



# EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL  
and CONTINUING STUDIES

## IAS 5363-494: 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.

This section is an entirely online course. We will work in an intensive format that will mostly replicate the assignments and time component of the onsite courses. It is important that you log in daily. There will be two modules over a 2-week period. Then you will have 1-week to turn in the final paper. In the modules we will work on the skills and concepts you will use in your final paper. In fact, you may use each assignment to build on the next so that you have already started your final paper. It is ok (rather encouraged) that you be able to use portions of the assignments as sections of your final paper

### Course Dates:

June 1 – 21, 2020

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: May 3, 2020

### Site Director:

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email our online site coordinator at [aponline@ou.edu](mailto:aponline@ou.edu)

### Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Anthony Spencer, Ph.D.

E-mail Address: [anthonyspencer@ou.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**OU Email:**

All official correspondence from instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

**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:**

Module	Topic	Readings	Written Work
1	Introduction to Latin American Studies Research in LAS	Berryman/Beltran	Module 1 Assignment: Response Paper
1	Before Conquest Colonial History Geography/Political Divisions Mexico/Central America/South America	Berryman/ Eakin	Na
1	Indigenous Issues	Berryman /Hernandez/Perez	Na
2	Race Gender	Jackson/Cruz Janzen	Module 2 Assignment: Research Milestone Paper
2	Languages of Latin America	Berryman /Perez	Na
2	Immigration	Berryman/ Spencer/Truly	Na
2	Tourism & Marketing	De Oliveira Santos	Module 3 Assignment: Cultural Artifact Presentation
2	Media Contemporary Issues	Rodriguez	Na

**\*Final Papers are due 1 Week after the last class date by Sunday 6/28/2020 at 11:5p.m. CST.**

## **Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:**

### **Discussion Board Participation**

Each student will receive points (up to a maximum of 15) each week for a well-developed post which answers the prompt/question posed by the instructor. Each student will receive points (up to 10) for responding to the posts of at least 2 classmates' posts each week. The total maximum points are 25 per week. These posts should be grounded in course readings, research conducted by the student and personal 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 in our course readings.

In this paper you must include the following information:

1. address the key points brought forth in one of the readings
2. discuss any concerns or criticisms you have of the reading
3. outline how this text may be helpful in your studies/research
4. develop questions for discussion arising from the reading

### **Research Milestone**

Each student will prepare a 3-page paper that is the start of the final paper. You can use this directly in your final paper just taking into consideration the instructor's comments. The student will use a minimum of 3 scholarly sources in this paper. The paper will explain the context of an historical or contemporary event/issue in Latin America and combine into the context of a particular nation. You may choose any of the course topics listed below. You will place it into the context of any Latin American nation.

#### **Course Topics**

Indigenous Issues

Race

Gender

Language

Immigration

Tourism

Marketing

Media

### **Popular Culture Presentation**

You will be expected to create a 6-10 slide presentation regarding a popular culture phenomenon in Latin America. This can be a film, song, art work or other cultural product. Each presentation should be well-written, void of errors, visually interesting and most importantly should provide explain and analyze the cultural phenomenon you chose.

This can be a film, song, art work or other cultural product. Find something that interests you. \*Hint This can be related to your final paper (but is not required).

The product you analyze should come from Mexico, Central America, South America or the Caribbean. Each analysis should explain a unique aspect of Latin American culture. The purpose of this presentation is to analyze the cultural artifact and place it into context. Use the readings and class discussions as support. Find other articles, blogs, newspaper articles etc. (you can use credible, non-scholarly support as well as scholarly books and articles).

1. Description of artifact: Explain what you are analyzing, the genre of culture it represents.
2. Visual Support: Provide a picture of your artifact. If it is a song use lyrics. If it is a film show a short clip. Show the cover of a book. Provide us with enough background so we will understand your analysis.

3. Where is the product from? This section should provide a succinct description of where your artifact was produced. Was this created in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, South America, etc.? Discuss the importance of the production. Discuss the language (Spanish, Portuguese, English, French, Dutch, Indigenous Language).
4. Analysis: This section is the primary focus of the presentation. What is the cultural significance of your artifact? Does it represent a Latino identity? Does it contest identity? Think of other themes which are important such as cultural imperialism, globalization, indigenous struggle, issues of gender/sexuality, etc.
5. Conclusion: You should succinctly wrap up the presentation, summarizing the background information and your analysis. This section should also include a summary of your own interpretations of the analysis.

### 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 paper is due one week after the last day of class.

The purpose of this assignment is to analyze one of the course topics (see the list above) in a particular country of Latin America. The student will utilize class readings, discussions, and outside sources to apply this topic to their chosen country. He/she will use the course topic as a lens to analyze the impact on a country. An example might be immigration/Peru, Tourism/Costa Rica, Language/Mexico or any other combination between the topics and countries that makes an appropriate analysis to fit the students’ area of interest.

The paper should have a minimum of 10 sources (6 must be scholarly sources). This paper will be between 10-12 pages in length (double spacing) and is due 1 week after the final class day.

### 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:

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

### Grading Criteria

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Points Possible</b>
Discussion Board Participation (2 weeks)		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
<b>Final</b>		<b>500</b>

**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.

**Policy for Late Work:**

Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work

**Attendance Policy:**

In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone **before** the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed

**Incomplete Grade Policy:**

A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

**Technical Support Information:**

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: <http://webapps.ou.edu/it/> or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

## **POLICIES AND NOTICES**

### **Attendance/Grade Policy**

**Note:** Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

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 make 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](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](mailto: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.

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