



## SPAN 3312-001: INTRODUCTION TO LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE

Fall 2014

MWF 10-10:50am

TH 20

Dr. Christopher Conway

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Office Hours: MW 11am-noon, and by appointment

**\*This syllabus is in English for administrative purposes. This internet course will be held in Spanish.**

**\*\*Please use the course homepage as your primary syllabus.**

**Course Description:** Spanish 3312 is an interdisciplinary introduction to Latin American society, history and culture. The course is designed to provide students with an engaging and accessible set of critical snapshots about the diverse and complex contours of Latin American history and culture. There are two kinds of components in this class: cultural ones (on a particular type of cultural expression, such as comics, or music, or television) and historical ones (on broad historical periods and problems.)

**Required Book:** All reading will be made available on Blackboard.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Identify key historical events, periods and people related to Latin American history.
- Explain key contexts (historical, social or ideological) relevant to the cultural topics covered in the class: soap operas, music, comic books and poetry.
- Apply critical thinking to the analysis of cultural objects like comics and soap operas.
- Acquire technology skills necessary to prepare a professional podcast.

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Grade Policy/Requirements:**

Quizzes (3x5%) 15%  
Homeworks (4x5%) 20%  
Midterm (1x30%) 30%  
SeService Learning (1x20%) 20%  
Take home final (1x15%) 15%

### **Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:**

1. Index card reading quizzes (Pruebas de lectura) (3). Students take short quizzes on assigned reading and are allowed to use one 3 x 5 index card with notes on it during the quiz. 8/25, 9/10, 11/13. 5% each (15% total).
2. Homeworks (4). Students write short papers in correct Spanish on an assigned topic, demonstrating creativity, attentiveness to instructions, and critical thinking. Due dates: 9/3, 9/19, 10/6, 11/24. Each is worth 5% of final grade (20% total.)
3. Midterm. Students take an exam on Weeks 1-9. In class on 10/13. Midterm is worth 30%.
4. Reading and Radio Resource Service Learning Project. Reading and Radio Resources is a Dallas non-profit that serves the special reading needs of members of the North Texas community. Students will be producing short, Spanish language radio programs designed to be considered for inclusion on the Reading and Radio Resources website or radio programs. The best projects will be hosted by RRR. The topic of this project will be Latin American or Latino culture. 20% of final grade.
5. Take home final. 15% of the final grade. Due Monday December 8 at 10:30 AM on blackboard.

**Extra Credit:** Students who attend assigned events on campus may build up points that can be utilized as “credit” toward exam curves or to remove penalties associated with missed class. Details will be given on blackboard. Pay attention to the events I flag as Extra Credit eligible.

**Attendance Policy:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, my policy is as follows:

- Attendance is expected and not rewarded with a % of the final grade. Instead, my policy is to penalize absenteeism by deducting points from the final grade as follows:
- You are free to miss 1 week of class (3 hours) with no questions asked and no penalty. This is for medical emergencies, family emergencies, for anything real or unreal that keeps you from coming to class. Your free absence applies to major life stuff. That’s what it’s for. I don’t want to see notes or excuses for your free absences.
- 4 absences will result in a 6 point deduction from your final grade. This is to make it more difficult for you to get an A in the class when you miss over a week of class.

- 5 absences will result in a 10 point deduction from your final grade. This is to ensure you do not get an A in the class for missing nearly two weeks of class.
- 6 absences will result in a 15 point deduction.
- 7 absences in a 20 point deduction.
- 8 absences in a 25 point deduction.
- After 8 absences you can have as many free absences as you like.

**Make-Up Policy:** Students are permitted to make up one missed homework and one missed quiz in Week 13, on the condition that (1) They have participated regularly in class and shown me that they are engaged and generally prepared; (2) Have a B average in the class; and (3) No more than 3 absences by week 13.

**Tardy work Policy:** Students are penalized for late work as follows: No paper that is late can get an "A," regardless of the quality of its work. Further details provided on Blackboard and specific assignment instructions.

## **IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 5 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Grade Grievances:** Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be

found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an

instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** I will discuss this matter with you on the first day of class and review it during the second week of class. In the case of an emergency, walk in a calm fashion out of our classroom and head straight ahead to the basement stairwell. Go up the stairs in an orderly fashion and exit the building to the left. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

## **SCHEDULE OF READINGS/ CRONOLOGÍA**

*As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Christopher Conway.*

Todas las lecturas pueden ser descargadas de BLACKBOARD.  
All readings can be downloaded from BLACKBOARD.

### **SEMANA 1**

8/22 Introducción. Unidad Cultural 1: Telenovelas e identidad latinoamericana.

### **SEMANA 2**

8/25 Primera lectura sobre telenovelas: el caso peruano. **Prueba de lectura 1.**

8/27 Segunda lectura sobre telenovelas: el caso colombiano.

8/29 Tercera lectura sobre telenovelas: el caso mexicano.

### **SEMANA 3**

9/1 Feriado: no hay clase.

9/3 La telenovela latinoamericana: una visión de conjunto. **Tarea 1.**

9/5 Sesión virtual. La clase no se reunirá en este día.

#### **SEMANA 4**

9/8 Unidad Histórica 1: El mundo precolombino y colonial. Lectura precolombina.

9/10 Lectura conquista. **Prueba de lectura 2 (sobre Lectura precolombina y Lectura conquista.)**

9/12 Lectura colonial.

#### **SEMANA 5**

9/15 Lectura primaria: la poesía indígena.

9/17 Lectura primaria: El requerimiento.

9/19 **Tarea 2. Película/Documental en Clase.**

#### **SEMANA 6**

9/22 Unidad Cultural 2: La historieta o el comic latinoamericano. Primera lectura contextual sobre el comic latinoamericano.

9/24 Segunda lectura contextual sobre el comic latinoamericano.

9/26 Primera muestra de comics latinoamericanos: MAFALDA.

#### **SEMANA 7**

9/29 Continúa.

10/1 Continúa.

10/3 El análisis cultural de Mafalda.

#### **SEMANA 8**

10/6 **Tarea 3 (Mafalda).**

10/8 Segunda muestra de comics latinoamericanos: el comic mexicano.

10/10 continúa/repaso para el examen.

#### **SEMANA 9**

10/13 **Examen Parcial. Semanas 1-8.**

10/15 **Proyecto Especial: Reading and Radio Resource.**

10/17 **Taller Reading and Radio Resource.**

#### **SEMANA 10**

**10/20 Taller Reading and Radio Resource.**

10/22 Unidad Histórica 2: Siglo XIX y XX. Lectura de conjunto sobre el siglo XIX latinoamericano.

10/24 Lectura sobre La Revolución Mexicana.

### **SEMANA 11**

**10/27 Entrega de proyecto Reading and Radio Resource.**  
[Oct 29 Last Day to Drop]

10/29 Lectura sobre La Revolución Cubana.

10/31 Lectura sobre la Guerra Fría en el Cono Sur.

### **SEMANA 12**

11/3 Lectura sobre Venezuela y Bolivia. **Prueba de lectura 3.**

11/5 Documental en Clase.

11/7 Documental en Clase.

### **SEMANA 13**

11/10 Unidad Cultural 3: La música. Lectura sobre la Nueva Trova.

11/12 Lectura sobre Ruben Blades.

11/14 Lectura sobre Reggaeton.

### **SEMANA 14**

11/17 Se anunciará.

11/19 Unidad Cultural 4: La poesía latinoamericana. Poemas de Pablo Neruda.

11/21 Poemas de Pablo Neruda, continúa.

### **SEMANA 15**

11/24 Poesía de Ignacio Ruiz Pérez. **Tarea 4.**

11/26 Poesía de mujeres latinoamericanas.

11/28 NO HAY CLASE/THANKSGIVING

### **SEMANA 16**

12/1 Poesía latina.

12/3 Repaso para el **examen final en casa** (take home). Fecha de entrega: 8 diciembre 10:30 AM.

**Emergency Phone Numbers:** In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus