



Spa 3307-S22
Culture and Civilization of Latin America

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[Class Schedule](#)
[Office Hours](#)
[Class Website](#)

Required material

Texts:

Merrell, Floyd, and María Teresa Depaoli. *Las culturas y civilizaciones latinoamericanas*. 2nd ed., UP of America, 2017.

Suggested Material

Correlative Texts:

Keen, Benjamin. *Keen's Latin American Civilization*. Edited by Robert Buffington and Lila Caimari. Westview Press Incorporated, 2009.

Loprete, Carlos A. *Iberoamérica*. 4th ed., Prentice Hall, 2001.

Spanish Reference Texts:

Guardia, Remo. *Diccionario Porrúa de sinónimos y antónimos de la lengua española*. Editorial Porrúa, 2012.

Noble, Judith, and Jaime Lacasa. *Complete Handbook of Spanish Verbs*. Dog Ear Publishing, 2017.

Turk, Phil. *Spanish Grammar Handbook*. Berlitz Publishing, 2009.

Writing Resources:

Purdue MLA Format Guide (in Spanish):

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/owl_en_espanol/estilo_MLA/formato_mla_y_guia_de_estilo.html

Overview of course

In this course we will complete a panoramic study of the history, cultures, and civilizations that embody "Latin America", paying specific attention to the human significance of these traditions, ideas, and philosophies. The organization of this panoramic study will be chronological, beginning with the Pre-Columbian cultures and ending in the 20th century. Classroom presentations and discussions will pivot around historical, anthropological, sociological, artistic, musical, and cultural themes. During this course, students will complete a series of readings, take notes, make brief oral cultural-reports, and write essays about different cultural themes related to Latin American cultural history. Student essays and oral presentations should be grounded in academic research and include the appropriate bibliography. The format of the class will include lectures, discussions, debates, oral presentations, and multimedia presentations.

Student Learning Outcomes

Every advanced Spanish course is designed to help students meet the World Language Program Outcomes. These requirements surpass the General Education Learning Outcomes for Global Perspectives Option 1, but may count as one part of this two-part sequence for non-majors. To receive World Language Program or General Education Program credit, the course cannot be taken as “pass/fail”.

WLC Student Learning Outcomes	
SL01	WLC graduates will understand and speak the target language at an intermediate-high or advanced-low level as described in the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Proficiency Guidelines.
SL02	WLC graduates will read and write in the target language at the intermediate-high or advanced-low level.
SL03	WLC graduates will be able to comprehend, analyze, and communicate the significance of linguistic and other cultural practices in settings where the target language is spoken.
SL04	WLC graduates will be able to utilize their cross-cultural competencies in professional contexts to overcome challenges related to linguistic or other cultural barriers in intercultural settings.

During their studies in the Spanish Program, students will progressively develop their level of skill in speaking, reading, writing, and listening in the target language, while at the same time begin to explore literary, historical, and cultural texts (recognize literary genres and devices, understand historical and cultural background, and identify the cultural significance of texts for readers today). Intense and in-depth textual comprehension is impossible without the fundamental reading skills and cultural recognition skills that are provided in each Spanish language course.

Spa 3307 Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)		Form of Assessment	Concomitant SLOs	
			WLC Program Level SLO	General Education
Listening	L1 Understand short conventional narrative and descriptive statements with a clear understanding of their meaning.	Class Participation, Midterm, Final Exam	All of the Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing SLOs in Spa 3307 course represent the last step in a tiered course structure that is designed to help majors reach the INTERMEDIATE-HIGH or ADVANCED level of the target language consistent with the National Standards for Foreign Language Education (NCATE) by the end of their program of study.	Global Perspectives: Option 1 requires students to reach the ACTFL proficiency level NOVICE HIGH in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing after completing two sequential language courses. Before beginning this course, students should have already surpassed this level, reaching at least the INTERMEDIATE-HIGH level in all these areas.
	L2 Understand the main facts and details of the narrative or descriptions listed in L1.			
Speaking	S1 Participate in most formal and informal conversations related to the cultural topics or current events presented in this course.	Class Participation, Oral Presentation		
	S2 Discuss or narrated cultural or historical events in the past, present, and future tenses.			
	S3 Memorize and make cultural statements or assertions that are at least a paragraph in length.			
	S4 Contribute to classroom conversation with sufficient accuracy, precision, and clarity to convey your intended meaning.		Upon completing this course students should come close to fulfilling WLC Program Level SLOs 1 and 2 related to listening, speaking, reading, writing, or phonology.	

Reading	R1 Read the assigned readings, which include expanded cultural and historical descriptions.	Homework, Written Reports, Midterm, Final Exam	See above	See above
	R2 Understand the main and supporting ideas of the texts mentioned in R1.			
	R3 Develop a vocabulary of analytical concepts that help organize, develop, and process the texts mentioned in R1.			
	R4 Evaluate and compare alternative explanations and data, and predict and draw conclusions from the information presented.			
Writing	W1 Write interpretative essays about cultural or historical events.	Written Reports, Midterm, Final Exam	See above	See above
	W2 Link or chain ideas of paragraph length together using a growing sophistication of cohesive devices. Your writing should be understood by native speakers not accustomed to the writing of non-native writers with just a little effort.	Homework, Written Reports, Midterm, Final Exam,		
Culture	C1 Recognize important events paying attention to their chronological order, cause, and effect.	Homework, Written Reports, Midterm, Final, Oral Presentations	In this course, students will learn to comprehend, analyze, and communicate the significance of linguistic and other historic/cultural practices in the target language. They will also analyze and compare historic/cultural practices of the target culture with their own culture. As a result, they will meet WLC Program SLOs 3 and 4.	Meets Global Perspectives Option 1 Goal > identifying prominent cultural traits and concepts.
	C2 Outline the origins and evolution of the basic social, historic, economic, and political institutions of Latin America.			Meets Global Perspectives Option 1 Goal > demonstrate sufficient reading comprehension in the language of the target culture
	C3 Frame the history and culture of the Latin American world and peoples within an international context.			
	C4 Analyze the symbiotic relationship between language, culture, and world view.	Class Participation, Homework, Written Reports, Midterm, Final, Oral Presentations		Meets Global Perspectives Option 1 Goal > identifying prominent cultural traits and concepts.
	C5 Compare and contrast Spanish attitudes, customs, practices, and way of life with your own.			
	C6 Recognize important ideological, ethnic, cultural, sociopolitical, geographic, and historic factors that have contributed to the formation of Latin America's different cultures and identities.			
	C7 Reflect on the merits, conflicts, and contradictions that can be associated with the trends and themes presented in class.			
Technology	T1 Utilize technology and information sources to access news and other historical or cultural information.	Oral Presentations	Not included in the WLC SLOs	Not included in the Gen Ed SLOs

At the professor's discretion, certain assignments may be anonymously collected during this course and used to assess student completion of any of the SLOs mentioned below. Collected items may include: (1) written exams, (2) reading assignments, (3) writing assignments, and even (4) videotaped oral presentations.

System of Evaluation

Standards of Measurement			Criteria and Weight	
Performance Description	Grade	Percentage		
Excellent	A	93 > 100 %	Class Participation	10%
	A-	90 > 92 %	Homework	10%
Good	B+	87 > 89 %	Written Reports (2)	15%
	B	83 > 86 %	Midterm Exam	25%
	B-	80 > 82 %	Oral Presentations (2)	15%
Satisfactory	C+	77 > 79%	Final Exam	25%
	C	73 > 76 %		
	C-	70 > 72 %		
Marginal	D+	67 > 69 %	Total	100%
	D	63 > 66 %		
	D-	60 > 62 %		
Failing	F	0 > 59 %		

Important Dates

The due dates for each assignment will be listed on the class calendar on the class web page.

Class Participation:

Like any regular language course, regular and punctual online attendance is required, whether this be in person or on *Zoom*. During class, students are expected to learn and practice Spanish. To do this in an effective, timely, and interactive way, a student needs to complete each homework assignment before class and become involved as an active language participant. This requires both a video and audio presence in the *Zoom* classroom format.

Students will be assigned a daily grade for class participation based on a tw-point system: (1pt) preparedness for class and (1pt) for participation in class or in a *Zoom* session.

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. In order for an absence to be considered "excused" a student must document any illness, serious mitigating circumstances, or official university representation. Absences due to COVID-19-related illness, quarantine, and/or isolation will be excused as well. Any "unexcused" absence will result in a 15% reduction in the student's final Participation grade at the end of the semester. If you miss two classes in a row, the professor will send an email to absent@mansfield.edu for administrative follow-up.

Exams

The Midterm and Final Exam will be accumulative exams that assess student retention and comprehension of the materials discussed in class and assigned readings. The Midterm and Final Exam typically consist of recognition, map identification, multiple-choice, and short essay exercises. The idea of "dropping of low exam or quiz scores" does NOT exist in this course.

Homework

Students are encouraged to keep an academic journal utilizing the Modified Cornell Method for note-taking, where they prepare comments and notes on the assigned readings and classroom discussion. Well written journals include academic, emotional, creative, and intellectual comments and summarize the information that a student reads or listens to. These will be periodically collected and graded. Periodic homework assignments (typically reading selections, preparation for oral discussions, or written questions) will be assigned during the semester. These assignments are due the following class period.

Written Reports

During the semester, each student will write two (2) written reports that should focus on a cultural, historical, or literary concept covered in the course. In these 3-5 page essays, students will expand on a topic discussed in class and demonstrate a creative or analytical application of one of the major cultural concepts covered in the course. The written reports must be composed in Spanish and typed in Times New Roman 12 (double spaced). Should a bibliographical source be cited, students must follow the MLA format guidelines. Late reports will not be accepted.

Oral Presentations

Students will prepare two (2) oral presentations related to the most important topics discussed in class. Students are expected to use graphics or technological tools to enhance the clarity of these

presentations. The instructor will provide detailed guidelines for each of these activities. Each presentation will last 5 minutes and must be delivered in Spanish.

Each presentation will be evaluated according to these categories: execution and delivery (60%), material and preparation (30%), and class reception and/or fielding of questions (10%).

Suggested Method of Study

Students should expand their class notes as soon as possible following each class and should review the previous day's notes before they attend the next class. Students are encouraged to self-monitor their progress and set up a rigorous routine of reading. To avoid burnout, students should always study in multiple, staggered, short blocks of time. Each block should be no more than an hour and should include 5-to-10-minute breaks. Integrating numerous small blocks of study time into the weekly schedule is empowering.

The Syllabus

This syllabus serves as a contractual agreement between you and Dr. William P. Keeth, the Instructor of Record for this course. Only the Instructor of Record may issue your course grade. Presence in this class means that you agree to the items stipulated in the syllabus and are aware of any modifications made throughout the semester. One should periodically check the course web site for any updates to the syllabus and/or class calendar.

Class records and Grades

Oversee your grade by monitoring your progress and maintaining contact with your instructor. Any student material or record that has been returned to the student becomes the student's responsibility to maintain as a permanent record for the course. Students are responsible for picking up any materials that are made available to them or are returned in class. If a student loses these records and the professor does not have a copy of the material available, the student will receive a failing grade for the particular activity.

MU's Health and Safety Plan for Spring 2022 and the Student Code of Conduct

Mansfield University's Student Code of Conduct prohibits the violation of any University policy as well as local, state, or federal laws. Expressly included in this expectation are any federal, state, regional, or local emergency orders or declarations, mandatory policies, or mandatory health advisory requirements, including those made by the University President. Mansfield's Health and Safety Guide for Spring 2022 recommends that members of the Mansfield University community comply with certain measures, including social distancing and the wearing face coverings, to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Adherence to the isolation and quarantine guidance for exposure or if an individual tests positive for the COVID virus is expected of the entire campus community. Social distancing and the wearing of face coverings guidance are based on the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in all buildings and classrooms. **Face coverings must cover both the nose and mouth, and be of a multi-layer design. KN95 and surgical masks provide the best protection.** Neck gators are not acceptable for face covering and should not be used.

Students who do not conform any specified university mandate of mitigation actions are in violation of the Student Code of Conduct and subject to the appropriate sanctions. Violations of the student Code of Conduct, will be reported to the University's chief conduct officer, William

Kluge, at wkluge@mansfield.edu. For more information, please see the university's Health and Safety Plan at <http://mansfield.edu/health>.

Regarding the enforcement of Mansfield's Health and Safety Plan, it is important to recognize the critical nature that full compliance with these policies will play in the success of this semester. **It must be understood that non-compliance with these policies by just a few could jeopardize the health and safety of the entire Mansfield community as well as our ability to continue offering in-person instruction during Spring2022, and therefore violations will be treated accordingly.** As such, repeated violations shall result in the appropriate sanctions based upon the circumstances involved.

Please note: Students who have medical conditions that prevent them from wearing face coverings or complying with other risk-mitigating mandates must contact Melinda Phillips in the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at mphillip@mansfield.edu or 570.662.4436 to request accommodations.

Students Requesting Academic and/or Access Accommodations

Students with documented learning disabilities, physical challenges, mental health diagnoses, or other significant medical conditions whose learning or participation may be affected in this course, should meet with Melinda Phillips, the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD Coordinator) in the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in 144 South Hall (570.662.4436) for a review of qualification for reasonable accommodations. It is recommended that students contact the SSD Coordinator during the first two weeks of classes or immediately upon diagnosis to ensure accommodations are met in an efficient, appropriate, and timely manner for the best student learning outcome. Upon qualification, the Coordinator will arrange to provide an accommodation letter to the professor for the identification of academic or accessibility adjustments. You must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities to renew accommodation letters at the start of each semester.

Mansfield University Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

As expressed in Mansfield University's Mission and Vision statement, our institution strives to "nurture the whole student through an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming community." As such, we welcome students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds. We expect all interactions between community members to be respectful, whether in person or online, both in and out of the classroom.

Academic Integrity

The integrity of all scholarly work is at the foundation of an academic community. Students are expected to do their own academic work. Dishonesty in academic work, including cheating, academic misconduct, fabrication, or plagiarism, is unacceptable. Faculty are expected to instruct students in ways of avoiding these forms of academic dishonesty. Faculty are also responsible for assessing and reporting all charges of academic dishonesty to the appropriate Dean. MU's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at <http://www.mansfield.edu/academic-affairs/faculty-resources/upload/Mansfield-University-Process-for-Reporting-Academic-Integrity-Violations-Rev-3-09.pdf> and the Academic Dishonesty Form may be accessed here or from the Academic Affairs website.

Copyright

Mansfield University fully supports and adheres to the Copyright laws of the United States and other nations. Respect for intellectual labor and creativity is vital to academic discourse and enterprise. This principle applies to any original work in any tangible medium of expression. Images displayable on computer screens, computer software, music, books, magazines, journals, photographs, and articles are among items subject to copyright. A work need not be explicitly labeled with a copyright notice to be afforded copyright protection. For more information on Copyright please consult the [Mansfield University Copyright Information website](#).

Student Consumer Rights and Responsibilities

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) was enacted in 2008 and reauthorized the amended Higher Education Act of 1965. HEOA requires postsecondary educational institutions to distribute or make publicly available a broad range of information collectively known as Student Consumer Information. Topics covered under HEOA include student financial aid, campus health and safety, student outcomes, as well as general institutional information. Mansfield's Student Consumer Information website is located at this link: <http://mansfield.edu/HEA/>.

Title IX and Protection of Minors Legislation: Reporting Obligations

Mansfield University and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students.

Sexual Discrimination or Misconduct and Title IX Requirements

In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, all University officials, volunteers and employees (including student employees) are obligated to report incidents of sexual misconduct of which they become aware to the Title IX Coordinator/designee, unless: 1) they serve in a role that makes such reports privileged or are recognized as providing a confidential resource; or 2) they are a faculty member and learn of the report from a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project. These reporting exceptions do not apply to report of sexual misconduct involving an individual who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred. When a report involved suspected abuse of a child (an individual under the age of 18 at the time of the incident(s) as reported), all University employees, officials and volunteers are required to notify the University police and the Child Line run by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Reports regarding Title IX and sexual misconduct should be directed to Mansfield University, Title IX Coordinator by [email](#) or using this [website](#). Additional information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual assault and/or harassment can be found [here](#).

Protection of Minors Requirements

Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred. Mandated reporters must immediately make an oral report of suspected child abuse to the Department of Human Services (DHS) by calling 800-932-0313. Immediately following the report to DHS, the mandated reporter must notify Human Resources (570-389-4151), as designated in the University's Protection of Minors Policy. No exceptions apply to this reporting obligation. Mansfield University's Protection of Minors policy is available at <https://www.mansfield.edu/hr/protection-of-minors.cfm>.