

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 phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

**SPAN 3312: Latin American Culture and Civilization
Fall 2016**

Instructor(s): Christopher Conway

Office Number: Hammond Hall 329.

Office Telephone Number: *Modern Languages faculty do not have telephones in their offices.* The number of the Modern Languages Department is 817-272-3161. *Please note that the best way to reach me or leave me a message is via email.*

Email Address: conway@uta.edu

Conway's Professional Homepage: <http://omega.uta.edu/~conway/>

Conway's UTA Mentis Faculty Profile: <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/christopher-conway>

Office Hours: Mondays 12-1:00 or by appointment.

Section Information: (001)

Time and Place of Class Meetings: MWF 11-11:50; UH 02.

Description of Course Content: An interdisciplinary introduction to Latin American society, history and culture. Prerequisite: SPAN 2314 with a grade of C or better. Offered as MAS 3312 and SPAN 3312; credit will be granted for either MAS or SPAN.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Identify major periods and some key actors that are important to Latin American history and culture *through direct contact with period sources, classroom discussion, and tests.*
- Apply various close-reading strategies to literary and cultural texts *through homework and classroom exercises, and formal paper assignments.*
- Draw connections between cultural artifacts (documents, films, stories, etc.) and cultural and historical problems relating to the Latin American and Latino experience *through classroom discussion, tests, and formal paper assignments.*
- Practice reading and writing skills *through homework and writing assignments.*

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials at UTA bookstore for rent or purchase:

The Essential Neruda: Selected Poems by Pablo Neruda (Edited by Mark Eisner)

- ISBN-10: 0872864286
- ISBN-13: 9780872864283

Woman of Hollering Creek and Other Stories by Sandra Cisneros

- ISBN-10: 0679738568

- ISBN-13: 9780679738565

Soñar en Cubano by Cristina García

- ISBN-10: 034539139X
- ISBN-13: 9780345391391

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

- **Short papers** in Spanish (500 words in length) on a guided subject. Students are required to follow instructions with care, write in good Spanish (spelling, verb conjugations, proper word usage), and when required by a specific assignment, to exercise critical and creative thinking.
- **In-class tests** will be given every few weeks instead of larger midterm and final exams. These tests will have short identification questions, as well as short essay questions. Students will be provided with study guides so that they can focus their energies on reviewing the correct material. The last of these tests will be an open notebook test.
- **The research project** will be based on working with archival materials at the UTA library. Students will be required to attend Special Collections and work with designated materials held on reserve for their use. Students write a short research paper in Spanish or prepare a youtube video in Spanish to report their research findings.

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. 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 course, I have set the following policy: students are permitted four absences, after which I will deduct 7 points from their final grade for every additional absence up to the sixth one, after which the student who has missed class will receive a F in the course. The four "free absences" are to be utilized for illness and family emergencies. If a student wishes to plead special circumstances to be excused for a fifth or sixth absence, I will retroactively require documentation for previous absences as well as the current one. Please note: I reserve the right to decline requests for excused absences beyond the fourth one. Arriving 20 minutes late will count as an absence.

For Students on Federal Student Aid: While UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Grading Criteria:

My criteria for grading homeworks, papers, and exams hinge on following all instructions properly; quality of Spanish spelling and grammar; substance, originality or depth of analysis (when relevant to assignment); comprehension of material covered, and clarity in expression and organization. Outstanding work does not only meet criteria but exceeds them in most regards, most notably for its creativity, depth, complexity, and quality of organization and Spanish.

Grade Calculations:

Papers 4X10=40%
Tests 4X10=40%
Project=20%

*As per attendance policy above, students lose points for excessive absences and tardiness.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see “Student Support Services,” below.

Make-up Exams and Tardy Work: To request a make-up exam, students have to petition me in person. I will use participation, attendance, and quality of previous work to determine whether or not I grant a make-up. Make-ups have to be earned through effort, dedication, and quality of previous work. I reserve the right to change the assignment if I grant a make-up. Work that is turned in late will be penalized as indicated in assignment instructions.

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 9 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. See:

<http://www.uta.edu/deanofstudents/student-complaints/index.php>

The best way to get started on the process is to have a frank and open conversation with me about your concern.

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://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.

Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, 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: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest building 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. On the first day of class, I will discuss our procedures with you.

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 <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

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The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center Offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library's hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

Librarian to Contact: Diane Shepelwich, dianec@uta.edu.

Course Schedule

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

Part 1. Working with Historical Documents about Latin America.

In this unit we will become familiar with key periods, problems and actors relating to Latin America through original writings spanning 1490's-1900.

- Friday August 26: Topic (s): Introduction to the Class. The representation of the New World in Theodore Galle (1630).
- Monday August 29: Topic (s): Columbus on the Indians of the New World (1492-1493). Reading: Writings by Columbus (on BB).
- Wednesday August 31: Topic(s): The Requirement (1512) and Early Human Rights (1552). Reading: The Requirement and Las Casas (on BB).
- Friday September 2: Topic(s): A Spanish Soldier Describes Moctezuma (1521). Reading: Bernal Díaz (on BB).
- Monday September 5: Labor Day No Class.
- Wednesday September 7: Topic(s): How to Build a City and Conflicts in Colonial Latin America. Readings: Colonial readings (on BB). **Paper on the film *The Mission* is due.**
- Friday September 9: Runaway Slave Ads (1808-1812) and The Autobiography of a Slave (circa 1840). Readings: Runaway slave ads and selection from The Autobiography of a Slave (on BB).
- Monday September 12: Topic(s): The Liberator Simón Bolívar (1815). Reading: Excerpt from The Jamaica Letter and other texts (on BB).
- Wednesday September 14: Topic(s): A Nineteenth-Century Bestseller: Martín Fierro (1872). Reading: Excerpt from Martín Fierro by José Hernández (BB).
- Friday September 16: Topic(s): José Martí and Anti-Colonialism (1891). Reading: Excerpts by José Martí (BB).

Part 2. Understanding Cuba through Cristina García's *Soñar en Cubano* (1992).

Now we examine Cuban history and the Cuban American experience through a critically acclaimed novel, *Soñar en Cubano* by Cristina García. Through fiction we open doors to history. Rather than memorize dates and names, we personally connect with history through the experience of reading.

- Monday September 19: **Test 1.**
- Wednesday September 21: Announcement: Class will not meet for a face to face session. Please utilize blackboard module "Getting a Good Start with *Soñar en Cubano*" by Cristina García to begin reading and understanding Monday's homework.
- Friday September 23: Announcement: Class will not meet for a face to face session. Please utilize blackboard module "Getting a Good Start with *Soñar en Cubano*" by Cristina García to begin reading and understanding Monday's homework.
- Monday September 26: Topic(s): Learning More about Cuban History. Reading: *Soñar en Cubano* (continued.)
- Wednesday September 28: Topics: Learning More about Cuban History. Reading: *Soñar en Cubano* (continued.)
- Friday September 30: Topic(s): Discussion of *Soñar en Cubano*. Reading: *Soñar en Cubano* (continued.)
- Monday October 3: **Paper on touring Cuba is due.** Topic(s): *Soñar en Cubano*. Reading: *Soñar en Cubano* (continued.)
- Wednesday October 5: Final discussion of *Soñar en Cubano*. Reading: *Soñar en Cubano* (continued.)
- Friday October 7: No Class

Part 3. Understanding the Mexican and Mexican American Experience through Sandra Cisneros.

Here we pause to consider Mexican and Mexican American culture and history. The stories of Sandra Cisneros will provide us with penetrating snapshots about history, culture, and identity.

- Monday October 10: **Test 2.**
- Wednesday October 12: Topic: ‘Mexican’ Culture through Sandra Cisneros. Reading: *Woman of Hollering Creek and Other Stories* (WHC).
- Friday October 14: Topic(s): ‘Mexican’ Culture through Sandra Cisneros. Reading: WHC, continued.

- Monday October 17: Topic(s): ‘Mexican American’ Culture through Sandra Cisneros. Reading: WHC, continued.
- Wednesday October 19: Topic(s): ‘Mexican American’ Culture through Sandra Cisneros. Reading: WHC, continued.
- Friday October 21: Topic(s): ‘Mexican American’ Culture through Sandra Cisneros. Reading: WHC, continued.

- Monday October 24: Topic(s): ‘Mexican American’ Culture through Sandra Cisneros. Reading: WHC, continued. **Paper on Cisneros and Film due.**
- Wednesday October 26: Reading: WHC, continued.
- Friday October 28: Reading: WHC, continued.

Part 4. Pablo Neruda and Latin American Literature

Pablo Neruda is one of the most celebrated and beloved poets in the world. Few authors have acquired so much fame during and after their lifetime. In this module, we become familiar with some of his best poetry, from love poems to political poetry. As with other authors, we use Neruda and his work to gain insight into Latin American history and culture.

- Monday October 31: **Test 3.**
- Wednesday November 2: Latin American Poetry in the 1800’s.
- Friday November 4: Topic(s): Selected Poems by Neruda. Reading: *The Essential Neruda*.

- Monday November 7: Topic(s): Selected Poems by Neruda. Reading: *The Essential Neruda*.
- Wednesday November 9: Topic(s): Selected Poems by Neruda. Reading: *The Essential Neruda*.
- Friday November 11: Topic(s): Selected Poems by Neruda. Reading: *The Essential Neruda*.

- Monday November 14: Topic(s): Selected Poems by Neruda. Reading: *The Essential Neruda*. Classroom activity: Tour of Special Collections at the Library.
- Wednesday November 16: Topic(s): Selected Poems by Neruda. Reading: *The Essential Neruda*.
- Friday November 18: Topic(s): Selected Poems by Neruda. Reading: *The Essential Neruda*.

- Monday November 21: **Paper on Neruda on film is due.**
- Wednesday November 23: Film in Class.
- Friday November 25: Thanksgiving Holiday. No Class

Part 5. Latin American Film.

To close the semester, we watch and analyze powerful films about the Latin American experience.

- Monday November 28: Topic(s): Human Rights in Argentina. Discussion of “The Secret in Their Eyes.” Reading: To Be Announced.

- Wednesday November 30: Topics(s): To Be Announced. Discussion of Film (Title to be announced). Reading: To Be Announced.
- Friday December 2: **Open notebook Test 4 on films and poetry by Neruda.**
- Monday December 5: Topic(s): Latin America today. Reading: Selected news articles (BB).
- Wednesday December 7: Topic(s): Latin America today. Reading: Selected news articles (BB).