

Spanish 248
Latin American Contemporary Culture
Moravian College
Fall 2009

Dr. Erica Miller Yozell Comenius Hall 402 610-625-7782 emy@moravian.edu I will generally respond to your emails within 24 hs on weekdays and within 48 hs on weekends.	Class details: W, F 10:20-11:30 p.m. PPHAC 301 Office Hours: Mon 10:10-12:10; Wed. & Fri. 12:30-1:00 and by appointment.
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Are you interested in learning more about the history, cultures, literature, and film of the Spanish-speaking Americas? Would you like to be able to read about events in Latin America and put them in context? Do you want to be able to converse and write about cultural production in Spanish? This course is designed to help students develop the skills and knowledge needed to engage with the rich cultural heritage of Latin America.

The course begins by working to improve students' ability to synthesize, analyze and communicate information and concepts in Spanish as students gain familiarity with some of the key historical, political and cultural background necessary to understand the complex contemporary era. The greater part of the semester will be dedicated to studying examples of the cultural production of the twentieth- and twenty-first-centuries and to refining students' research, writing and speaking skills. This study will culminate in each student researching a topic of his or her interest, presenting the findings to the class, and completing a short research paper. The class will be conducted entirely in Spanish. *Prerequisite: Spanish 155*

Required Text:

Fox, Arturo A. *Latinoamérica: Presente y pasado*. 3rd. edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, 2007. ISBN 0-13-223146-8.

Blackboard:

I have put together a Blackboard site (<http://blackboard.moravian.edu/>) for this course. You need to enroll yourself – so please do this soon! On Blackboard you will find a copy of the syllabus, course calendar, my contact information, and the additional readings and films. As the semester progresses, I will post homework assignments, details on compositions and presentations, any changes to the syllabus, and additional information. If you miss class for any reason, you should check Blackboard so that you know what material to prepare and what homework to complete for the next class.

EXPECTATIONS AND EVALUATION:

Participation: As a workshop-based, seminar-style class, the success of this course depends on the collective efforts of all of us. Students are expected to arrive prepared to participate in all class activities by having studied the topics to be covered and completed all assigned homework. **Active participation** involves collaborating in paired and group activities, volunteering answers, working on in-class writing, being prepared for short oral presentations, having read and understood any assigned texts, and speaking in class discussions. Simply being present, looking attentive and taking notes is **not** considered active participation. Participation should be in Spanish.

*As per departmental rules, students **must attend at least three (3) relevant events outside of class**. Check the Spanish Club calendar for possibilities, come to the Spanish Table, or ask me about other opportunities.

* Absences: 0-2 will not be penalized. Every absence over two will lower the final grade by one point.

Homework: Homework will include readings, comprehension and vocabulary exercises, short in-class presentations, and other written work. These activities are designed to aid students' comprehension and retention of material and to facilitate skill development. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Readings and films: In addition to the cultural history textbook selections, we will read short stories and other brief texts and view several films (outside of class). Students will respond to and comment on the readings both in discussions and in writing.

News Journal: Students will follow the news from one Latin American country over the course of the semester. Each student will hand in a brief typed paragraph (150-250 words) each week on a substantive news article read in Spanish in a major newspaper for that country. Students will then collect these paragraphs in a separate binder or folder. Later in the semester, students will collaborate with others from their region to create a presentation on regional news in order to inform the other students. More details will be posted on Blackboard.

Short writing assignments: Students will write numerous short informal and formal writing assignments in Spanish. The focus for these activities is to develop both ideas and skills. Please, no hand-written papers - all papers should be typed and double-spaced. I will not accept emailed papers unless we have made previous arrangements. **Late papers will lose 10 points per day, starting at the time of class.** Exceptions will be made only in extraordinary circumstances.

Do make use of resources like the Writing Center (if we have a tutor who also works in Spanish) for questions of organization, argumentation, and style, or the departmental tutors for questions of grammar. You must **include ALL previous drafts**, including

ALL with comments by ANY reader (peers, Writing Center tutors, professors, anyone). It's okay to ask for help revising, but no one should write or rewrite the paper for you. Helpful readers may point out errors or awkward passages, but may not explicitly rewrite entire sections.

Exams: There will be two exams that test knowledge of information and related vocabulary, the ability to make connections between events and ideas, and the ability to synthesize and analyze information. Study guides will be available on Blackboard. Make-up exams will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances; such arrangements may require additional documentation.

Final composition and presentation: Students will choose a topic of interest to them and complete a short research paper (8-10 pages) on this topic, due on the final exam day. At the end of the semester, students will present in class on their topics and the major questions addressed. More details will be available on Blackboard.

Evaluation:

	Final grade:	10%	Participation
24%	Exams (12%, 12%)	16%	Short writing assignments
25%	Final composition	15%	News journal (10% individual journal, 5% group presentation)
5%	Presentation of project	5%	Homework

Academic Honesty:

It is your responsibility to make sure you are familiar with the Policy on Academic Honesty at Moravian College. Plagiarism (presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own) and cheating are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Homework is assumed to be done individually unless otherwise specified. For example, while you may study together, it is not acceptable to write "joint" homework and turn in two copies.

For detailed information, see the website:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

Note especially:

"When writing creative or research papers in a foreign language, students may not use electronic translation services. Utilizing such tools without express permission of the instructor constitutes plagiarism. The use of electronic dictionaries for single-word inquiries or short idiomatic expressions is permissible at the discretion of professors in the Department of Foreign Languages." (Moravian College Academic Honesty Policy, my emphasis)

Resources:

- **Office Hours:** I encourage you to stop by during office hours or make an appointment with me. I am happy to work with you on any difficulties you are encountering or questions you may have. We can cover material in English or in Spanish.
- **Writing Center:** The writing center tutors help students work on thesis development, argumentation, organization, coherency, clarity, transitions, and other elements of good writing. Depending on availability, there may be a bilingual tutor who can work with you on those elements of your paper in Spanish! Please note that they are not grammar tutors (see a departmental tutor for grammar). If you are interested, ask me or Dr. Hinnefeld about tutors who can also work in Spanish.
- **Reeves Library:** In addition to the research materials, the library has a good collection of dictionaries and other language reference material. If you are serious about expanding your vocabulary, the monolingual (Spanish to Spanish) dictionaries are excellent resources. Reeves has a copy of the Diccionario de la Lengua Española put out by the Real Academia Española, as well as the fabulous Diccionario de Uso de María Moliner. The latter has great examples of general and regional uses of different words. The class will attend a short session focused on databases and performing searches on material relevant to this class.
- **Online Resources.** The *Diccionario de la lengua española* from the Real Academia Española is an excellent resource that is now available online at <http://buscon.rae.es/drae/>. Select: *Búsqueda sin signos diacríticos*. If the word is a verb, you will be able to see all the conjugations.
- **Grammar Tutors:** The Department of Foreign Languages prepares a list of tutors at the beginning of each semester, including ones for advanced students. The department pays the peer tutors, so it's free for you. They're a great resource!
- **Office of Learning Services:** The folks at Learning Services help students with strategies to succeed in the academic environment, and they can help you establish habits that will be useful after college, too. In addition, if you would like to request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you should schedule an appointment with the Office of Learning Services.
- **Counseling Center:** The counselors help students deal with the stressors of college life. If you are feeling overwhelmed, give them a call or stop by!

Programa del curso
Span 248
Otoño 2009

The professor reserves the right to modify the calendar as the semester progresses. Additional short background or theoretical readings may be included. For specific homework, see the Blackboard site for this class.

2 sep.	Introducción al curso.
4	"Las grandes civilizaciones precolombinas"
9	"La conquista de la América Hispana"
11	La época colonial
16	El siglo XIX: "La independencia y sus consecuencias"
18	Examen
23	El siglo XX, panorama
25	"La escena cultural desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial"
30	El "Boom" Latinoamericano; selecciones de la película <i>El general no tiene quien le escriba</i> , (1999, dir. Arturo Ripstein, basada en la novela de Gabriel García Márquez); Gabriel García Márquez, "La prodigiosa tarde de Baltazar"
2 oct.	<i>Como agua para chocolate</i> (1992, dir. Alfonso Arau, basada en la novela de Laura Esquivel). Introducción al estudio del cine
7	"McOndo" Fuguet / Gómez; blogs
9	Selecciones de <i>Cortos</i> de Alberto Fuguet
14	Examen
16	Los países del cono sur
21	<i>Nueve Reinas</i> (2000, dir. Fabián Bielinsky); La crisis económica de 2001
23	<i>La ciudad bajo el libre mercado</i> (selecciones), eds. Portes, Roberts, y Grimson; respuestas populares a la crisis del 2001
28	<i>Bolivia</i> (2001, dir. Adrián Caetano); Beatriz Sarlo, "Imaginario de la violencia urbana"
30	Centroamérica y México
4 nov.	<i>Y tu mamá también</i> (2001, dir. Alfonso Cuarón)
6	Cristina Rivera Garza, "La alienación también tiene su belleza"
11	La Hispanoamérica Andina
13	Reeves Library: workshop. Individual meetings on final project topic.
18	Edmundo Paz Soldán, selecciones de <i>Amores imperfectos</i>
20	El norte de Suramérica: Colombia y Venezuela
25-27	Thanksgiving
2 dic.	El area del Caribe: Haití, la República Dominicana, Cuba
4	Presentaciones
9	Presentaciones