

Missouri Southern State University
School of Arts & Sciences
Department of Modern Languages
SPAN 307: Intro to Latin American Civilization
Tentative Syllabus
Course CIP #16.0905
3 credit hours

- **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

- **Catalog Description**

Continued development of the four basic language skills through reading and conversation, with an emphasis on more complex communicative patterns. Taught in Spanish.

- **Prerequisites**

Span 204 or equivalent level of proficiency.

- **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Acquire the necessary elements of language proficiency and cultural competency by exposing them to a foreign language in a diversity of cultural contexts.
- Identify the relationship between cultural practices, such as patterns of social interaction, and perspectives, such as attitudes and values, of the Latin American culture and to identify how values of the culture are expressed in its cultural practices.
- Identify some of historical and cultural concerns of the Latin American culture as these relate to Latin American social, economic, and political institutions.
- Develop cultural awareness through comparisons of the Latin American culture and the student's own.
- Analyze and evaluate information presented in class and in other sources and to present their own ideas using formal writing.

- **COURSE and INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

- **Course:** Intro to Latin American Civilization
- **Course Type:** Traditional
- **Credit hours:** 3 credit hours
- **Time:** 10 – 10:50 am (M,W,F)
- **Location:** WH 304
- **Homepage:** mssu.blackboard.com
- **Instructor Name:** Dr. Rubén Galve Rivera
- **Title:** Assistant Professor of Spanish
- **Office location:** Webster Hall #356
- **Office hours:** Monday (11-12pm; 2:30-4pm); Tuesday (10-11am); Wednesday, on Skype (2:30-5pm)
- **Office phone:** 417-625-9332
- **Email address:** galverivera-r@mssu.edu
- **Preferred contact:** text (817-773-5820)
- **Skype:** rubania

- **ASSURANCE OF LEARNING**

The course is delivered via classroom instruction. It is conducted in both Spanish and English. After every class, students are expected to go over and learn the content previously covered in class. Students will gain an overview of the geography, history, art, architecture, music, cinema, literature, sports and social norms of Latin America through readings, memorization, and audio-visual items. The readings, especially on history and culture, give the student the opportunity to read and listen to Spanish at a more advanced level. At the end of each lesson, several activities such as review exercises, written and/or oral, historical facts, personalities, points of culture, etc. might take place.

It is important to study and review daily since the acquisition of a second language is a cumulative process and requires a solid foundation of previous material in order to incorporate new information. Students are expected to spend a minimum of 9 study hours weekly in order to succeed in this course.

- **COURSE MATERIALS**

- **Required texts**

N/A

- **Recommended texts**

A good bilingual dictionary.

- **Faculty website / Other online resources**

www.mssu.blackboard.com

www.galve.weebly.com

www.wordreference.com

- **Technology requirements**

Internet connection

- **COURSE OUTLINE**

- **Sequence of topics to be covered**

1) *Geography and History*

2) *Literature*

3) *Music*

4) *Art*

5) *Pop Culture*

6) *Other*

7) *Students' presentations*

- **Examinations**

There will be two exams. Each exam will consist of all the content previously announced by the professor. Additionally, there will be a final examination.

- **Final Examination**

The final exam will be **comprehensive**. It is mandatory in order to pass this course and, in compliance with MSSU policies, is not subject to be re-scheduled.

Date: **May 7th**

Time: **8-10 am**

- **Blackboard**

Students will be able to access their grades through Blackboard.

- **Personal website**

In the professor's website (www.galve.us), students will be able to access PowerPoint presentations, videos, and other useful resources that might or might not be used during in-class instruction. A multitude of tabs can be found under "courses" → "Span 307".

- **EVALUATION / GRADING POLICY**

The grade in this class consists of a set of six categories:

- a) Two oral presentations;
- b) Two exams administered in class;
- c) Homework;
- d) Attendance;
- e) A Final Exam.

Letter grades will be assigned using the standard 90, 80, 70, 60 percentage scale:

▪ Attendance	26 %
▪ Oral presentations	20 %
▪ Short compositions	14 %
▪ Exams	20 %
▪ Final Exam	20 %

- **Policy on late work and/or extra credit**

Assignments are to be submitted at the beginning of the class; no exceptions.

- **INSTRUCTOR POLICIES**

- **Attendance & Participation expectations**

Attendance will be monitored daily (every class period). For each time the class meets, students will receive either 0, 5, or 10 points. Students who show up on-time with automatically receive 10; students who are late 1-15 minutes (according to the instructor's iPhone clock) will receive 5 points; students who are late 15+ minutes or absent will receive a zero. At the end of the semester 2 zeros (due to excessive tardiness or absences) will be waived. This is done to not punish students for missing due to sick day, car-broke-down day, etc. There will be no excused absences after a 2nd one, so I suggest you come to class and save those 'waived' days in case you truly need them.

- **Short compositions**
Compositions regarding any given topic must be written in complete sentences and in your own words (copy-paste will lower your grade considerably). They are due at the beginning of the class on the assigned date. Should a student miss class, it is his/her responsibility to contact the professor or a classmate to ask about possible homework/composition that might have been assigned. If you foresee missing class, you can submit it online through a .docx file any time before the deadline. Late work will not be accepted.
- **Oral presentation**
There will be two individual oral presentations. Each student will prepare, cover, and present to the class a specific topic (previously assigned).
- **Exams**
Exams will consist of brief identifications, and short answers.
- **Expectations for readings prior to class**
If a student has questions related to other information or course materials, please contact the professor as soon as possible for clarification –regarding assignments, always 48 hours prior to the due date.
- **Use of personal electronics**
Students are expected to keep their hands off their cell phones and any other electronic devices in order to avoid bad participation and attendance grades.
- **Cheating**
No external help (other than the textbook and a dictionary) is allowed when completing assignments/tests that are part of the grade for the course (e.g. no tutors should help a student complete any assignment). Using on-line translators is another example of academic dishonesty/cheating.
- **Email etiquette**
Students are expected to read through all of the information and materials provided for the course. **I will not reply to any questions regarding information that is already on this syllabus.** Students are expected to introduce themselves when contacting the professor –basic courtesy, mention the course in which they are enrolled, and explain their case/situation thoroughly
- **Student concerns**
Students having a question, concern, or complaint about the course should discuss it with the professor first. If, for whatever reason, the issue was raised but not resolved, the student should communicate such question, concern, or complaint to the Chair of the Foreign Languages Department.

- **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

- **Academic Integrity Statement**

Missouri Southern State University is committed to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Academic work is evaluated on the assumption that the work presented is the student's own, unless designated otherwise. Submitting work that is not one's own is unacceptable and is considered a serious violation of University policy. Cheating is a serious offense that invalidates the purpose of a university education. Any student who takes credit for the work of another person, offers or accepts assistance beyond that allowed by an instructor, or uses unauthorized sources for a test or assignment is cheating. Students must be conscious of their responsibilities as scholars, to learn to discern what is included in plagiarism as well as in other breaches of the Student Handbook, and must know and practice the specifications for citations in scholarly work. When dealing with cases of academic dishonesty, the course instructor may choose to use the campus judicial system; this includes filing an incident report with the Dean of Students, who may act on the report by issuing a written warning or by recommending disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion. Penalties for academic dishonesty may include a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate.

- **Disability Accommodation Statement**

If you are an individual with a disability and require an accommodation for this class, please notify the instructor or the Coordinator of Student Disability Services, at the Student Success Center (659-3725).

- **Non-Discrimination Statement**

In accord with federal law and applicable Missouri statutes, the University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, ancestry, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other legally-protected class, in employment or in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the University, including, but not limited to, athletics, instruction, grading, the awarding of student financial aid, recruitment, admissions, and housing.

- **Expectations for Class Participation in the event of inclement weather/Cancelation**

Students are responsible for monitoring campus notifications and media for news about campus closing or cancellations and to follow up on participation expectations shared by the instructor. Should the class be cancelled for any reason other than inclement weather, students will be notified as soon as the professor can. In such case, a specific activity will be assigned to make up.

- **Copyright Statement**

You are encouraged to use the materials from these courses to learn. You can listen, read, view and interact with the pages. You can print them out for your own use.

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MSSU will not use any of your work for purposes other than your learning without getting your written permission. If we use your materials with your permission, we will credit your work if you so desire.

- **LIBRARY MATERIALS**

N/A