



Syllabus

Latin American Culture I

1138-SPN4520VC1138-84151

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General Information

Professor Information



Instructor:

Dr. Maida Watson

Office Hours:

By Appointment

E-mail:

See *Course Communication*

Course Description And Purpose

This course is designed to provide students with a background in the historical and cultural currents both from Spain and from the pre-Colombian cultures that created Latin America. The course will study the Spanish roots and the roots of the major pre-Colombian cultures from before the 15th century and the mixture of these cultures in Latin America from the late fifteenth to the late nineteenth centuries. Since the readings are all in Spanish and all essays are written in Spanish students will also improve their command of Spanish vocabulary by reading essays and book chapters in Spanish on social and historical topics and their command of written Spanish by writing their exam answers and compositions in Spanish.

This course meets the requirement for a Global Learning course.

Course Objectives

Estudiantes serán capaces de:

Entender las características principales de la cultura latinoamericana. Este curso estará enfocado en estudiar y analizar las principales características de la cultura

latinoamericana y su relación con los procesos históricos que suscitaron su origen. El contenido asion y sociocultural ass la base fundamental para el análisis de la evolución y estructuración de la cultura latino asion i.

Las lecturas seleccionadas de este curso permitirán al estudiante tener una asion ism más profunda y elaborada de la evolución de la identidad y el discurso latinoamericano. Estas están compuestas por textos que cubren desde el assio precolombino hasta el assio de la independendencia. Además estas lecturas van acompañadas de diferentes materiales didácticos como películas, documentales y música.

- Entender las características principales de la cultura latinoamericana y su conexión con los procesos históricos que le dan origen.
- Distinguir las similitudes y diferencias en evolución cultural e histórica de los diferentes países de América Latina.
- Adquirir una visión más clara acerca de la influencia de la diversidad histórica y cultural en la región
- Analizar como diferentes factores políticos y geográficos afectaron el desarrollo y protagonismo económico, social y cultural de Latinoamérica en el mundo moderno
- Entender la influencia de los factores políticos, históricos y socio culturales en el desarrollo de la identidad latinoamericana.

Important Information

Policies

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

Technical Requirements & Skills

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

Accessibility And Accomodation

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

Please visit [Blackboard's Commitment Accessibility](#) webpage for more information.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite: ability to understand Spanish at advanced level. Review the [Course Catalog](#) webpage for prerequisites information.

Proctored Exam Policy

Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Proctored Exam Resources](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

Textbook



The Penguin History of Latin America

Edwin Williamson

Penguin, 10th Edition, 2009

ISBN-10: 0141034750

ISBN-13: 9780141034751

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

In addition to the readings on the course page, there is a book, The Penguin History of Latin America which you will need to read so that you can understand the process by which all these units are connected. It is in English because there is no book in Spanish that is as clear and as easy to read as this book. You need to read pp 3-167 and then pages 195-285 in the book. I recommend that you read it BEFORE the course starts so that you have a good overview of the subject of the course. Pages 3-77 are background to unidades 1-5; pages 77-116 go with unidades 6 and 7, pages 116-167 with unidades 8-10; pages 195-285 go with unidades 11 and 12 There are no questions from this book on the test, but you need the information to understand what terms like the Spanish American colony, the Conquest of Latin America and what the Reconquista mean.

Expectations Of This Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-

discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **Review the how to get started information** located in the course content
- **Introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- **Take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with Blackboard
- **Interact** online with instructor/s and peers
- **Review** and follow the course calendar
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

Course Detail

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via Messages ONLY and must be entirely in SPANISH.

Messages is a private and secure text-based communication system which occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Blackboard to send, receive, or read messages. The Messages tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course webpage. It is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

Visit our [Writing Resources](#) webpage for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that forum discussions are public, and care should be taken when determining what to post. Students are required to create a student homepage and write a three-paragraph description about themselves and their goals for this course; it is recommended that students post a picture of themselves. 5% of the course grade will be based the student homepage.

THE STUDENT HOMEPAGE MUST BE WRITTEN COMPLETELY IN SPANISH. ANY HOMEPAGE IN ENGLISH WILL RECEIVE ZERO (0) POINTS.

TO CREATE A STUDENT HOMEPAGE go to the discussions link from the course tools menu and click on student homepage topic.

Assessments

There are 6 exams which you will take on line and which will be open during 4 days. All exams will be in Spanish. The six tests are multiple choice and will be based on the readings which are due BEFORE the test opens.

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#). Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

Assignments

There is one long paper which is 600 words and 8 smaller ones of 300 words each. Papers will be written in Spanish with proper use of written accents and correct grammar and spelling. Topics for the papers are under ensayos in the assignment dropbox.

There are also 8 short essays due during the course. The topics will be listed on the course content under each lesson. They have to be written in Spanish with proper use of written accents and correct grammar and spelling.

Grading

Course Requirements	Number of Items	Weight
Student Home Page	1	5%
Long Essay	1	30%
Quizzes	6	35%
Short Essays	8	30%
Total	10	100%

Letter	Range	Letter	Range	Letter	Range
A	100-92.5	B-	82.4-79.5	D+	69.4-66.5
A-	92.4-89.5	C+	79.4-76.5	D	66.4-62.5

Letter	Range	Letter	Range	Letter	Range
B+	89.4-86.5	C	76.4-72.5	D-	62.4-59.5
B	86.4-82.5	C-	72.4-69.5	F	< 59.4

Course Calendar

Module Weekly Schedule

UNIDAD I - LOS AZTECAS I
<p>August. 26 – September 8</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Así vivían los aztecas • Read El mundo azteca organización social de los aztecas • Watch Películas aztecas <p>Due: Create student homepage. Please introduce yourself in Spanish and post a picture. Student homepage due Sept. 2</p>
UNIDAD II - LOS AZTECAS II
<p>August 26 – September 8</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Así vivían los aztecas 2 • View Los aztecas PPTs <p>Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensayo corto 1 due Sept 8. • Test 1: You will have 90 minutes to complete the test. It will cover all reading on the Aztecs and the audios and movies on the Aztecs. Be sure and watch the Los Aztecas PPT before you take the test. Test 1 opens on Sept 4 and closes

UNIDAD II - LOS AZTECAS II

Sept 8 at 23:55 EST.

UNIDAD III - LOS INDIOS DEL PERÚ E INCAS**September 9 – 22****Tasks:**

- Read La época prehispánica
- Read El imperio incaico
- Read Culturas de Centroamérica y los Andes Septentrionales

UNIDAD IV - LA CULTURA INCA**September 9 – September 22****Tasks:**

- Watch Los incas PPT Read Moche Culture
- Read Articles in El incario folder
- Watch Películas incas

Due:

- Ensayo corto 2 due Sep 22.
- Test 2: You will have 90 minutes to complete the test. It will cover all the readings on the Inca and the Indians of Peru, the Powerpoint, the videos, and the movies. Be sure to watch the Powerpoint on the Incas in Unidad 4 before taking the test. Test 2 opens on Sep 18 and closes on Sep 22

UNIDAD V - LOS MAYAS**September 23 - 29****Tasks:**

- Read Mayan Life

UNIDAD V - LOS MAYAS

- Read Misterios de la cultura maya
- Watch Mayan Movies

Due:

- Ensayo corto 3: due September 29
- Test 3: You will have 90 minutes to complete the test. It will cover all the material on the Mayans and the movies on the Mayans. Notice there are 2 Powerpoints on the Mayans in Unidad 5. Be sure to watch them both before taking the test. Test 3 opens on Sep. 25 closes on September 29.

UNIDAD VI - ESPAÑA: SU GEOGRAFÍA Y SU HISTORIA HASTA LA RECONQUISTA**September 30 - October 13****Tasks:**

- Read La Cultura de España I and II Read La España Antes 1492
- Read España Medieval
- Read Los judíos
- Read Raíces de España
- Watch the audios
- Listen to the three songs

**UNIDAD VII - ESPAÑA: SU GEOGRAFÍA Y SU HISTORIA HASTA LA RECONQUISTA
PARTE 2****September 30 – October 13****Tasks:**

- Watch Europe in the Middle Ages
- Watch the movie Cities of light

Due:

- Test 4: You will have 90 minutes to complete the test. It will cover all the material on Spain before 1492 and the audio and documentaries. Watch the

**UNIDAD VII - ESPAÑA: SU GEOGRAFÍA Y SU HISTORIA HASTA LA RECONQUISTA
PARTE 2**

Powerpoint on Spain before taking the test. Test 4 opens on Oct 9 and closes on Oct 13

- Ensayo corto : Ensayo corto 4 due Oct. 13

UNIDAD VIII – DESCUBRIMIENTO y LA COLONIA I**October 14 – November 3****Tasks:**

- Watch The Conquista Powerpoint and the Reconquista versus Conquista Powerpoint
- Read Cultura hispanoamericana I,II, and III Read El conquistador hispano
- Read descubrimientos y descubridores
- Read Capítulos
- Watch Movies about Cortés, and the movie Guns Germs and Steel

UNIDAD IX - LA COLONIA 2**October 14 to November 3****Tasks:**

- Read La esclavitud africana en América
- Read Descubrimiento y conquista de América
- Read La sociedad indiana I, II, and III Read La población I and II
- Read La colonización

Due: The long essay (600-900 words) is due Nov 3

UNIDAD X – LA COLONIA 3**October 14 – November 3**

UNIDAD X – LA COLONIA 3**Tasks:**

- Read La comida en México I and II Read Comida en las colonias
- Watch the video Los alimentos americanos llegan a Europa

Due:

- Ensayo corto 5 due Nov 3.
- Test 5: You will have 90 minutes to complete the test. It will cover all the readings on the Colony including the audios and the documentary called La edad de oro. Test# 5 opens Oct 31 and closes Nov 3

UNIDAD XI - LA INDEPENDENCIA**November 4 – December 8****Tasks:**

- Read The Terror
- Read Siglo XIX parts I and II
- Read Patrón y peón
- Read Estanciero

Due:

- Ensayo corto 6 due Nov. 17
- Ensayo corto 7 due Nov 22.

UNIDAD XII – CAMILA**November 4 – December 8****Tasks:**

- Watch “Camila”

Due:

- Test 6: You will have 90 minutes to complete your test. It will cover all the

UNIDAD XII – CAMILA

readings on the 19th century and the independencía. Be sure and watch the Powerpoint on the 19th century before you take the exam. Test 6 opens Dec 4 and closes Dec 8.

- Ensayo corto 8 due Due Dec 8.

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