

Master Syllabus

1. Course Information

College: College of Liberal Arts

Department: Modern Languages

Course Title: Regional Studies: Latin America

Course Designation and Number: RST 281

GE Area(s):

II. Cultural-Social Foundations – The Non-Western World,

VI. College Component

Writing Intensive: Yes No

For WI Courses: All Sections Selected Sections are WI.

Method(s) of Instruction: Lecture
 Discussion
 Web-enhanced
 Web-only
 Other

Includes Lab: Yes No

Prerequisites: None

2. Objectives

GE Program Objectives:

- sharpen critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills
- learn about the aesthetic, ethical, moral, social and cultural dimensions of human experience needed for participation in the human community
- increase knowledge and understanding of the past, of the world in which we live, and how both past and present have an impact on the future

GE Area Two Objectives:

- describe and analyze historical-social elements of western culture
- describe and analyze historical-social elements of non-western culture
- describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and of individuals

GE Area Six Objectives:

- communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists
- understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors

Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:

- Introduce students to the historical, geographic and cultural reality of Latin America. It highlights the indigenous influence on the region and the contributions of the dominant Spanish culture that was forced upon the former. Also included is the influence of Latin America on the U.S., and vice versa. Multi-disciplinary study includes the following: geography, history, art and architecture, anthropology, music, political science, comparative literature and modern languages.
- Describe and analyze historical-social elements of western culture
- describe and analyze historical-social elements of non-western culture
- describe and analyze the global interdependence of groups and of individuals
- communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists
- understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors

For WI Courses:

- To improve students' writing proficiency—their ability to develop ideas and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling.
- To encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions, and to discover what they know and do not know, thereby empowering students to use writing as a tool of discovery, self-discipline and thought.
- To demonstrate for students the ways in which writing is integral to all disciplines and essential to the learning and conveying of knowledge in all fields.

- There will be three five-page typed papers in addition to essay work on exams. In agreement with Writing Across the Curriculum guidelines, students will have an opportunity (with the exception of the exams) for revision and improvement and will receive feedback from the professor.

3. Suggested Course Materials

Text: Special Packet, Handouts, Reserve Room Readings (WSU library),
Outside of class research

4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation

Two exams and one cumulative final exam. Three papers.

5. Grading Policy

All GE courses are graded A-F.
WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory

6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments

Wk 1: Introduction/Handouts. Latin American Geography.
Cultural Overview of Latin America. (Class Discussion) Reading:
“The Hispanic Way” (Packet)

Wk 2: Indian Cultures. Readings: “A Popular and Solemn Game”, “The
Mesoamerican Ball Game”, “Mexico Through Masks” (Packet), Inca
Poetry (Handout) Slide Lecture (Aztecs, Maya) Readings: “The Aztecs”
and “The Two Souls Of Peru” (Library Reserve)

Wk 3: Videos: “Sentinels of Silence” and “Master Weavers of the Andes”
Videos: “South American Market Day” and “Incas Remembered”
Latin American History
Exam I

Wk 4: MOSAICO I (Oral Presentations by students) Fiestas/Religion/Art

Wk 5: Art/MOSAICO II/Video: “The Amazon”

Wk 6: Video: “Mama Coca” and Discussion/EXAM II/Introduction to Latin
American Literature

Wk 7: Literature Readings: “Luvina”, “Tell Them Not to Kill Me”, “The
Secret Miracle”, “Borges and I”, “The Island at Noon”, “Axolotl” and

“Continuity of Parks” (Packet) “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings”, “The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World”, “Letters of Betrayed Love” and “Two Words” (Packet)/MOSAICO III, Movie: “Peddler’s View of South America” Reading: Celebrating the Spirits’ Return” (Packet)

Wk 8: Our Mexico Readings: “U.S.-Mexican Border: Life on the Line”, “The Border I”, “The Border II”, “Tex-Mex Border”, and “Emerging Mexico” (All Library Reserve) Our Mexico. Video: “History of Mexico” and discussion of Library Reserve Articles

Wk 9: MOSAICO IV /“You Can’t Escape Life Here”: Letters from Nicaragua
Class Discussion

Wk 10: MOSAICO (continued) /REVIEW

7. Other

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- professor’s name, office hours and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- information on how grades will be determined
- attendance policy