

**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 2017**

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

**Office Hours:** Mondays 2-3:00 in Hammond Hall 329 or by appointment.

**Section Information:** (001)

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** MWF 1-1:50; PH (Preston Hall) 210.

**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 historical periods, key topics, and historical actors that are important to Latin American and Latino history and culture *through direct contact with period source (non-fiction, literature, film etc.), classroom discussion, and tests.*
- Apply 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.*
- Develop an appreciation of the experience of women in Latin American and Latino history and culture *through the study of major works of literature by women.*
- Practice reading and writing skills in Spanish *through homework and writing assignments.*

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

*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

*Como Agua para Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel

*Antes de Ser Libres* by Julia Alvarez

& Readings on Reserve

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

Assignment (indicates number of assignments)	Description	Purpose of Assignment
<p>Open notebook quizzes (7).</p> <p>9/1, 9/8, 9/18, 10/2, 10/25, 11/15, 12/6</p> <p>See course schedule</p>	<p>These are quizzes on assigned reading, or films, and on prior lectures by professor. Students are permitted to use their notebooks but no screens are permitted.</p>	<p>The purpose of these pop quizzes is to verify that students are doing the assigned reading and work in the class. These are low danger assignments because students are permitted to use their notebooks. Each quiz will have one or more extra credit question to allow students who score less than a 100 to make up some lost points. The highest possible score on a quiz is 100.</p>
<p>Short Papers (2)</p> <p>9/11, 10/9</p> <p>See course schedule</p>	<p>Students write papers (600-800) words 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.</p>	<p>These papers have two purposes: to allow language learners to practice their writing in Spanish; and to extend classroom discussions and thinking to new texts or media. This will allow students to further consolidate knowledge on a particular topic.</p>
<p>Research Paper in Spanish or in English (1)</p> <p>11/20</p> <p>See course schedule and further information below and on BB re: English language track vs. Spanish language track</p>	<p>Students work with rare historical documents at the Special Collections Department in the UTA library to prepare an original research paper on Mexican American history.</p>	<p>This research paper requires students to be original and creative thinkers, to carefully review rare historical materials, and to practice their writing.</p>

**\*Please note:** Students have the option of opting in to an alternate Research Paper in English, which is longer in length but on the same topic. By doing this, students agree to enter their research paper into a College of Liberal Arts research competition in November, and if selected, to present their research at a public forum on December 5. Students whose papers who compete (submit their papers) will receive the following benefits: (1) A curve up to 100 on open notebook quizzes scoring below a 90 from November 1 onward; (2) If their paper is recognized by the jury, the ability to put on their résumé a line about a special UTA research distinction; (3) Having a ready-to-go research paper for the UTA ACES Conference in Spring 2018, during which students can compete with their paper for monetary prizes. See Blackboard for a hand out with further information.

**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, no questions asked, after which I will deduct 6 points from their final course grade for every additional absence up to the eighth one, after which the student who has missed class eight times will receive a F in the course. Please note: 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.

**Classroom Behavior Policy:** Everyone is required to behave professionally and with respect toward each other.

### **Grading Criteria:**

My criteria for grading homeworks, papers, and exams hinge on (1) following all instructions properly; (2) quality of Spanish spelling and grammar; (3) whether I can follow or understand the Spanish that is written; (4) the substance, originality or depth of analysis (when relevant to assignment); (5) comprehension of material covered, and (6) organization of ideas. 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:**

Open Notebook Quizzes 7X6 points each=42% or 42 points of the Final Course Grade.

Short papers 2X15=30%

Research Paper=23%

Participation=5%

\*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 of one quiz, 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. I will only grant make-ups at the end of the semester. Late papers are accepted up to 24 hours late with a penalty or grade cap (meaning that an "A" is not allowed for late papers.) See assignment instructions for details.

**Course Contract:** On the first day of class, students will be asked to sign a course contract to help avoid misunderstandings throughout the semester. Failure to complete this course contract on the first day of class, or upon the professor's request, will result in a 10-point deduction from the student's final grade. A copy of the contract is appended to this syllabus. The professor will keep the signed copies.

**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://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](http://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](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://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](http://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](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto: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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

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**The IDEAS Center** (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:dianec@uta.edu).

## **COURSE CONTRACT FOR SPAN 3312 FALL 2017**

### **Part I.**

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_.

I have reviewed and understand the course policies outlined in the Course Syllabus.

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature).

## 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*

Friday August 25: Topic (s): Introduction to the Class. The representation of the New World in Theodore Galle (1630).

Monday August 28: Topic (s): Columbus on the Indians of the New World (1492-1493). Reading: “Cristobal Colón describe su llegada al Nuevo Mundo” (in PDF *Lecturas*, on BB).

Wednesday August 30: Topic(s): The Requirement (1512) and Moctezuma (1521). Reading: “El Requerimiento” and “¿Cómo era Moctezuma?” (*Lecturas*).

Friday September 1: Topic(s): Octavio Paz and La Malinche. Reading: Selections from “Los hijos de la Malinche” (*Lecturas*). **Open Notebook Quiz 1.**

Monday September 4: Labor Day No Class.

Wednesday September 6: Topic(s): Political and Cultural Conflicts in Colonial Latin America and Bolívar. Readings: “Las noticias secretas” (*Lecturas*); Assigned film: *El Libertador* (has accompanying questionnaire.)

Friday September 8: Simón Bolívar, continued. Assigned film: *Bolívar el héroe* (has accompanying questionnaire on BB.) **Open Notebook Quiz 2.**

Monday September 11: Topic(s): The Myth of the Gaucho. No assigned reading or film. **Paper 1 is due.**

Wednesday September 13: Topic(s): The Myth of the Gaucho, continued. Assigned film: *El gaucho Martín Fierro* (has accompanying questionnaire on BB).

Friday September 15: Topic(s): Mexico and the Mexican Revolution. Assigned film: *Vámonos con Pancho Villa* (has accompanying questionnaire.)

Monday September 18: Topic (s): Mexico and the Mexican Revolution. Reading: *Como agua para chocolate* (CAPC) by Laura Esquivel. Please use reading guide (on BB) to help your understanding. **Open Notebook Quiz 3.**

Wednesday September 20: Reading: *Como agua para chocolate* (CAPC) by Laura Esquivel. Please use reading guide to help your understanding.

Friday September 22: Reading: *Como agua para chocolate* (CAPC) by Laura Esquivel. Please use reading guide to help your understanding.

Monday September 25-Wednesday September 27-Friday September 29: CAPC.

Monday October 2: CAPC. **Open Notebook Quiz 4.**

Wednesday October 4: Final discussion of CAPC.

Friday October 6: Research Skills Workshop (Guest Speaker.)

Monday October 9: To Be Announced. **Paper 2 is due.**

Wednesday October 11: Topic (s): Cuba and the Cuban Revolution. Assigned film: Che, Part 1 (has accompanying questionnaire.). Online lecture: El mito de Che Guevara (BB.)

Friday October 13: Topic (s): Cuba and the Cuban Revolution. Assigned film: Che, part 2 (has accompanying questionnaire.)

Monday October 16: Topic(s): An Introduction to Modern Mexican American History. Reading: Address to the Commonwealth Club of California (Speech by César Chávez, 1984). Link on BB.

Wednesday October 18 & Friday October 20: Topic(s): An Introduction to Modern Mexican American History. Reading: *El malcriado* newspaper 1 (PDF on BB).

Monday October 23: Topic(s): Literature and the Mexican American Experience. Reading: *The House on Mango Street*.

Wednesday October 25: Topic(s): Literature and the Mexican American Experience. Reading: *The House on Mango Street*. **Open Notebook Quiz 5.**

Friday October 27 and Monday October 30: Topic(s): Literature and the Mexican American Experience. Reading: *The House on Mango Street*. Half the class will be working in Special Collections while the other meets with me. I will prepare sign-up sheets to coordinate who goes where when. Group A will be in Special Collections 10/27 and B will be there on 10/30.

Wednesday November 1: Topic(s): Literature and the Mexican American Experience. Reading: *The House on Mango Street*.

Friday November 3 –Friday November 10: Topic(s): Final Research Project Workshop. Half the class will be working in Special Collections while the other meets with me. I will prepare sign-up sheets to coordinate who goes where when. Group A will be in Special Collections November 3 and November 8. B will be in Special Collections on Monday November 6 and Friday November 10.

Monday November 13 and Wednesday November 15: Topic(s): Julia Alvarez and the theme of Dictatorship. Readings: *Antes de ser libres*. Open Notebook Quiz 6 on Wednesday November 15.

Friday November 17: Topic(s): Julia Alvarez and the theme of Dictatorship. Readings: *Antes de ser libres*.

Monday November 20: **Research Papers Due today.** Topic(s): Julia Alvarez and the theme of Dictatorship. Readings: *Antes de ser libres*.

Wednesday November 22: Film in Class.

Friday November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday. No Class

Monday November 27: Topic(s): Julia Alvarez and the theme of Dictatorship. Readings: *Antes de ser libres*.

Wednesday November 29-Friday December 1: Topic(s): Julia Alvarez and the theme of Dictatorship. Readings: *Antes de ser libres*.

Monday December 4: Topic(s): Human Rights in Latin America.

Wednesday December 6: Topic(s): Latin America Today. Assigned Reading: Selected news articles on BB. **Final open notebook quiz (#7).**