

WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
Sp2216 G Exploring Hispanic Culture II  
Winter 2018

(Please note: this course outline is subject to change)

**Professor:** Alena Robin

**Schedule:** Monday, 9:30-11:30, Wednesday, 9:30-10:30, Room TBA

**Email:** arobin82@uwo.ca

**Office:** AHB 3R08A

**Office Hour:** TBA

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to reading, writing and researching in literature, film, popular culture and digital Spanish. Students develop foundations in these fields through a series of case studies across generic, historical, geographical areas of the Hispanic world. This year, the course will focus on **food, markets and cooking** in the Hispanic world.

Mandatory readings include selected sections from Fray Bernardino de Sahagún *Historia general de la cosas de Nueva España*, Bernal Díaz del Castillo *Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España*, Rosario Castellanos *Lección de cocina* and Laura Esquivel *Como agua para chocolate*.

The course has a double objective. First, to improve the Spanish language comprehension, conversation, reading and writing skills of all students; and second, to acquire further knowledge of Hispanic cultures and civilizations on both sides of the Atlantic, Spain and Hispanic America, through different research projects on the culinary production of the Hispanic world.

**The course and evaluations will be in Spanish.**

**Pre-or Corequisite(s):** [Spanish 2200](#) or [Spanish 2200W/X](#) or permission of the Department.



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### II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Have improved the Spanish language comprehension, conversation, reading and writing skills;
- Have acquired further knowledge of the Hispanic world through different expressions of the culinary culture;
- Have improved their research abilities on Arts and Humanities subjects.

### III. EVALUATION

**Participation (15%):** Students are expected to attend every class unless medical circumstances prevent them from doing so (please see section below on department policies). The success of the course depends on the frequency and quality of the participation of its members. Assigned readings

should be done prior to class in order to be adequately discussed in class. Students will be asked to submit topics for discussion in advance to the professor (readings with \*). This will also be taken into consideration as part of the participation.

Being present in class does not necessarily imply participating in it. Similarly, being absent from class on a repetitive basis will seriously affect the participation mark.

When absent, it is still the student's responsibility to complete and turn in coursework on time and catch up on the material covered in class. Students must inform their professor by email of any absence as soon as possible.

**Field Trip and Photo essay (20%):** Discover Hispanic food in London, go out, look for Hispanic ingredients or eat in a Hispanic restaurant and create your own photo album of Hispanic Food! This assignment provides you with the opportunity to explore food and cooking through the camera lens. It is designed as an exercise in cultural observation, which encourages you to explore your artistic imagination and ethnographic skills. Further information will be provided in class. (Approximately 1500 words, 4 pages, 4 photos) **Due January 31.**

**Debate (20%):** According to the calendar of activities, students divided in small groups are expected to present a topic in relation to an assigned reading, animate and moderate the debate that their presentation will generate. Preferably by group of 4-5 people. This activity, in total, should cover the 50 minutes of the class. Further information will be provided in class. **Date TBA.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** For group activities, the same grade will be given to all members of a group.

**Essay (25%):** In this essay you are requested to report on your experience of reading Laura Esquivel's novel, *Como agua para chocolate*, using research components from the Arts and Humanities field. Further information will be provided in class. (Approximately 1500 words, 4 pages) **Due March 28**

**In- class presentations: My favorite Hispanic Recipe (10%):** By the end of the semester, students working in pairs will present a recipe of the Hispanic world. The presentations must be informative in their content about the cultural and history behind the recipe. (10-15 minutes). **Date TBA.**

**Last Supper (10%):** Hands on! By the end of the semester you will have been exposed to different cultural expressions of food in the Hispanic world. Nevertheless, no culinary experience is complete without sharing. As a final project to the course, the group will be responsible to plan a last supper from beginning to end. Further information will be provided in class. **Date and place TBA.**

The assignments will be graded on research, originality of thesis and approach, argument, structure and style. All written assignments must be in Times New Roman, 12 point font (no other font will be accepted), double-spaced, and prepared according to MLA style.

**IMPORTANT:** The only acceptable reason for turning in a late assignment or missing an examination is for medical purposes (see section on departmental policies below). Late assignments will lose 5 points per day (on 100%). Assignments turned in a week after the due date (7 days) will not be accepted and will receive a grade of "0."



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All university regulations concerning plagiarism apply. If you are unsure about plagiarism, please ask.

“Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of Registration.”

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The **Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures website at <http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

**Electronic Devices:** You are encouraged to bring tablets and laptops to class, as we may use them for some in-class activities. I expect you to avoid using cellphones in class and only use your laptop, tablet, or other technologies for note taking and in-class activities.