



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

IAS 5373-221: 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.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: November 12 – 17, 2019

Location: Vilseck, Germany. Please contact Site Director for classroom location.

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: October 14, 2019

Site Director:

Email: apvilseck@ou.edu. Phone: CIV 011-49-9662-83-2069; DSN 476-2069.

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 before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

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. 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. ISBN-10: 0816665842

Course Objectives:

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

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

All chapters of the book and articles must have been thoroughly read before the first day of class. Students should attend each class session fully prepared to describe, explain, critique, and apply the ideas presented by the authors. Such preparedness is essential to your successful performance.

Assignment	Points Possible
Journal Article Analysis	25
Journal Article Analysis Presentation	10
Research Milestone	25
Final Research Paper	30
Class Activities/Participation	10
Total Possible Points	100

Journal Article Analysis/Presentation (Due November 12, 2019):

In this assignment you will analyze a journal article which focuses on war or conflict in Latin America. Discuss the context of the conflict. You will critique the strengths and weaknesses of the analysis. The analysis should be 3 pages in length. Each student must also prepare a 3-5 minute presentation of the article to share with the class.

Research Milestone (Project in Progress) (Done November 17, 2019):

Each student will prepare a 5-6-minute presentation on a case study of media (or social media) coverage of conflict in Latin America. This assignment is intended to be a “work in progress” for your final paper. This will allow you to present your ideas and receive feedback on your final project.

Research Paper (Due two weeks after final class date, December 2, 2019):

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 10-15 pages.

Participation:

Each student will receive an individual grade based upon the quantity and quality of the responses to the readings and discussions initiated in the class

Grading:

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

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

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