

Spanish 2215F/G – Exploring Hispanic Cultures I



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Office Hours: TH: 3:00-4:00 or by appointment
Classes: Tuesday: 4:30-6:30; Thursday: 4:30-5:30
Classroom: AHB 2B04

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, 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 the course will focus on representations of social and cultural movements on films. Also, students will be doing research on major literary figures (Borges, Carlos Fuentes, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Humberto Ak'aba'l) and the impact of their work on world literature.

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 2 short written assignment and a final research essay. In addition, there will be six (6) brief quizzes or questionnaires on subjects taught and discussed in class. 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

Attendance	3%
Participation	4%
2 written assignments	14%
1 short research paper	7%
1 group project	13%
1 final essay	35%
6 Quizzes	24%

Texts required

For your final essay, you will choose one of two works: a short novel, *Aura*, by Carlos Fuentes, or *El Abencerraje*, anonym; or a film: *El secreto de sus ojos*, Dir. Juan José Campanella.

Important: More reading material may be added to complement the course lessons

Subjects for the short research paper.

I History, Social and Natural Sciences

1. The work of fray Bernardino de Sahagún
2. Maya Calendars
3. History of the Fall of Granada, the last Moorish city in Spain
4. History of the expulsion of Jews from Spain
5. What was El Andaluz?
6. One or two aspects of Aztec or Inca social and political system (e.g., government structures, social structure, economy, agriculture)

7. What was the European debate between fray Bartolomé de las Casas and Juan Ginés de Sepúlveda on the nature of the inhabitants of the “New World”
8. The Mexican Revolution
9. The Cuban Revolution
10. Simón Bolívar struggle for the independence
11. Dr. Norman Bethune and the Spanish Civil War

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

1. Inca architecture, cities, road and bridges
2. Moorish architecture
3. The great 20th Century Spanish Painters (no more than two painters)
4. Music and the expansion of the Christian faith in the New World
5. Frida Khalo and/or Diego Rivera.
6. Caribbean Music movements or genres (Choose no more than two movements or genres)
7. Mexican muralists

III Linguistics and system of communication

1. The problem of resolving the ideographic language of the Mayas
2. A linguistic map of Guatemala
3. A linguistic map of Bolivia
4. A linguistic map of Colombia
5. Changes in languages through contacts, e.g., Nahuatl-Spanish, Quechua-Spanish, Mayan languages-Spanish, Arabic-Spanish or English-Spanish
6. Books, codices and sculptures as repositories of knowledge and information
7. Spanglish and the transformation of languages

Subjects for written assignments

1. *Los olvidados*, films by Luis Buñuel, **or** *Y tu mamá también*, by Alfonso Cuarón, **or** *Historia oficial*, Luis Puenzo
2. “El sur”, a short story written by Jorge Luis Borges.

Instructions for the written assignments:

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 (your own interpretation of the text), well written, and well structured. First: **Due September 26, and second: October 24**

Instructions for the short research paper.

From the above three lists of subjects, student can choose one and write a research paper of out 4-5 pages. This paper will present what the student has been able to gather and select from books and scholarly articles. I will include at least five sources, and at least two in Spanish. Please come to see me for advice once you have chosen your subject. **Due November 12**

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 mostly of two classes: the content of the day when the quiz is scheduled, and the precedent class, or all the classes from the last quiz. 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, or even, set a play to be presented in class. It is expected the students use their creativity and initiative to come up with the best form to produce the better result. Suggestions: 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 15**), and the second will be the final version of the project, **due November 21**. Further instructions will be provided in class.

. If after reading the instructions for all the work required you still feel that you need more information, please, come to see me during my office hours o make an appointment.

Attendance: a student who misses more than 3 classes will automatically loose his mark on attendance

Spanish 2215F: Exploring Hispanic Cultures I * Room TC201	
Tuesdays 4:30-6:30	Thursdays 4:30-5:30
	September 5: Clase 1 Introducción Explorando conceptos de cultura
September 10: Clase 2 Breves notas de la cartografía cultural en los dos lados del Atlántico	September 12: Clase 3 Encuentros y desencuentros: Historias y Cosmogonías. Imperios pre hispánicos
September 17: Clase 4 Imperios prehispánicos El Imperio español	September 19: Clase 5 Formas textuales y visuales para los registros de la historia
September 24: Clase 6 El Siglo de Oro español: Literatura y teatro Miguel de Cervantes Teatro Quiz 1	September 26: Clase 7 Siglo de Oro: Pintura Diego de Velázquez El Greco First Written assignment due
October 1: Clase 8 Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz y la Nueva España Quiz 2	October 3: Clase 9 Discusión: <i>Yo, la peor de todas (I The Worst of All) *</i> , María Luisa Bemberg
October 8: Clase 10 .Cuba: esclavitud y el cultivo de la caña de azúcar <i>La última cena* (The Last Supper)</i> , Gutiérrez Alea https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_CPbHlgnF4 Warning: This film has explicit violent scenes, if you have any problem watching violence in films, let me know.	October 10: Clase 11 Discusión de Film: <i>La última cena* (The Last Supper)</i> , Gutiérrez Alea
October 15: Clase 12 Presentations: Group Project outlines Quiz 3	October 17: Clase 13 Grandes figuras de la cultura hispanoamericana contemporánea: Los escritores del Boom
October 22: Clase 14 Grandes figuras de la cultura hispanoamericana contemporánea: El Boom de las escritoras	October 24: Clase 15 Vanguardias artísticas y poéticas Second Written assignment

Quiz 4	
October 29: Clase 16 El surrealismo: Luis Buñuel, Dali , Lorca y Frida Khalo	October 31: Clase 17 Discusión sobre <i>Viridiana*</i> , Luis Buñuel
November 5: Reading week	November 7: Reading week
November 12: Clase 18 Film: <i>Abrazo de la serpiente (Embrace of the Serpent)</i> , Ciro Guerra Short research papper due	November 14: Clase 19 Discusión sobre <i>Abrazo de la serpiente</i>
November 19: Clase 20 Lenguas prehispánicas Group Project due Quiz 5	November 21: Clase 21 Final essay discussion, and outline presentations, by appointment.
November 26: Clase 22 6 figuras políticas que han marcado la historia Quiz 6	November 28: Clase 23 Guillermo Gómez Peña https://www.artandeducation.net/classroom/video/244623/coco-fusco-and-guillermo-gmez-pea-the-couple-in-the-cage-two-undiscovered-amerindians-visit-the-west Movimientos y literaturas indígenas Movimientos y nuevas representaciones afrohispanoamericanas
December 3: Clase 24 Movimientos y nuevas representaciones afrohispanoamericanas	December 5: Clase 25 Conclusión Final essay due
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There might still be changes, especially regarding the Guest Speakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Films that student must watch previous our discussion in class. • Though they can be of easy access (internet), you can find and watch them at UC 1126 / 1126A. Except The Last Supper (Gutiérrez Alea).