

Spn 314-001
Culture and Civilization of Latin America
Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Yosálida C. Rivero-Zaritzky.
Classroom: Knight Hall 100.
Class Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday 3:05 – 4:20 pm.
Office: Knight Hall 112.
Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 2:00 – 2:50 pm by appointment.
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Course Description:

This course is designed to engage and prepare students in a cultural, historical and geographical exploration of Latin America while continuing the enhancement and refinement of the four language skills (listening, reading, writing, and speaking). Classroom discussions will be supplemented by films and readings from newspapers, magazines and selected literary works which highlight the political, historical and social situation of Latin America today.

Course objectives:

The following descriptions outline the degree of proficiency in each of the four language skills which successful students should attain by the end of this upper level.

- ✦ Speaking: Ability to resolve questions in small groups. Ability to articulate personal point of views in front of the class.
- ✦ Listening: Ability to comprehend a lecture in Spanish from a native speaker.
- ✦ Reading: Ability to understand upper-level Spanish texts.
- ✦ Writing: Ability to write essays of 5 to 7 pages in Spanish.

Required Texts:

McVey Gil, Mary and Teresa Méndez-Faith. *Cultura y cine. Hispanoamérica hoy*. Newburyport: Focus Publishing, 2012. Print (ISBN: 978-1-58510-424-6)
Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th Edition. New York: The Modern Language Association, 2009. (ISBN: 9781603290241)

Course Requirements:

- ✦ **Attendance (10%)** is mandatory in this class. You will be permitted a total of **3 absences**, excused or unexcused. After that, no matter the cause of your nonattendance, each absence will reduce 2 point from your final grade in addition to affecting your attendance grade (No exceptions!). If you miss **6 days of class** you automatically fail the class.

You will see in your reports that I will count ALL your absences (excused or unexcused). At the end of the semester I will erase up to **3 absences**; so if you do not exceed that magic number you will end up earning the full 10%.

A roster will circulate daily. Make sure you sign it since this is the only proof that you were or not in the classroom. Please be wise in your use of absences and try to avoid scheduling appointments or meetings during class hours. I strongly recommend that you keep track of your absences.

Late arrivals are not acceptable. Student cannot enter the classroom 10 minutes after the class started (See the section “In-class behavior”).

If a student does not attend the first day of class, the instructor reserves the right to

apply an administrative drop.

If you stop attending class, it is your responsibility to withdraw from the class on or before **Thursday, March 26** or a grade of F will appear in your records.

Obtaining materials, assignments, or announcements from classes you have failed to attend is your responsibility.

IMPORTANT: Unless your absence is excused (i.e. jury duty, medical emergency, or a Dean's excuse due to university activities), **and** unless you show the professor written documentation substantiating the reason for your absence, you will receive no credit for the missed quiz, in class participation, short writing or other assignments.

✚ **Participation (15%).** This part of your grade includes your contribution in Spanish in regular class sessions and **active** participation in small group activities. If you are absent you will receive a zero for the day unless you have a **documented excuse**, in which case there will be no penalty. If you are in class but are not prepared and/or do not participate, you will receive a zero for the day. Your proficiency will be assessed every day and the range is from 0 to 2 points. This takes into consideration but is not limited to:

- How much you use Spanish.
- How well you use Spanish (according to your level).
- Your preparation for class. (**Pop quizzes** will be administrated as necessary if I detect that the students are not coming prepared to class).
- Your cooperation and leadership in pair and group work.
- Your respect and attitude towards the class, your peers, and your instructor.

✚ **Exams (40%).** There will be two exams (20% each). Make sure you do not miss these days.

✚ **Essays (35%).** There will be two essays, the first one 15% (5 pages) and the second 20% (7 pages). It is **expected** that you use the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* to format your papers properly, cite secondary sources, and list all the works consulted at the end of your essays. The minimum number of pages of your paper does not include the bibliography. In other words if the minimum is 5 pages, your list of works consulted must be on the sixth page. Please, read carefully the section **The Honor Code**. Do not jeopardize your grade due to lack of academic integrity.

Grading Scale and Distribution: (No curving. Grades ending in .5 or higher round up, grades ending in .4 or lower round down. No exceptions!)

	Report 1 4th week	Report 2 8th week	Report 3 12th week	Report 4 16th week
# of absences				
Attendance (10%)				
Participation (15%)				
Exam 1 (20%)				
Writing 1 (15%)				
Exam 2 (20%)				
Writing 2 (20%)				
Deducted points				
TOTAL	/ 25	/ 45	/ 60	/ 100
A-F				

***No extra credit assignments are offered.**

Each report has a different maximum value based on the completed assignments. In order to calculate your grade on a 100 points scale you need to follow this formula, i.e. if you received a 20 out of 25 on your first report you will do the following:

$$25 \text{ points} = 100\%$$

$$20 \text{ points} = X \quad X = 20 * 100/25 = 80\% \text{ (B)}$$

Remember that after your 5th absence, each absence will reduce 2 points from your final grade.

A = 100 - 90	B + = 89 - 87	C + = 79 - 77	D = 69 - 66	F = 65 or bellow
	B = 86 - 80	C = 76 - 70		
		S = 100 - 70	U = 69 or bellow	

No incompletes

Course Policies:

- ✚ **Make-up Work** is given only to students who have documented absences such as: jury duty, a medical emergency, or a Dean's excuse due to university activities. In that case, all make-up work must be completed **within three days of the scheduled assignment** or a grade of zero will be given. I will not postpone assignments because of workload in your other classes.
- ✚ **Language to be used in the classroom.** It is expected that you use Spanish during class, and your instructor will address the class in Spanish 90 to 100 percent of the time. English will be used only when strictly necessary.
- ✚ **In-class behavior.**
 - Students must treat their instructor and classmates with respect.
 - Students must bring their own textbook to class every day and also are responsible for bringing any other materials that the professor requests for that class.
 - According to the **University Policy on Cell Phones and Pager Use**, all cell phones, and pagers must be turned off before entering any classroom, lab, or formal academic or performance event. If your phone rings while you are in class you will be ask to leave the classroom for the day, resulting in an absence and zero in participation.
 - No text messaging is allowed. If you are caught doing it you will be ask to leave the classroom for the day, resulting in an absence and zero in participation.
 - No laptops are allowed.
 - Students must arrive to class on time. Students may not enter more than 10 minutes late, or leave early. If a student enters class more than 10 minutes late, the instructor will ask that student to leave the classroom.
 - Students are not allowed to leave and then return in the middle of class.
- ✚ **The Honor Code** is a very important and serious matter; so please do not jeopardize your grades or academic status by violating it. In accordance with it:

A violation of the Honor Code involves cheating, plagiarism, academic negligence, or other acts of dishonesty in the area of academics. It is the responsibility of the student to ascertain what would constitute a violation of the Honor Code in any given situation. One has an additional responsibility to understand fully a professor's position in special situations which may be present in his or her course. Ignorance of a professor's expressed class policy is not an excuse for an

Honor Code violation.

The most frequent violations of the Honor Code are cheating and plagiarism:

Cheating is the taking of credit for work which has been done by another person. The following are some of the more common instances of cheating:

- 1) Using notes, textbooks, or reference materials on a test, daily quiz, or examination unless the use of such materials is specifically permitted by the professor;
- 2) Copying ideas or facts from another's papers during a test situation;
- 3) Giving or receiving facts or ideas either verbally or in writing during a test situation;
- 4) Obtaining test questions which a teacher does not release for further reference;
- 5) Obtaining or giving specific information which will be on a test before the test is administered;
- 6) Using unassigned translations in a reading course in a foreign language. [**The use of on-line translator to complete assignments in this class is strictly prohibited**]

It is to be emphasized that these examples are not the only possible ones. They are listed in order to give the student a general idea of what constitutes an Honor Code violation.

Plagiarism is defined as the use of ideas, facts, phrases, or additional materials such as maps and charts from any source without giving proper credit (as specified below) for such material. Any material in a paper or report which is not acknowledged is understood to be the original work of the author, regardless of misinformation, carelessness, sloppiness, or typographical errors.

[. . .]

Referencing Procedures:

If a professor specifies a class policy on referencing, it must be followed. If no class policy is specified, it is the student's responsibility to learn of any departmental manuals. [. . .] If there is no specified CLA policy or departmental manual, the policy must be as is specified in the most current *MLA Handbook*.¹

✚ University Accommodation Policy. In accordance with Support Services for Students with Disabilities:

Students requiring accommodations for a disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting or as soon as possible. The instructor will refer you to the Disability Support Services Coordinator to document your disability, determine eligibility for accommodations under the ADA/Section 504 and to request a Faculty Accommodation Form. Disability accommodations or status will not be indicated on academic transcripts. In order to receive accommodations in a class, students with sensory, learning, psychological, physical or medical disabilities must provide their instructor with a Faculty Accommodation Form to sign. Students must return the signed form to the Disability Services Coordinator. A new form must be requested each semester. Students with a history of a disability, perceived as having a disability or with a current disability who do not wish to use academic accommodations are also strongly encouraged to register with the Disability Services Coordinator and request a Faculty Accommodation Form each semester. For further information, please contact Carole Burrowbridge, Disability Services Coordinator, at 301-2778 or visit the Disability Support Services website at

¹ "Honor System." *Lair, Mercer University's Student Handbook*. 24 May 2006
<<http://www.mercer.edu/honorcode/history.html>>.

<http://www.mercer.edu/studentaffairs/disabilityservices.2>

- ✦ **Scholarships.** If you have a scholarship, congratulations! It is a great privilege, but I need to remind you that it is your responsibility to do the necessary work in order to maintain it. Your instructor will not give special concessions. The grade you will receive is the one that you have earned throughout the semester.

NOTE: The professor reserves the right to make adjustments to this syllabus as she deems necessary. She also reserves the right to make decisions on all issues not specifically addressed in these pages. The student's continued enrollment in this course indicates his or her agreement to the terms and conditions of this syllabus.

Calendario de clases:

Sem	Fecha	Contenido
1	Martes 13 de enero	Introducción al curso. Tarea para la próxima clase: Investigar las características de las civilizaciones Incas, Mayas y Aztecas.
	Jueves 15 de enero	Civilizaciones precolombinas. (Grandes civilizaciones) Tarea para la próxima clase: Ver <i>The Mission</i> (1986) en http://film21.co.uk/movie/0091530-The-Mission/
2	Martes 20 de enero	Civilizaciones precolombinas. (Civilizaciones nómadas) Discusión de <i>The Mission</i> .
	Jueves 22 de enero	Civilizaciones precolombinas. (Indígenas ayer y hoy) <i>También la lluvia</i> (2010) (55 min)
3	Martes 27 de enero	<i>También la lluvia</i> (2010) (48 min) Discusión.
	Jueves 29 de enero	Capítulo 1: Sudamérica por tierra: de sur a norte Presentación <i>Diarios de motocicleta</i> (2004) (56 min)
4	Martes 03 de febrero	<i>Diarios de motocicleta</i> (70 min) Tarea para la próxima clase: Averiguar quién fue el Che Guevara (diferentes perspectivas: héroe y villano)
	Jueves 05 de febrero	Discusión de la película. El Che Guevara y su influencia en Latinoamérica.
5	Martes 10 de febrero	Capítulo 2: Dictadura y democracia Presentación <i>La historia oficial</i> (1985) (50 min)
	Jueves 12 de febrero	<i>La historia oficial</i> (60 min) Exploración Tarea para la próxima clase: Leer <i>Fragmentos de la memoria. Recuerdos de una experiencia carcelaria</i> (1975-1980) de Margarita Drago que está en Blackboard. También las lecturas que están en el

² "Faculty Responsibilities". *Support Services for Students with Disabilities*. 24 may 2006
<http://www.mercer.edu/stu_support/swd.htm>.

		libro.
6	Martes 17 de febrero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (El papel de los estudiantes en los conflictos políticos) • Hacia una democracia más inclusiva • Fragmentos del memoir <i>Fragmentos de la memoria. Recuerdos de una experiencia carcelaria (1975-1980)</i> de Margarita Drago
	Jueves 19 de febrero	Capítulo 4: Inmigración e hispanos en Estados Unidos Presentación <i>Entre nos</i> (2009) (40 min)
7	Martes 24 de febrero	<i>Entre nos</i> (40 min) Exploración Tarea para la próxima clase: Leer las lecturas que están en el libro.
	Jueves 26 de febrero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La vida entre dos culturas • “Existe un puente invisible entre Puerto Rico y Estados Unidos” Tarea para la próxima clase: Leer fragmentos de <i>Cuando era puertorriqueña</i> de Esmeralda Santiago que está en Blackboard. También las lecturas que están en el libro.
8	Martes 03 de marzo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El legado hispano en Estados Unidos, de Jesús Hernández Cuéllar • Fragmentos de la novela <i>Cuando era puertorriqueña</i> de Esmeralda Santiago.
	Jueves 05 de marzo	<p style="text-align: center;">EXAMEN 1 (Capítulos 1-2, 4)</p> IMPORTANTE: Su primer trabajo es para la próxima semana de clase.
9	Martes 09 de marzo	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES
	Jueves 11 de marzo	
10	Martes 17 de marzo	Capítulo 5: Exilio y nostalgia Presentación <i>Viva Cuba</i> (2005) (40 min)
	Jueves 19 de marzo	<i>Viva Cuba</i> (40 min) Exploración **Su primer trabajo es para hoy**
11	Martes 24 de marzo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La importancia de no olvidar el pasado • Un doble destierro • Fragmentos de la obra de teatro <i>Nuestra Señora de las Nubes</i>
	*Jueves 26 de marzo	La música, letras para pensar y a veces bailar. Enseñar deleitando El papel de la música <i>Latinoamérica</i> de Calle 13 La Operación Cóndor (Lecturas de <i>The Condor Years</i> de John Dinges) Tarea para la próxima clase: De la canción que se te asignó, averigua de qué país es, cuando se escribió, qué problemática toca, ¿se refiere a un hecho histórico en particular? ¿qué comunica el ritmo de la canción?

IMPORTANT: Last day for course withdrawal.		
12	Martes 31 de marzo	Canciones que reflejan problemática social nacional
	Jueves 02 de abril	Canciones que tienen que ver con política exterior
13	Martes 07 de abril	Salsa.
	Jueves 09 de abril	Capítulo 6: Ritos y tradiciones Presentación <i>Cinco días sin Nora</i> (2008) (45 min)
14	Martes 14 de abril	<i>Cinco días sin Nora</i> (47 min) Exploración
	Jueves 16 de abril	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El “Cristi negro” de Esquipulas • La Pachamama o Madre Tierra • La virgen de Guadalupe en México
15	Martes 21 de abril	Capítulo 7: Sociedad y economía Presentación <i>El Caracazo</i> (2005) (60 min)
	Jueves 23 de abril	<i>El Caracazo</i> (50 min) Discusión
16	Martes 28 de abril	Disturbios políticos en Latinoamérica El papel de EEUU en la política latinoamericana
	Jueves 30 de abril	EXAMEN 2 (Capítulos 5-7)
	Lunes 04 de mayo	TRABAJO FINAL De 2:00 am – 3:30 pm en mi oficina. No enviar documentos digitales por mi correo electrónico.