

Spanish 153, Civilization and Culture of Mexico

Instructor and Course Information:

Dr. Joseph A. Klucas, Professor of Spanish

Span 153, spring 2013, meets Thursday 5:30-8:20 pm, MRP 2030, Sec 01, Class Number: 31245

Office, Mariposa 2033; Phone: 916-278-6652/E-mail: klucasja@csus.edu

Office Hours: Undergrads: MTW 11:00-12:00 pm; or by appointment/Grads: W 400-500 pm/R 300-500 pm;

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

Catalogue description: **SPAN 153. Civilization and Culture of Mexico.** Reading and discussion of the history, geography, anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, folklore, music, art, and the dance of Mexico.

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 Mexican civilization from pre-Columbian times, the time of the discovery, conquest and colonization up to the Present. General aspects of the geography and of the national character and personality of the diverse ethnic groups of Mexico 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 of Mexico
- 2) The Aztec and Mayan legacies
- 3) The impact of the Spanish conquest and colonization
- 4) The rise of Mexico from Independence to the Present
- 5) The unique cultural expression found in Mexican history, music, painting, architecture and literature.

Required Textbooks:

1) Fernández, Iñigo. Historia de México. Primera edición. Monoclem Ediciones, 2002.

2) Suchlicki, Jaime. Mexico: From Montezuma to the Rise of the PAN. Third Edition, Potomac Books, 2008. (ISBN: 978-1-59797-168-3)

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 Mexico, its geographical and historical underpinnings.
2. the development or evolution of Mexican 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 Mexico's civilization and its inner diversity
2. the diffusion of ideas and culture of Mexican civilization and its impact on other countries.

Demonstrate an understanding of the rudiments of comparing the culture of Mexico 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.

- 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.

Map and Paper: Students will be asked 1) to prepare a map of Mexico, an outline of which will be handed out in class and 2) to submit one written paper (3-4 pages, font size 12, double-spaced) in Spanish that focuses on a specific figure, date or event of historical or cultural importance; or on an artist, composer or a specific work of theirs; or on an aspect or example of Mexican architecture. Both form (spelling, accentuation, grammar and vocabulary) and content are important. Please include some description, analysis and personal opinion in the paper. Please indicate at the end of the paper: the author, title, city, publisher and date of each printed or electronic source consulted under "Bibliografía."

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 will be objective in part: true/false, multiple choice, matching, and analytical as well as: identification and essay, and will focus mainly on Mexican 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%

Map	(5%)
1 Written Paper	(20%)
3 Exams	(75% or 25% each)

(Extra Credit: Oral Presentation in Spanish in class of Written Paper topic: 10 % points added to final course grade average)

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 a missed homework assignment.

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.