

Dr. W. Martínez
756-1212

HUMANITIES 310
Latin American Culture

Cal Poly SLO

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Office hours:

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Course Description:

An interdisciplinary examination of the different components that make up the different cultures of Latin America. The course examines the historical development of Latin America's, most important iconic symbols of traditional and urban cultures. It also focuses on Specific topics of interest to gain a better understanding of the diversity of thought and nationalism in different regions. Special emphasis is placed on the development of philosophical thought and historical awareness in the XIX and XX century

Required Texts:

- * Latin America. Perspectives on a region John Hopkins, Ed.
- * Of Love and Other Demons by Gabriel García Márquez
- * Articles on reserve in the library

Course Dynamics:

Students are expected to come prepared with assign readings to class, to actively participate in discussion, and to respect other's opinions as they do their own. Student input in this course is greatly valued.

Grading:

Grading will be on a straight percent scale as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 100-95: A | 86-84: B | 76-74: C | 66-64: D |
| 94-90: A- | 83-80: B- | 73-70: C- | 63-60: D- |
| 89-87: B+ | 79-77: C+ | 69-67: D+ | 59-00: F |

Borderline cases will be determined only by the amount of class participation.

Gradable work:

Your grade will be determined based on the following work to be completed during the course:

| Work | Value |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 4/5 30-min. quizzes | 200 pts. (50 pts each) |
| 1 Journal | 200 pts. |
| 1 Term Paper/Project | 250 pts. |
| Mid tern exam | 150 pts. |
| Final exam | 200 pts. |
| Total | 1000 points |

Extra Credit

If you do wish to do beyond what is required of this course I welcome your energy and enthusiasm. However, please note that extra credit is not part of the gradable work, and therefore will not aid you in obtaining a better grade. It will, most undoubtedly, help you understand latin America and its cultures better, and if this is your desire, you have my every support.

Quizzes and exams

Quizzes will cover the material discussed and the reading assignments up to that point. Quizzes are not cumulative. There will be no make-up quizzes. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Exams will all be in Essay form. You will be expected to develop several topics within one exam. You will always be given a choice of questions to develop. Exams are not cumulative. Please note: **The final exam for this class is scheduled for WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, from 1-3 pm. You will NOT be allowed to change the date of the exam under any circumstances. If you do not take the final exam you will be given the grade based on your total points accumulated up to that point.**

Journal

You will write a journal in which you will comment on one of the following items: a) the reading assignments; b) cultural differences between latin America and the United States that you observe; c) concrete examples of cultural aspects discussed in class; d)) Any specific assigned writing topic, or; e)take material from newspapers/ magazines, paste them here, and make a written observation to the importance and/or interest in that piece.

You should not keep your class notes here, nor should it be a place to write down your recollections of a particular day -- "Today I got up, ate Rice Krispies and went to class..." does not fit into any of the categories given above. Please don't collect this type of material. You will be required to write at least 1 full page per class meeting. Journals will be collected four times during the quarter, **at random**. You should, hence, carry it with you to all class meetings.

Term paper/ Project

You will be given an option to either write a 8-10 pp. Term paper or to do a full, teachable lesson plan. The paper/project may be written in either English or Spanish. However, grammar, spelling and punctuation will be equally evaluated and your grade will be affected by errors, no matter which language you choose. The paper/project is due the last class meeting of the regular quarter, at the beginning of class.

Term Paper: The final paper will be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5 by 11 in. paper. It should be done on 10 or 12 pt font (about 250-300 words per page) The topic will be any specific part of Mexican culture that interest you most.

Lesson Plan: If you are taking this course with a desire to complement your BCLAD, you have the option to prepare a lesson plan for an entire unit of teaching instead of writing a formal term paper. This lesson plan must be for 6 full days of teaching. It should include an overall introduction, objectives, materials and detailed activities, input and output, and follow up. Lesson plans will be typed, double spaced on 8.5 by 11 in. paper.

Participation

Students are expected to come prepared to class and to interact with all class discussions. Hence, you should complete your reading assignment **prior** to the beginning of that class meeting. You will be held

responsible for **ALL** the material covered in class and in the reading assignments. If you plan to miss a class meeting, obtain class notes from one of your fellow students. If you have any questions on the material, or you would like a more detailed explanation of any topic covered in class, please ask me in class. If you are interested in discussing topics not covered in class, please feel free to drop by the office and talk. If the hours posted do not work well for you, please let me know and I will make other arrangements. I have an open door policy, and can be readably found on campus.

**Calendar of Activities
Fall Quarter 2000**

| Week # | MONDAY | WEDNESDAY |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1 | Administrative Introduction to course. What is culture? | Mesoamerican cultures: Olmec, Maya and Aztec Film :”Lost kingdom of the Maya” |
| 2 | Andian cultures: The Inca | Indigenous Cultures in the XXth Century – An Overview Quiz #1 |
| 3 | The encounter of three cultures: The Spain and its history prior to 1500. | Conquest vs. Independence The Colonies in the 16th century |
| 4 | From Mestizaje to Xenophobia: New Spain in the 17th and 18th C. | Independence and Nation Building. Quiz #2 |
| 5 | Religion, Politics and Education Review for Midterm. | No Class |
| 6 | Midterm Exam. | Women in Latin America |
| 7 | Latin America Literature From Conquest to Romanticism | No Lecture Quiz #3 |
| 8 | Latin American Literature: The 19 th Century | Latin American Literature: the 20 th Century |
| 9 | Art as a Social Marker: Art and Architecture | Latin America and the United States: Politics and Economics Quiz #4 |
| 10 | Magic Realism | Thanksgiving No Classes |
| 11 | Magic Realism Quiz #5 | Latin American Music Review for Final Examination <u>Term Paper/Projects due</u> |