

Span 151, Civilization and Culture of Hispanic America

Dr. Joseph A. Klucas, Professor of Spanish/Tentative Schedule

Spring 2014, meets Thursday 5:30-8:20 pm, MRP 2005, Sec 01, Class Number: 33848

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Office Hours: Undergrads: MTW 11:00-12:00 pm; or by appointment Grads: M 400-500 pm T 300-500 pm

Department of Foreign Languages Webpage: www.csus.edu/fl for faculty Webpage for syllabus

Catalogue description: **SPAN 151. Civilization and Culture of Hispanic America.** Readings, visuals, and discussion of the history, geography, anthropology, sociology, politics, economics, folklore, and artistic expression of the nations of Hispanic America. **Prerequisite:** SPAN 2B or equivalent. **Graded:** Graded Student. **Units:** 3.0.

Course Description: This course will offer students of Spanish an overview and an analysis of the main historical, cultural and artistic currents of Spanish American civilization from the time of the discovery, conquest and colonization to the present. General aspects of the geography and of the national character and personality of the various nations of Spanish America will also be highlighted and studied. Special attention will be given in the course lectures and discussion of the assigned readings to the following:

- 1) The geography and people
- 2) The pre-Colombian cultural legacies with emphasis on the Maya and Inca civilizations
- 3) The impact of the Spanish exploration, conquest and colonization
- 4) The rise of the nations of Spanish America from Independence to the Present
- 5) The unique cultural expression found in Spanish American music, art and literature.

Required Textbook:

Chang-Rodríguez, Eugenio. Latinoamérica: su civilización y cultura (4th edition, Heinle Cengage, 2008). (ISBN-13: 978-1-4130-3217-8)

Method of Instruction: This course is conducted entirely in Spanish using the following elements and techniques: lecture, discussion, videos, recordings, readings, small group activities on readings, and guest speakers.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

Accurately identify:

1. the foundations of the civilization and culture of Hispanic America, its geographical and historical underpinnings.
2. the development or evolution of Hispanic American history, institutions, economy, society and culture.
3. important periods of historical, artistic and literary development.
4. distinctive features of style, events and great works of painting, architecture, music and literature.

Discuss in a critical manner:

1. the evolution of intellectual, cultural and technological exchange of different regions of Hispanic America's civilization and its inner diversity.
2. the diffusion of ideas and culture of Hispanic American civilization and its impact on other countries.

Demonstrate an understanding of the rudiments of comparing the culture of Hispanic America with another culture, such as American culture or their own culture including:

1. formulating what makes artistic representations (painting architecture, music, literature) as being from the culture or from another culture (such as that of the USA).
2. identifying and evaluating everyday cultural traits and specificities and comparing them to similar traits in the USA or another culture.
3. gather evidence from other critical sources (such as books, newspapers, magazines, Internet)

to support their idea, test their evidence against other available evidence, and present and support their idea persuasively.

Group Oral Presentations: Students will be asked to prepare a group oral presentation with 5-6 students per group.

1) Title: Each group may use PowerPoint to highlight the title or write the title of your group presentation on the board or a poster. 2) Format: The format of the group presentations may vary: a group skit with scenes and dialog, a roundtable discussion of topics of interest among experts in different fields or among the top journalists in the nation, or perhaps an informal television debate led by a TV host and invited guests or celebrities or just ordinary people. In the group presentations or skits, have fun engaging in role-playing and be creative and imaginative in developing the key scenes, roles, and lines of dialog of your skit or panel discussion. 3) Length: group presentations may be from 25-30 minutes in length. 4) Note Cards: you may refer to notes (or dialog lines) on 3X5 cards, but try to be spontaneous and natural. Try to make use of audio-visual aids in your group oral presentations. See Suggested Topics handout.

Criteria Used to Evaluate Oral Presentations:

1. Organization (beginning, middle, end) and Content
2. Vocabulary (appropriate and correct)
3. Grammatical aspects (verb tense use, noun and adjective agreement, use of pronouns, etc.)
4. Oral fluency (communication, spontaneity, pronunciation: vowels and consonants)
5. Presentation (lively, clear, informative, interesting)

Exams: There will be 3 exams, each of which will cover the chapters on geography, politics, art, music and literature, plus the lecture material and class notes, of selected periods. The exams may be objective in part: true/false, multiple choice, matching, and analytical as well as: identification and essay, and will focus mainly on Spanish American civilization and culture content.

Method of Evaluation:

Numerical percentages scale: 94-100%=A, 90-93%=A-, 87-89%=B+, 84-86%=B, 80-83%=B-, 77-79%=C+, 74-76%=C, 70-73%=C-, 67-69%=D+, 64-66%=D, 60-63%=D-, 59% or less=F

Assigned letter grades scale: A=96%, A-=93%, B+=89%, B=86%, B-=83%, C+=79%, C=76%, C-=73%, D+=69%, D=66%, D-=63%, F=56%

1 Group Oral Presentation (5-6 students)	(25%)
3 Exams	(75% or 25% each)

Classroom Policies:

Attendance: Regular class attendance, coming to class on time, taking careful notes, and turning in assignments when they are due will greatly enhance your chances of success in this course. Please notify me in advance of a missed class or immediately afterwards, prior to the next class meeting. Phone: 278-6652 (klucasja@csus.edu). If you do not notify me promptly, you may forfeit an opportunity to make up a missed exam or turn in missed homework. There will be no make-up quizzes, exams or oral presentations except in cases of extreme emergency.

Avoid all forms of Academic Dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism. For definitions/sanctions see University Manual (<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/UMA00150.htm>). For examples of how to avoid plagiarism and properly quote sources, see (<http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>).

Electronic devices: please turn off all phones, iPods and other devices. These are distracting and disruptive. Students are not permitted to make audio or video recordings, or take photos in the classroom.

Special Accommodations: If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916-278-6955). Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.