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LAS 101: Latin American and Caribbean Cultures

CUNY School of Professional Studies

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CUNY School of Professional Studies

LAS 101 LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CULTURES

General Education

Flexible Core A – World Cultures & Global Issues

No pre- or co-requisites, Three Credits

ABBREVIATIONS

BB=BlackBoard

DB=Discussion Board

LA=Latin America(n)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduces texts and media from Latin American and Caribbean cultures, including film, music, and performance. Analyzes the distinguishing features of Latin American and Caribbean Cultures through the study of cultural artifacts and issues related to history, politics, customs, and art. Requires research on selected topics.

FLEXIBLE CORE AREA LEARNING OUTCOMES A-WORLD CULTURES & GLOBAL ISSUES

Students will:

1. Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
2. Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.
3. Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
4. Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring world cultures or global issues, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, economics, ethnic studies, foreign languages (building upon previous language acquisition), geography, history, political science, sociology, and world literature.
5. Analyze culture, globalization, or global cultural diversity, and describe an event or process from more than one point of view.
6. Analyze the historical development of one or more non-U.S. societies.
7. Analyze the significance of one or more major movements that have shaped the world's societies.
8. Analyze and discuss the role that race, ethnicity, class, gender, language, sexual orientation, belief, or other forms of social differentiation play in world cultures or societies.
9. Speak, read, and write a language other than English, and use that language to respond to cultures other than one's own.

This course will address Learning Outcomes (LO) A 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8.

DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Distinguish the main movements in Latin American cinema and theatre, and produce a written review;
2. Recognize important figures in Spanish-American, Caribbean and Brazilian Literature and popular culture and write an essay about an author or artist;
3. Understand cultural traditions and place people, concepts, and developments in Latin American cultures in their appropriate contexts;
4. Identify contemporary Latin American art, architecture, and music and analyze major trends by presenting examples;
5. Locate cultural characteristics and movements from pre-Colombian, colonial, and contemporary historical periods in Latin America.
6. Use low-stake communication skills in class, i.e. within the discussion board, interact with peers about key cultural issues such as the role of ethnicity, class, gender, language, and belief;
7. Apply research and high-stake writing to increase knowledge and analytical skills through the composition of research papers on writers and artists or cultural events.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

This is a Zero-Textbook Cost Course (ZTC). There is no required textbook, and all required readings will be provided free of charge through the course site.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments	%
Weekly reading, viewing, searching and discussing in the Discussion Board	20%
Three quizzes on material covered, 5% each, total 15%	15%
Two essays (Essay #1 + Essay #2, each 4-6 pgs.) 20% each, total 40%	40%
One Peer Review (400-600 words) of peers' essays on various topics	10%
One Reflection Journal (400-600 words): in three steps	10%
Self-Assessment quizzes	5%
TOTAL	100%

GRADING DISTRIBUTION

Letter	Grade	Points	GPA
A	Excellent	93-100	4.00
A-		90-92.9	3.70
B+	Good	87-89.9	3.30
B		83-86.9	3.00
B-		80-82.9	2.70
C+	Satisfactory	77-79.9	2.30
C		73-76.9	2.00
C-	Passing	70-72.9	1.70
D		60-69.9	1.30
F	FAILURE	0-59	0.00

ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Board (20%): Prompts posted to the discussion board (DB) are intended to help students identify the fundamental concepts and methods of Latin American Studies, as well as to participate in analyses of the lecture notes and critical readings. *This assignment assesses LOs A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8*

Quizzes (5% each = 15%): Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the subject matter by completing 3 quizzes. *Quizzes assess LOs A6, A8*

Peer Review (10%): Students will use a rubric provided by the instructor to peer review each other's formal writing assignment #1. *This assignment assesses LOs A2, A4*

Reflection Journal (10%): The reflection journal (400 to 600 words) asks students to describe and reflect on the process of researching and writing Essay #1 and the Peer Review, and requires students to make connections to lived experiences and other courses they are taking. *This assignment assesses LOs A2, A3*

Essays (20% each = 40%): Two essays of about 1700 words (4-6 pages) each. One will require students to research an influential individual in Latin American history using secondary sources. The second essay is a review of a book, performance, lecture, museum exhibit, or artwork related to Latin American culture. Both essays are to be prepared using APA format for presentation, citation and documentation. *These assignments assess LOs A1, A2, A3, A8.*

Self-Assessment Quizzes (5%): There will be 10 weekly Self-Assessment Quizzes to reinforce student understanding of the texts in preparation for the 3 major Quizzes.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS

The CUNY School of Professional Studies is firmly committed to making higher education accessible to students with disabilities by removing architectural barriers and providing programs and support services necessary for them to benefit from the instruction and resources of the University. Early planning is essential for many of the resources and accommodations provided. For more information, please see: [Disability Services on the CUNY SPS Website](#).

ONLINE ETIQUETTE AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The University strictly prohibits the use of University online resources or facilities, including Blackboard, for the purpose of harassment of any individual or for the posting of any material that is scandalous, libelous, offensive or otherwise against the University's policies. Please see: ["Netiquette in an Online Academic Setting: A Guide for CUNY School of Professional Studies Students."](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Cheating, forgery, plagiarism and collusion in dishonest acts undermine the educational mission of the City University of New York and the students' personal and intellectual growth. Please see: [Academic Integrity on the CUNY SPS Website](#).

TUTORING

CUNY SPS offers all students a variety of tutoring services, free of charge, both online and in person. Please see: [Tutoring](#).

HELP DESK

For assistance with access to CUNY SPS and CUNY computing resources, please see the [Help Desk](#) website for contact details and semester hours.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

If you need any additional help, please visit [Student Support Services](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEKS Spring 20	Unit Topics	Unit Reading/viewing Assignments are due at the end of each respective week (<i>see dates in WEEKS' Column</i>)
Week#1	Introduction: History/Geography overview, Terminology, and Chronology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Historical Overview Part 1; Historical Overview Part 2; Historical Overview Part 3 2. Watch the Video clip of Part 1 and learn the terminology 3. Write your introduction using the Guiding Questions 4. Read "What is plagiarism and tell us how you will avoid it." 5. Answer the Self-Assessment question about the Terminology, History/Geography Overview Part 1, 2, and 3
Wk #2	Mesoamerican and Andean Cultures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See summary of article: "Cultures of Mesoamerica" and read the article 2. See summary of article: "The Inca People," read the article and watch the video "The rise and fall of the Inca empire" 3. Answer one of three questions, post the answer in the Discussion Forum, and comment on at least two of your peers' answers 4. Complete the Self-Assessment question about Cultures of Mesoamerica and the Incas. 5. Submit topic and description for Essay 1
Wk #3	16th Century Accounts on South American Cultures	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the article "Bartolomeo de las Casas, Father of the Indians" 2. Read "Christianity and Cannibalism" 3. See the drawings of Hans Staden and read "Guaraní Indians" by James Mooney 4. Read the introduction "Guamam Poma, an Andean Indian Life" and view his drawings 5. Compare the drawings of Guamam Poma and Hans Staden

WEEKS Spring 20	Unit Topics	Unit Reading/viewing Assignments are due at the end of each respective week (<i>see dates in WEEKS' Column</i>)
		6. Answer one of the discussion board questions and reply to two peers 7. Complete Self-Assessment Quiz
Wk #4	Colonial Cultural Life, Independent Movements and Consequences	1. Read the article "Latin American Independence Movements" and view the PPT that follows it. 2. Watch the "Latin American Revolutions" and the "Survival of Indigenous Cultures" videos 3. Answer one of the discussion board questions and reply to two peers 4. Complete Self-Assessment Quiz 5. Start Reflection Journal and complete the first journal entry. 6. Start developing Essay 1, write an outline and add bibliography: draft - due week 5
Wk #5	U.S. – Latin American Relations	1. Read any two of the three text: 1) Keen, B. and K. Haynes. "The Two Americas: United States Latin American Relations;" 2) "Creating Banana Republics;" 3) Background of U.S. foreign policy 2. Watch the video "Aquarela do Brasil" 3. Answer one of the discussion board questions and reply to two peers 4. Submit Essay 1 Draft 5. Complete Quiz 1 (pre-Columbian cultures, independence, U.S. relations) open from 9-23 to 9-28
Wk #6	Caribbean Literature & Cultural Highlights	1. Read one of two of the texts: "Race, Culture, and Survival in the Greater Caribbean;" "The Caribbean Sea of Diversity" 2. Watch the video on Magical Realism for details on the genre 3. Read two short stories and give your interpretation of one of them 4. Complete Self-Assessment Quiz
Wk #7	Spanish American Literature	1. Read the article "Spanish American narrative since 1970" 2. Read two short stories and interpret one in the discussion board 3. Watch the trailers for films based on famous literature 4. Complete Self-Assessment Quiz 5. Submit Essay 1 - Final Paper by March 15
Wk #8	Brazilian Literature	1. Read "Brazilian Narrative" 2. Read two short stories and interpret one of them in the Discussion Board 3. Watch video on Machado de Assis 4. Complete Self-Assessment Quiz 5. Submit Peer Review by March 22
Wk #9	Cinema and Theater	1. Read one of the two texts: "Cinema and/as Revolution" or "Latin American drama" 2. View the video: "We need to Talk About Latin American Cinema" 3. Answer one of the discussion board questions and reply to two peers 4. Complete Reflection 2 (Final Reflection due Dec.11) 5. Complete Quiz 2 (literature, poetry, pop culture): open 10-21 to 10-26
Wk #10	Poetry and Popular Culture	1. Read "A soft storm in the skull" or "Pablo Neruda" (1904–1973)" 2. View the presentation on <i>Carnival</i> 3. Match the images of the holidays with the descriptions 4. Read poems by Neruda, chose the one you like best, and tell us why you chose it. 5. Submit a description of your choice of topic for Essay 2
Wk #11	Architecture and Contemporary Art	1. Read any of the three texts on architecture and painting 2. Look at three paintings and discuss one of them in the Discussion Board 3. Complete Self-Assessment Quiz

WEEKS Spring 20	Unit Topics	Unit Reading/viewing Assignments are due at the end of each respective week (<i>see dates in WEEKS' Column</i>)
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Submit your outline with bibliography for Essay 2 in Essays 5. (Optional) Watch Video on the Brazilian architect Niemeyer
Wk #12	Hispano-American music and instruments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Introduction to <i>The Latin Beat</i> 2. Listen to the video clip on Latin American instruments 3. Complete Self-Assessment Quiz 4. Answer one of the discussion board questions and reply to two peers 5. Finalize Essay 2: due next week
Wk #13	Brazilian Music	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the article: "Re-imagining Brazil" 2. Read the article: "Nostalgia for the future" 3. Read and listen to samples of the most popular Brazilian genres 4. Complete Self-Assessment Quiz 5. Answer one of the discussion board questions and reply to two peers 6. Submit Essay#2 by Nov. 24
Wk #14	Hispanic USA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the article "Hispanic Americans" 2. Read the article "Latinos and the Pulitzer" 3. Answer one of the discussion board questions and reply to two peers 4. Consolidate Reflection 1 and 2 (Reflection Paper due Dec.11) 5. Complete Quiz 3 (Art, Architecture, Music): open from 5-4 to 5-8
Wk #15	Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit Reflection Paper by May 13 2. Course evaluation