**Span 332**

**Culture of Latin American**

**Guanajuato, México**

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**Summer 2024**

1. **Description**

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to Latin American Culture with an emphasis in Mexican culture and history. Through several readings and activities students will be able to analyze and understand the social, economic, political and historical development of Latin America and, specially, Mexico. In this course students will be familiarized with the formation of the Mexican identity in pre-colonial, colonial and contemporary times. The course favors a multi-disciplinary approach, and therefore we will use a different array of materials including photographs, short stories (*cuentos y* *leyendas*), several field trips to museums, churches, and historical places such as squares, markets, public statues and local festivities in Guanajuato, Mexico City, Querétaro, and San Miguel de Allende.

2. **Course Objectives**

In the course we will examine Mexican history, culture, and society, as well as the different approaches, and concepts related to the study of Latin America. Therefore, at the end of the class students will be able to: **a**) have familiarity with the culture and history of Latin America with emphasis in Mexican history and culture; **b**) understand the complexity of Latin American culture and Mexican identities; **c**) increase multicultural awareness; **d**) understand the contributions of Latin America to the world; **e**) do small reports about specifics topics discussed during field trips; **f**) produce an original and critical essay on one of the topics discussed in class.

**In this course, we will work toward the achievement of the following**

**Students Learning Outcomes for the Spanish program:**

- Students will be able to converse with native and/or native-like Spanish speakers and to discuss both academic—linguistic, literary, cultural—and every-day topics in a variety of settings using phonetically accurate, syntactically-complex, and lexically appropriate language.

- Students will be able to write convincingly and critically on every-day, academic, and semi-professional topics in Spanish, using a variety of formats, complex syntax, and appropriate lexical choices.

- Students will understand the natural speech patterns of speakers of the language in a variety of formats and on various nontechnical topics.

- Students will be able to read, analyze, and interpret—both from a linguistic and a literary/cultural perspective—written texts in a variety of styles from the past and the present.

- Students will have a general grasp of the geographical, historical, social, and political dimensions of Spanish-speaking cultures.

- Students will be able to compare/contrast the literary and cultural perspectives of the Spanish-speaking world with their own.

- Students will be able to compare/contrast the cultural identities of the Spanish-speaking world with their own.

3. **Course Policies**

The course will be taught entirely in Spanish. Confused about a grammar point or want more detailed explanation in English? Please come to talk to me after or before class. Students are expected to have read and prepared each day's lesson **before** coming to class.

Here is a link to the MCL Assessment site:

<http://pandora.cii.wwu.edu/SLO/Default.aspx?college=College%20of%20Humanities%20and%20Social%20Sciences>

3.1 **Health Conditions**

If you have a documented health condition or experience any physical or emotional difficulties which impede your full participation in the course, please meet with me soon. You may be asked to bring a notification letter outlining your approved accommodations.

3.2 **Academic Honesty**

You must do your own work in this class. Violations of academic integrity include:

* Plagiarism: using material from other authors without proper citation. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the WW University’s definitions of and norms regarding plagiarism. Infractions will be punished to the full extent of University regulation. <http://catalog.wwu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=463>
* Cheating: copying answers on a test or assignment from another student or other source.
* Misuse of tutor: intervention by a tutor beyond what is approved by the teacher. If you have a tutor or someone who helps you “go over” your written work, he/she cannot correct or rewrite any part of it. Your tutor may, however, point out problems so that you can use resources such as a grammar reference or dictionary to correct them.
* Use of on-line translator: these services or tools (1) they do not help you make progress in acquiring the language you are studying, and (2) in general they are of such low quality that teachers recognize immediately the often unintelligible language they produce. Please ask your teacher for help if you have any doubts or questions.
* Any other practice in which a student represents the work of another person as his/her own.

4. **Course Requirements**

4.1. **Daily Preparation**

Class attendance and participation are essential to your progress in this course. Persistent, active in-class participation develops your understanding of Latin American Culture. Therefore, it is essential that you attend class daily and be present in every field trip. Trying to catch up once you have fallen behind will be difficult, as much new material will be introduced daily.

4.2. **Class routine**

The instructor will speak Spanish in class and the discussions about the topics will be entirely in Spanish as well as the explanation in churches, museums, and historical places.

4.3. **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory and daily attendance will be taken. Please remember that absences should be for emergencies only. After one unexcused absence subsequent absences will result in a lowered final course grade, as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Absences (classes) | Reduction of final grade |
| 2  3 | - 100 points (or – 10%)  - 300 points (or – 30%) |
| 4 | - F or No Pass |
|  |  |

If you miss more than 3 you will be assigned the final grade of F/No Pass.

To make it easier to find out what was covered in class, please get to know two of your classmates whom you can contact in case of an absence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of classmate | e-mail address |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |

4.4. **Participation (100 points)**

Active participation is expected every class. Your participation is based on both quantity and of quality of your participation. Paying attention in class and maintaining a positive attitude play an important role in your class participation. Talking during a lecture or presentation, reading or writing anything other than lecture notes will not be tolerated. It is extremely rude to both your instructor and fellow classmates to do so. Your active participation and undivided attention are absolutely **essential** in this class. To maximize your success in this course, you should:

* + arrive in class on time and not leave early.
  + be prepared for the day's lesson.
  + **participate actively** and on-task in all individual and group activities.
  + consistently volunteer information and answers.
  + use the target language consistently.
  + **be respectful** of your classmates and instructor.
  + give your full attention when others are talking to the class or presenting.
  + **turn off cell phones** and use laptops or other technology only when approved by your instructor.
  + follow any other culture-specific behavior rules outlined by your instructor.
  + remember that this class will be conducted in Spanish and that an attempt at communication is more important than perfection.

Please note that for classes involving field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

**4.5 Travel Journal: 10 Módulos (900 points)**

The travel journal involves different sections. The description of the journal will be available on Canvas.

5. **Grading**

Students can earn a total of 1,000 point in this course, with the final letter grade determined according to the following chart:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 930-1000 | A | 870-899 | B+ | 770-799 | C+ | 670-699 | D+ | 599- | F |
| 900-929 | A- | 830-869 | B | 730-769 | C | 630-669 | D |  |  |
|  |  | 800-829 | B- | 700-729 | C- | 600-629 | D- |  |  |

The 1,000 points are distributed in the following manner:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Puntos** |
| Participación  Excursiones y clases  con los maestros mexicanos | 100 |
| Bitácora de viaje | 900 |
| **TOTAL** | **1,000** |

NOTE: I will let you know in advance if the class calendar is modified.

**June**

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| Saturday 8 – Pre-travel Coursework (WWU main campus) |

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| Saturday 29 – Students arrive in Guanajuato |
| Sunday 30 – City Orientation and Welcome Event with host families |

**July - Week 1**

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|  | Span 301 | Span 332 |
| Monday 1 | 10:00 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Cartonería |
| Tuesday 2 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Percusiones |
| Wednesday 3 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Cartonería |
| Thursday 4 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Cartonería |
| Friday 5 | 8:00 = Field Trip in Mexico City | Field Trip in Mexico City |

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| Saturday 6 – Field Trip in Mexico City |
| Sunday 7 – Travel to ancient city of Teotihuacan / Return to Guanajuato |

**Week 2**

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|  | Span 301 | Span 332 |
| Monday 8 | 10:00 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Post-travel class |
| Tuesday 9 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Danza Folklórica |
| Wednesday 10 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Danza Folklórica |
| Thursday 11 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Danza Folklórica |
| Friday 12 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Percusiones |

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| Saturday 13 – Field Trip in Querétaro |
| Sunday 14 – Return to Guanajuato |

**Week 3**

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|  | Span 301 – Span 302 | Span 332 |
| Monday 15 | 10:00 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Post-travel class |
| Tuesday 16 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Percusiones |
| Wednesday 17 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Cerámica / Sellos |
| Thursday 18 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Span 302 | 2:00 - 3:00 = Cerámica / Sellos |
| Friday 19 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Cerámica / Sellos |

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| Saturday 20 – Field Trip in San Miguel de Allende |
| Sunday 21 – Family Day |

**Week 4**

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|  | Span 302 | Span 332 |
| Monday 22 | 10:00 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Post-travel class |
| Tuesday 23 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Percusiones |
| Wednesday 24 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Dibujo urbanístico |
| Thursday 25 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Dibujo urbanístico |
| Friday 26 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Dibujo urbanístico |

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| Saturday 27 – Farewell Event with host families |
| Sunday 28 – Family Day |

**Week 5 - August**

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|  | Span 302 | Span 332 |
| Monday 29 | 10:00 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Danzas de salón |
| Tuesday 30 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Danzas de salón |
| Wednesday 31 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Danzas de salón |
| Thursday 1 | 9:30 – 1:00 = Academic class | 2:00 - 3:00 = Danzas de salón |
| Friday 2 | – | Farewell Dinner with students |

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| Saturday 3 – Return to USA |

**SPAN 332 follows the Communication and Humanities GURs**

"As a Humanities (or Communication, or ACGM, or BCGM) GUR, this course develops abilities that will help the student: **a**) Analyze and communicate ideas effectively in oral, written, and visual forms; **b**) Understand and evaluate assumptions, values, and beliefs in context of diverse local, national and global communities.”

(See GUR competencies, WWU Catalog).

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