

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 5314: Topics in Spanish American Culture to Modernism
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 12-1:30 or by appointment.

Section Information: (001)

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Thursdays TH 204.

Description of Course Content: Topics may include: Colonial Spanish-American literature and culture, pre-modern Spanish-American literature and culture, Spanish-American literature and culture of the Enlightenment, or any particular movement, genre, work or author prior to Modernism. May be repeated for credit when content changes.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Understand the difference between passive and active learning *through classroom discussion and in-class workshop activities.*
- Apply various close-reading strategies to literary and cultural texts *through homework and classroom exercises, and formal paper assignments.*
- Comprehend and utilize cultural theories relating to multiculturalism and transculturation *through classroom participation, and formal paper assignments.*
- Develop effective argumentation for formal paper assignments analyzing literature and culture.
- Become familiar with key themes and plausible interpretations of key works of Latin American literature *by participating in classroom discussion, and preparing written papers.*

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials at UTA bookstore for rent or purchase: *Digging into Literature* by Wolfe and Wilder (ISBN-10: 145763130X & ISBN-13: 9781457631306). *Naufraios* by Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (ISBN-10: 8420639389 & ISBN-13: 9788420639383), *El Zarco* by Ignacio Manuel Altamirano (ISBN-13: 9788437634968), and *Los Ríos Profundos* by José María Arguedas (ISBN-10: 8437613213 & ISBN-13: 9788437613215).

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

Response Papers: Short essays (800-1000 words) on a guided topic that demonstrate critical thinking, clear reasoning, successful application of course concepts (when assigned), and strong writing in Spanish.

Citation Quizlet: Students take an online quizlet and learning module on the subject of academic citation and provide me with a receipt of its successful completion (score of 70% or more.)

Essay Proposal: A short discussion and outline of essay (see below). This assignment will be shared in class for the purpose of getting feedback from classmates.

Essay: A longer critical essay (3000-5000 words) on one of the major works assigned in the class. The essay has the same qualities as a response paper but also demonstrates an ability to engage with existing criticism on the subject.

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 two absences, after which I will deduct 7 points from their final grade for every additional absence up to the fourth one, after which the student who has missed class will receive a F in the course. The two "free absences" are to be utilized for illness and family emergencies. If a student wishes to plead special circumstances to be excused for a third 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 absences beyond the second one. Arriving 45 minutes after the start of class 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:

4 response papers 15% (60%)
1 proposal completion grade (5%)
Final Paper (25%)
Citation Module (10%)

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

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: How to Analyze Literature

August 25: Critical Thinking and the Study of Literature. Reading: Chapter 1 (Why Join Critical Conversations about Literature?) and 2 (What is Literary Analysis?) of *Digging into Literature (DL)* by Wolfe and Wilder. Written Homework Due: None.

September 1: Strategies for Analyzing Literature. Reading from DL: Chapters 3 (From Surface to Depth) and 4 (Patterns). Written Homework Due: **Response paper about Alberto Chimal's "Se ha perdido una niña."**

September 8: Strategies for Analyzing Literature. Reading from DL: Chapter 5 (Digging Deeper) and 13 (Develop a Thesis and Organizing Your Essay); brief snapshot of New Criticism (on reserve.) Written Homework Due: None.

September 15: Strategies for Analyzing Literature. Reading from DL: Chapter 6 (Opposites) and 7 (Context). Written Homework Due: **Response paper about Alberto Chimal's "La mujer que camina para atrás."**

September 22: Online Class Meeting. Strategies for Analyzing Literature. Reading from DL: Chapter 10 (Theoretical Lens), critical snapshots of Postcolonial Criticism (on reserve). Written Homework Due: None.

Part 2: Framing Mestizaje, Transculturation, and Heterogeneity in Latin American Cultural Studies.

September 29: Mestizaje and the Interpretation of Latin American Literature. Reading: Critical snapshots of Cultural Theory (on reserve). Written Homework Due: **Response paper on Cultural Theory and Film.**

Part 3. Mestizaje in Alvar Núñez Cabeza.

October 6: Mestizaje in Alvar Núñez Cabeza Vaca. Reading: Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, first half. Written Homework Due: None.

October 13: Mestizaje in Alvar Núñez Cabeza Vaca. Reading: Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, to end. Written Homework Due: None.

October 20: Mestizaje in Alvar Núñez Cabeza Vaca. Reading: Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca Criticism (on reserve). Written Homework Due: **Response paper on Cabeza de Vaca and Contemporary Film.**

Part 4. Crime, Underdevelopment and Race in *El Zarco*.

October 27: Crime, Underdevelopment and Race in *El Zarco*. Reading: first half of *El Zarco*. Written Homework Due: None.

November 3. Crime, Underdevelopment and Race in *El Zarco*. Reading: *El Zarco*, to end, and selected critical articles (on reserve). Written Homework Due: None.

Part 5. The Cultural Politics of Biculturalism in *Los ríos profundos*.

November 10. The Cultural Politics of Biculturalism in *Los ríos profundos*. Reading: *Los ríos Profundos*. Written Homework Due: None.

November 17. The Cultural Politics of Biculturalism in *Los ríos profundos*. Reading: *Los ríos profundos*. Written Homework Due: None.

December 1: Strategies for Periodizing Latin American Literature. Written Homework Due: **Research Paper Proposal.**