



Prepared by: J. Martinez  
Date Prepared: Spring 2023  
Textbook Update: Spring 2024  
C & GE approved: April 13, 2023  
Board approved: May 10, 2023  
Semester Effective:

Spanish (SPAN) 2500 Latin American Culture (4 units) CSU: UC

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 2001 with a grade of 'C' or better

Advisory: None

Prerequisite knowledge and skills: Before entering the course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the four skills: listening, comprehension, speaking, and reading as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign languages for the range of Intermediate Low to Intermediate Mid,
2. Understand most Spanish when spoken at a slower than normal pace, and some Spanish when spoken at a normal pace,
3. Ask and answer questions, on topics beyond the most immediate needs and can be understood by sympathetic interlocutors,
4. Write short paragraphs in Spanish about familiar topics relying on practiced material,
5. Read simple material such as short stories, advertisements, newspaper articles and comprehend most of it with few misunderstandings

Hours and Unit Calculations:

64 hours lecture. 128 Outside of class hours. (192 Total Student Learning Hours) 4 Units

Catalog Description: This is a course about culture that allows the student to study and research topics of special importance to the Hispanic world from its beginning to the present day. Written and oral presentations are required. Class taught in Spanish.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Texts: Fox, Arturo A. *Latinoamerica: Presente Y Pasado*. Prentice Hall, 2011.

Yepes, Enrique. *Breve Historia Cultural Hispanica*. LibreTexts, 2024.

Additional Required Materials: None

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. Summarize the main historical events that shaped Latin American culture and civilization from the precolonial period to the present time,
2. Identify the major geographical features of Latin America, and

3. List the principal historical figures in Latin America and give their major political and/or cultural contributions.

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I           The Great Pre-Colombian Civilizations I
  - A. Mesoamerica
  - B. The Olmec
  - C. Mesoamerica's Classic Period (300-650/900+ AD)
  - D. Teotihuacan
  - E. Maya's Classic Period (300-900+ AD)
  - F. Mesoamerica's Post Classic Period (650/900+-1519)
  - G. The Enigmatic Toltec
  - H. The Legend of Quetzalcoatl
  
- Unit II           The Great Pre-Colombian Civilizations II
  - A. The Lords of Tenochtitlan
  - B. South America before Columbus
  - C. Peru before the Incas
  - D. The Children of the Sun
  
- Unit III          Europe During America's Discovery
  - A. The Renaissance Spirit
  - B. Favorable Conditions
  - C. The Sea and its Mysteries
  - D. Portugal and the Imagination of a Prince
  - E. Ivory, Slaves and Spaniards
  - F. Spain in the Late Fifteenth Century
  - G. A Man named Colombo
  - H. The First image of the American Indian
  
- Unit IV          The Conquest of Hispanic America
  - A. The Newspaper of the Island (1492-1519)
  - B. Hernán Cortés and the Conquest of México (1519-1521)
  - C. The Conquest of Perú (1524-1533)
  - D. The Conquest of the Southern Cone of South America
  - E. Myths that Created Realities
  
- Unit V           The Colonial System
  - A. Controversies Surrounding the Indigenous Population
  - B. The Imperial Monarchy
  - C. The Commercial Monopoly
  - D. Gold and Silver from the Indies
  - E. From the "Encomienda" to the Hacienda
  - F. Slavery
  - G. The Church in America
  
- Unit VI          Society, Life and Culture of the Colonial World

- A. Some Hispanic Americans Were More Equal than Others
- B. Imperial Monarchy
- C. Intellectual Life
- D. Erudition and Scientific Studies
- E. Arts: From Renaissance to Baroque
- F. The Letters

- Unit VII      Nineteenth Century: Independence and its Consequences
- A. Preface to the Storm
  - B. Napoleon in Spain: The Spark that Started the Fire
  - C. Mexico
  - D. Central America
  - E. Caribbean Area
  - F. South America
  - G. "The Liberator"
  - H. Jose de San Martin
  - I. The Final Chapter
  - J. A Problematic Peace
  - K. Consequences of Independence

- Unit VIII      Latin America from a Bird's Eye View
- A. Terminology
  - B. Physical Dimensions and Geographic Contrasts
  - C. The Human Map
  - D. Mexico
  - E. Central America
  - F. Caribbean Area
  - G. South America
  - H. But is there really a Latin America?

- Unit IX      Twentieth Century: The Latin American Horizon
- A. Political-Economic Horizon
  - B. The World of Latin American Values
  - C. Social Classes
  - D. Religious Feeling
  - E. Woman in Latin America
  - F. Drug Trafficking

- Unit X      Hispanics in the United States
- A. Hispanic Presence in the United States
  - B. Who is Hispanic?
  - C. Family and the Neighborhood
  - D. Religion
  - E. Music
  - F. Mexican-Americans
  - G. The Dilemma of the Undocumented
  - H. Puerto Ricans
  - I. Cubans



J. A Note on Latino Literature  
K .Bilingualism and Multiculturalism

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class

The students in the class will spend a minimum of 8 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Reading
2. Doing Research
3. Preparing Oral Presentations
4. Studying

Methods of Instruction

1. Lecture
2. Group Discussion
3. Individualized Instruction
4. Power Point Presentations
5. Video Lectures
6. Videos

Methods of Evaluation

1. Exams
2. Research Paper Using MLA Guidelines
3. Oral Presentations
4. Participation Cards

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	110500: Spanish
SAM Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; Offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course



Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	CSC2: CSU Area C2 IG3B: IGETC Area 3B IG6A: IGETC Area 6A LHUM: Local GE Humanities
Discipline:	Spanish