

SPAN 3391-001: Conference Course with Christopher Conway

Spring 2015

Class meeting by Appointment Only

TH 202

Dr. Christopher Conway

Open Office Hours: UT Arlington Library.

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Office Hours: Thursday 11-12 & Friday 12-1 (UTA Library 2nd Floor) and by appointment (Hammond Hall Chair's Office.)

***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: This is a Spanish language conference course without any class meetings. Students enrolled in this class prepare assignments in consultation with the professor, and have occasional follow up meetings to review. The topic of this conference course is popular Mexican films spanning the so-called Golden Age of Mexican Film. Students examine Mexican history through classic films, as well as specific themes tied to culture, ideology and representation. This is a 3000 level class that does not presuppose expertise or advanced writing skills. Some course readings are in English but all the written work is in Spanish.

Required Book: Students should purchase *Mexican Cinema: Reflections of a Society* by Carl Mora off of the web to use as a textbook.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students demonstrate a strong grasp of basic written expression in the Spanish language.
2. Students exercise critical thinking skills by analyzing the historical and sociological content of film, both at the formalist level (scene by scene), and at the general, thematic level (the message of an overall story). This is accomplished through Spanish language essays and guided questions.
3. Students exercise specialized research skills through the use of the UTA library database system, to examine the intersection of history, culture and film in Mexico through specialized research.

COURSE POLICIES

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations (for due dates see schedule of readings at end of this document):

Citation Check: It is important for students to learn how to properly participate in a scholarly conversation. For this assignment, outlined in Blackboard in more detail, students study an online module and take an online quiz to measure their understanding of how to properly cite the work of others. Students bring their passing test result to class and submit it to me as evidence of the completion of this assignment. Citation Check=10% of Final Grade.

Essays: Students will write three short essays in Spanish that demonstrate critical thinking, good organization, strong spelling and grammar, and an understanding of course objectives and conversations. Students will be graded on all of these items. Instructions and themes will be provided on Blackboard.

Oral Presentation: Students present a 10 minute analysis in Spanish, and in Powerpoint comparing two films. The powerpoint should combine historical context with the history of film and critical analysis of the two films. 20% of final grade.

Final: Students who take good notes in their notebook will be rewarded by the experience of taking exams that are “open notebook.” Learning is not about memorizing for an exam. It’s about keeping track of information, translating into our own words and concepts, and then applying it to new contexts. By learning through note-taking, each student will be assured a much easier time during the exams, which will be composed of short answers and essay questions. Final=20% of Final Grade. Please note: this exam may be substituted with a successful ACES Presentation, for an automatic 100% for this assignment. Students interested in this option should ask me about it. I recommend it over the final.

Short Film Reviews: These are short response papers on individual films or historical questions related to film. 4 X 5%-20% of Final Grade.

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:

- Does not apply to this conference course because students will be having individual meetings with me.

Make-Up Policy: Students are permitted to make up work if they consult with me. However, they will not be permitted to get an A for work turned in late or made up.

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. See make-up policy above.

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 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.

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 down the hallway toward the exit. 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, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

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.

WEEK 1: JAN 20 & JAN 22: Do the citation check as instructed in Blackboard. Due by Thursday January 22. Watch the film *El compadre Mendoza* (youtube) and prepare a 600 word review in correct Spanish analyzing the theme of the movie as you see it. You are required to prepare this assignment without doing research. This is due January 26.

WEEK 2: JAN 27 & JAN 29: Turn in Review 1 on January 26. Read Chapters 2 and 3 of Carl Mora.

WEEK 3: FEB 3 & FEB 5: Watch “Allá en el Rancho Grande” and prepare a 600 word review in correct Spanish analyzing themes and characters from your point of view. You are required to prepare this assignment without doing research other than using Mora. This is due February 2. If you are interested in competing for ACES and being exempted from Final Exam with a 100% score, please talk to me about it, because there is not a lot of time to prepare for this opportunity.

WEEK 4: FEB 10 & FEB 12: Use Carl Mora and web sources to identify other comedias rancheras like *Allá en el Rancho Grande* from 1930's-1940's, find it online, and watch it in preparation of Essay 1, which will be a comparison of *Allá en el Rancho Grande* and that other film. Please advise me which other *comedia ranchera* you will be using before you begin.

WEEK 5: FEB 17 & FEB 19: Essay 1, comparing comedias rancheras, is due on February 16th. It should be in correct Spanish, and use sources correctly. The length 1,200 words minimum.

WEEK 6: Feb 24 & Feb 26: Watch “*Nosotros los Pobres*” on Hulu or Youtube. Collect at least 5 scholarly articles on this film by using JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, Historical Abstracts, HAPI or Project Muse (all databases on UTA website.) You will need to log in with NetId etc. in order to download articles for your archive and project.

WEEK 7: March 3 & March 5: Write a short 600 word review (Review 2) in which you select your three favorite articles and briefly describe their thesis statement or main argument. This is due March 5.

SPRING BREAK

WEEK 8: March 17 & March 19: Películas se anunciarán (habrá dos). Essay 2, comparing these two films, is due on March 23^h. It should be in correct Spanish, and use sources correctly. The length 1,200 words minimum.

WEEK 9: March 24 & March 26: Turn in Essay 2 on March 23. Watch two *Cantinflas* films on YouTube and take good notes. You will need them later on.

WEEK 10: Collect at least 5 scholarly articles on *Cantinflas* by using JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, Historical Abstracts, HAPI or Project Muse (all databases on UTA website.) You will need to log in with NetId etc. in order to download articles for your archive and project. Write a short 600 word review (Review 3) in which you select your three favorite articles and briefly describe their thesis statement or main argument. This will be due April 6.

WEEK 11: April 7 & April 9: March 31 & April 2: Turn in short review on April 6. Begin working on Essay 3, about *Cantinflas*. You are required to present an original analysis and incorporate some of the ideas of the articles from your review.

WEEK 12: April 14 & April 16: Read Chapter 5 by Mora and identify two films you would like to work on. You need to be able to FIND those films online or via Amazon. Watch those two films and take good notes.

WEEK 13: April 21 & 23: Work on analysis for Essay 3 and consult with me about your ideas. Make arrangements to meet with me to do 10 minute powerpoint

outlining your ideas.

WEEK 14: April 28 & 30: Turn in Essay 3 on April 27.

WEEK 15: May 5 & 7. Write your final Review about lessons learned in this class. Consult with me for more specific instructions.

Final Exam: By Appointment during Final Exam Week.

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