



# EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL  
and CONTINUING STUDIES

## IAS 5373-491: Media Conflict in Latin America

### Course Description:

Latin America is a region that has been shaped by conflict. Today people in many Latin American countries live in a state of strife or discontent. Revolutions, civil wars, drug wars and other types of armed struggles are a reality in Latin America. Government propaganda, news coverage, and social media have altered the way we understand the concepts of war and peace in the region. Students will study how revolutions, conflicting political ideologies, and the Cold War have shaped Latin America along with other historical forces. In addition to understanding conflict, we will also examine ways that traditional and social media can help diffuse tensions. This course will feature important academic texts as well as real-world examples from journalists and revolutionary leaders.

### Course Dates:

January 20 – February 9, 2020

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 22, 2019

### 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: Dr. Anthony Spencer

Email Address: [anthonyspencer@ou.edu](mailto:anthonyspencer@ou.edu)

Virtual Office Hours: By appt.

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. Artz, L. (Ed.). (2017). *The Pink Tide: Media Access and Political Power in Latin America (Protest, Media and Culture)*. Rowman & Littlefield International. ISBN-13: 978-1786602398
2. Belli, G. (2003). *The Country Under My Skin: A Memoir of Love and War*. Anchor. ISBN-10: 1400032164
3. Rodriguez, C. (2011). *Citizens' Media against Armed Conflict: Disrupting Violence in Colombia*. University of Minnesota Press.

**OU Email:**

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

**Course Objectives:**

1. In this course students will learn to identify various types of conflict as well as understand the historical roots of present-day wars and armed struggles in Latin America.
2. They will analyze the media portrayal of conflicts and be able to critically discuss media coverage.
3. Students will also demonstrate competencies in how both traditional and social media can be used to reduce conflict.

**Class Schedule (Subject to Change)**

| Module | Topic                             | Readings       | Written Work                                  |
|--------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 1      | Introduction to Conflict in Latin | Artz/Rodriguez | Module 1 Assignment: Response Paper           |
| 1      | Traditional War/Conflict          | Artz           | NA  |
| 2      | Immigration/Language & Conflict   | NA             | Module 2 Assignment: Research Milestone Paper |
| 2      | Drug Trade & Conflict             | NA             | NA  |
| 3      | Gender & Conflict                 | Belli          | NA  |
| 3      | Dictators & Conflict              | NA             | NA  |
| 3      | Alternatives to Conflict          | Rodriguez      | NA  |

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

**Assignments:**

**Discussion Board Participation**

Each student will receive points (up to a maximum of 30) each week for a well-developed post which answers the prompt/question posed by the instructor. Each student will receive points (up to 20) for responding to the posts of at least 2 classmates' posts each week. The total maximum points are 50 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 3-page response to either the Belli book (entire book since it is shorter) or a chapter from either the Artz or the Rodrgriguez book. Each paper should be double-spaced and follow APA style.

In this paper you must include the following information:

- (1) address the key points in the reading
- (2) discuss any concerns or criticisms you have of the reading
- (3) outline how this text may be helpful in your research paper
- (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

conflict in Latin America and combine into the context of a particular nation. You may choose any medium (television, radio, newspaper, new media, etc.) to analyze the conflict.

### **Research Paper:**

Each student will conduct an in-depth investigation on a past or recent conflict in Latin America. The student may choose any mediated form (television, radio, newspaper, new media, etc.) as a lens through which we view(ed) that particular conflict. This paper will be between 8-10 pages. This paper will be due 2 weeks after the last day of class.

### **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>Assignment</b>                              | <b>Due Date</b>               | <b>Points Earned</b> | <b>Points Possible</b> |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Discussion Board Participation (2 weeks)       | January 23 & February 6, 2020 |                      | 100 (50 each)          |
| Response Paper (Module 1 Assignment)           | January 26, 2020              |                      | 100                    |
| Research Milestone Paper (Module 2 Assignment) | February 2, 2020              |                      | 100                    |
| Final Research Paper                           | February 9, 2020              |                      | 200                    |
| Total  | NA                            |                      | 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.

### **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 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](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