispanic world, to improve the research abilities on a variety of aspects of the Hispanic cultures and civilizations on both sides of the Atlantic, Spain and Hispanic America. This year, we will be studying major cities (Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Madrid, Seville, Granada, Lima, Machu Pichu, Tenochtitlan, and Cusco) from a historical perspective and as cultural centers. The course will also examine representations of social and cultural movements on films and photography. Students will be doing research on major literary figures (Cervantes, Borges, Tirso de Molina, García Márquez, Humberto Ak'aba'l) and the impact of their work on world literature. Moreover, there will be an introduction on the history of the Spanish language, and a study on the Spanish language rich dialectical differences on both sides of the Atlantic.

## Methodology

Guided and assisted by the instructor, students will write one (1) annotated bibliography, selected from subjects proposed in this syllabus. Students will also write 1 short assignment and a final research essay. In addition, there will be six (6) brief quizzes or questionnaires on subjects taught and discussed in class. Moreover, each student will prepare and present in class the results of her/his research of one of the topics chosen from the list provided in this syllabus (the subject for this oral presentation must be different of the subject of the annotated bibliography). Finally, there will be a group project (instructions will be provided in class). Most classes will be student-centered, and the rest will be taught by the instructor or guest speakers.

## Learning outcomes

- At the end of the course students will have acquired an overall knowledge of different historical, cultural and linguistic aspects of Hispanic cultures
- Students will have improved their writing, reading skills and understanding of the Spanish language
- Students will have improved their analytical skills of cultural artifacts
- Students will have improved their research abilities on Arts and Humanities subjects.

## Grade distribution

1 written assignment	15%
1 oral presentation	10%
1 group project	15%
1 final essay	30%
1 annotated bibliography	10%
6 Quizzes	20%

## Texts required

For your final essay, you will choose one of this two literary works: *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, by Junot Díaz (New York: Riverhead Books, 2007), or *Piedra de sol /Sunstone*, a poem, written by Nobel Prize winner Mexican poet Octavio Paz. **Students who choose to write their final essays on both works will have a 10 per cent bonus added to the final essay grade.**

## Subjects for annotated bibliographies and oral presentations

Each student will choose 1 subject from the following list of possibilities.

### I History, Social and Natural Sciences

1. The work of fray Bernardino de Sahagún
2. Maya astronomy
3. History of the fall of Tenochtitlan, capital of the Aztec Empire
4. A brief history of the encyclopedia of Alfonso “El Sabio”
5. History of the Fall of Granada, the last Moorish city in Spain
6. A brief history of the Spanish Inquisition

7. History of Jews expulsion from Spain
8. A brief history of El Andaluz
9. One or two aspects of Aztec or Inca social and political system (e.g., government structures, social structure, economy, agriculture)
10. A brief history of the European debate on the nature of the inhabitants of the “New World”

## II Cultural expressions: Visual arts, literature, film and architecture.

1. Mesoamerican architecture (Maya or Aztec)
2. Inca architecture, cities, road and bridges
3. Moorish architecture
4. The Sefarad culture
5. The great 20<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish Painters
6. Music and the expansion of the Christian faith in the New World
7. Frida Khalo and Diego Rivera.
8. Caribbean Music movements or styles

## III Linguistics and system of communication

1. The problem of resolving the ideographic language of the Mayas
2. Brief history of Antonio de Nebrija’s grammar of the Castilian language
3. Andres Bello’s Grammar for Spanish-America
4. A linguistic map of Guatemala
5. A linguistic map of Mexico
6. A linguistic map of Bolivia
7. A linguistic map of Colombia
8. Changes in languages through contacts, e.g., Nahuatl-Spanish, Quechua-Spanish, Mayan languages-Spanish, Arabic-Spanish or English-Spanish
9. Books, codices and sculptures as repositories of knowledge and information
10. Linguistic work of religious missionaries
11. Spanglish and the transformation of languages

### Subjects for written assignments

1. *Aamores perros* a film by Alejandro González Iñárritu, **or** *Viridiana*, **or** *Los olvidados*, films by Luis Buñuel, **or** *The Mission* a film by Roland Joffé, **or** *Y tu mamá también*, by Alfonso Cuarón, **or** *Historia oficial*, Luis Puenzo
2. “Continuidad de los parques”, a short story written by Julio Cortázar, **or**, “La muñeca menor”, a short story by Rosario Ferré.

### **Instructions for the written assignment:**

Three (3) to five (5) pages, double space and Times New Roman font (12 points). The papers must include three secondary sources and at least one of them in Spanish. It should have a clearly articulated point of view, well written, and well structured. **Due October 5.**

### **Instructions for the annotated bibliography:**

Students will choose one subject from the list provided in this syllabus. The research on the subjects will consist in finding and writing fully developed abstracts of the information found in each source, and a bibliography of at least 5 entries of scholarly books or articles. **Due October 26**

### **Oral presentation**

In coordination with the instructor each student will choose one subject other than the one selected to write the annotated bibliography, and will present the results of the research to the rest of class. Presentation will be between 5 and 10 minutes. **Oral presentations will be scheduled on Tuesdays**

### **Final essay**

After reading one of the two proposed works (or the two) students will write an essay (a multimedia essay is also possible) using at least five (5) secondary sources, and at least two in Spanish. More instructions will be given in class about the format of the essay. **Due last day of classes.**

### **Quizzes**

All quizzes will cover only the content of two classes: the content of day when the quiz is scheduled, and the precedent class. The form will be multiple choice and will take no more than 30 minutes. Though most quizzes must be individually answered, some will be done in consultations with your peers.

### **Group project**

Students will form group of two (2) to a maximum of three (3) and work together to do a research and a group interpretation on a work of art or literature. It is expected the students use their creativity and initiative to come up with the best form to produce the better result. It could be a film or a multimedia essay. The project will have two stages: the first will be the outline (5%) and will be submitted and present in class (**October 24**), and the second will be the final version of the project, **due November 21**. The two best works will be presented in class. Further instructions will be provided in class.

<b>Spanish 2215F: Exploring Hispanic Cultures I *</b> <b>Room TC201</b>	
<b>Tuesdays</b> <b>4:30-6:30</b>	<b>Thursdays</b> <b>4:30-5:30</b>
	September 7: Introducción
September 12: Explorando conceptos de cultura Breves notas de la cartografía cultural en los dos lados del Atlántico	September 14: Encuentros y desencuentros: Historias y Cosmogonías. Imperios pre hispánicos
September 19: Imperios prehispánicos El Imperio español <b>Quiz 1</b>	September 21 Escribiendo y dibujando historia
September 26 Conquista y contradicciones: El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega y Sor Juana de la Cruz <b>Quiz 2</b>	September 28: Grandes figuras y obras del Siglo de Oro español <b>Inicio de presentaciones orales</b>
October 3 Grandes figuras y obras del Siglo de Oro español <b>Quiz 3</b>	October 5: Ciudades antiguas y modernas <b>Written assignment due</b>
October 10: <b>Reading Week</b>	October 12: <b>Reading Week</b>
October 17: Ciudades antiguas y modernas <b>Quiz 4</b>	October 19: Ciudades antiguas y modernas
October 24: <b>Presentations: Group Project outlines</b> <b>Quiz 5</b>	October 26: Grandes figuras de la cultura hispanoamericana contemporánea <b>Annotated bibliography due</b>
October 31: Grandes figuras de la cultura hispanoamericana contemporánea <b>Quiz 6</b>	November 2: Vanguardias artísticas y poéticas
November 7: “Vanguardias de la cocina”	November 9:
November 14: Film: Crystal Fairy and Magical Cactus	November 16: Grandes momentos del cine hispano Guest: Professor Constanza Burrucúa
November 21: Lenguas prehispánicas Mapa lingüístico del mundo hispano <b>Group Project due</b> <b>End of Oral Presentations</b>	November 23 Movimientos y literaturas indígenas

November 28 Movimientos y literaturas indígenas Movimientos y nuevas representaciones afrohispanoamericanas	November 30 Movimientos y nuevas representaciones afrohispanoamericanas
December 5 Conclusión <b>Final essay due</b>	.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There might still be changes, especially regarding the Guest Speakers</li> </ul>	