



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

IAS 5363-222: Cultures of Latin America

Course Description:

Students will obtain an understanding and develop the analytical skills necessary to better understand Latin American's rich cultural diversity and complexity. This introductory survey course uses a multi-disciplinary approach to Latin America- its social, economic, political, religious, and cultural structures and practices.

This is a survey course in Latin American Studies and the cognate disciplines which contribute to the body of research. Students in this class will be exposed to history, sociology, communication, anthropology, cultural & media studies. The course takes a holistic approach to the scholarship in contemporary Latin American Studies.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: February 18 – 23, 2020
Location: Building 2775, Rooms 10 and 11. Kapaun Air Station on Vogelweh Air Base.
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 20, 2020

Site Director:

Email: apramstein@ou.edu. Phone: DSN 480-6807, Civilian 06371-47-6807.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Anthony Spencer, Ph.D.
E-mail Address: anthonyspencer@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at <https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact apsyllabi@ou.edu. Text prices are available online

1. Berryman, Phillip. (2016). *Latin America at 200. A New Introduction*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
2. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at <https://canvas.ou.edu>, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

Course Objectives:

- i. explore the histories of Latin America,
- ii. understand the various identities (language, race, gender, religion, culture, geography) of the peoples in the region,
- iii. critically dissect our own interactions in Latin America,
- iv. understand the various political & economic systems within the area,
- v. analyze Latin American influences in other regions and the influences of the rest of the world in Latin America,
- vi. conduct research in the field.

The course is divided into 3 modules. Each module will have a corresponding discussion and module assignment. Module 1 will focus on the history, geography and background of Latin America. Module 2 focuses on key issues such as race, gender, language and immigration. These are contemporary issues shaped by historical forces. In Module 3 we will focus on contemporary issues such as media, tourism, marketing and business initiatives.

Course Outline:

Course Session	TOPIC	WRITTEN WORK
Day 1	Introduction to Latin American Studies Research in LAS	Response Paper
Day 2	Before Conquest Colonial History Geography/Political Divisions Mexico/Central America/South America	NA
Day 3	Indigenous Issues	NA
Day 4	Race Gender	Popular Culture Presentation
Day 5 A	Languages of Latin America	NA
Day 5 B	Immigration/Emmigration	Research Milestones Presentations
Day 6 A	Tourism & Marketing	NA
Day 6 B	Media Contemporary Issues	NA

***Final Papers are due 2 Weeks after the last class date.**

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Participation:

Each student will receive points for attending (entire course) class and making contributions to the discussions. These contributions should be grounded in readings and experience. It is also expected that students will treat others with respect during these discussions.

Response Paper

You should write a three-page response to one of our class readings. Each paper should be double-spaced and follow APA style. You can choose to write about one of the book chapters or articles.

Research Milestone

Each student will prepare a 5-6-minute presentation on the progress of her/his final project. The presentation should be in PowerPoint or Prezi format. Each student should illustrate the working structure of the paper. The student should have a minimum of 4 sources. This assignment is intended to be a “work in progress” for the final and allow the student to receive feedback from the instructor.

Popular Culture Presentation

You will be expected to create a 4-6-minute presentation regarding a popular culture phenomenon. You should detail and analyze a cultural artifact which focuses on Latin America. This can be a film, song, artwork or other cultural product. Each analysis should be well-written; void of errors and most importantly should provide a critical response to one or more of the cultural phenomena you analyze.

Final Research Paper

Each student will choose a conflict or social movement in Latin America. She/he will analyze this “event” as it relates to contemporary Latin American culture and/or global perception. This paper will be between 10-12 pages in length.

*The instructor will provide more detailed assignment descriptions.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

No extra credit is offered in this course. Final grades are not “curved.” The point scale is based on 500 points possible and is as follows:

450 – 500 = A
400 – 449 = B
350 – 399 = C
300 – 349 = D
0 – 299 = F

Grading Criteria

Assignment	Points Earned	Points Possible
Participation		50
Response Paper (Module 1 Assignment)		100
Research Milestone Paper (Module 2 Assignment)		100
Popular Culture Presentation (Module 3 Assignment)		100
Final Research Paper		150
Final		500

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Anthony Spencer, Ph.D.

Education

- 2008 Ph.D. in Communication, University of Oklahoma
- 2003 Master of Journalism in media studies, University of North Texas
- 1995 Bachelor of Journalism in broadcast news, University of Texas

Current Positions

- Professor, Department of Communication/Latin American Studies, Universidad Americana
- Owner, ESA Explore Study Abroad

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- IAS 5363 Cultures of Latin America
- COMM 6323 International Communication
- COMM 6383 Political Communication: War, Peace and Media

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Intercultural/International Communication
- Media & Conflict
- Latin American Studies

Representative Publications

- Spencer, A. T. (2018). Nicaraguan immigration to Costa Rica: Understanding power and race through language. In S. Croucher & J. Caetano (Eds.), *Companion to Migration, Communication, and Politics, Oxfordshire*. UK: Taylor & Francis.
- Croucher, S. M., Spencer, A. T., & McKee, C. (2014). Religion, sex, and willingness to express opinions: A spiral of silence analysis of the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election. *Atlantic Journal of Communication, 22*(2), 111-123.
- Spencer, A. T. (2013). High-End Immigrants Create an Imagined Community in Costa Rica: Examining the Evolving Discourse in Ethnic-Minority Media. *Human Communication, 16*(1), 13-30.
- Spencer, A. T., Croucher, S. M., & Hoelscher, C. (2012). Uses and Gratifications Meets the Internet: A cross-cultural comparison of U.S. & Nicaraguan New Media Usage. *Human Communication, 15*(4), 229 - 240.
- Gerlich, R. N., Drumheller, K. D., Krista Rasco, R., Spencer, A. T. (2012) Marketing to Laggards: Organizational change and diffusion of innovation in the adoption of Facebook Timeline. *Journal of Academy of Business and Economics, 12*(3), 91-101.
- Spencer, A. T. (2011). Americans create hybrid spaces in Costa Rica: A framework for exploring cultural and linguistic integration, *Language and Intercultural Communication, 11*(1), 59-74.
- Spencer, A. T. & Croucher, S. M. (2008). Basque nationalism and spiral of silence: An analysis of public perceptions of ETA in Spain and France, *International Communication Gazette, 70*(2), 135-153.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- 2011: Texas A&M System Teaching Excellence Award
- 2009: University of Oklahoma Department of Communication Qualitative Dissertation Award
- 2008: Intercultural Communication Research Award Dept. of Communication University of Oklahoma

Major Professional Affiliations

- National Communication Association, 2004-2012
- American Communication Association, 2009-2014
- Latin American Studies Association 2014