

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2018-2019 LA ST 205: A1
Introduction to Latin American Studies: Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean

(Fall Term)

Instructor: *Ann De León*

Office: *Old Arts/Convocation 308-C*

Telephone: N/A Fax: 780-492-9106

E-mail: *adeleon1@ualberta.ca*

Time: *MWF 10:00 AM-10:50 AM*

Place: *Tory 1-119*

Office Hours: *W 11:30 AM-12:30PM,
or by appointment*

Course Website: *eClass (Moodle) under LA ST 205*

Course Prerequisite: None

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Document distributed in class

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

No

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course will provide students with a general introduction to the cultural contexts of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Through a number of units of study, organized around specific social/cultural moments in Latin American and Caribbean history, the course will explore both high intellectual versions of cultural history as well as more popular genres (popular music, cinema, oral traditions, and folklore) that shape Latin American and Caribbean identities. *This course counts toward the Certificate in International Learning (CIL)*

<http://www.globaled.ualberta.ca/CertificateinInternationalLearning.aspx>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Cite key moments in the development of social and cultural history of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean from Pre-Columbian times to the contemporary period.
- 2) Identify leading intellectual, artistic, and political figures and movements that made significant contributions to society and culture in the region.

- 3) Discuss major trends in the development of politics, culture, and society in the region, including recurring patterns and breakthroughs in those patterns that have contributed to identity formation.
- 4) On the basis of the materials discussed in class, develop an individual critical position on an important issue in Latin American Studies, and present a coherent argument in writing to defend such a position.

Texts:

Required:

LA ST 205 A1: Fall Term 2018 Course pack (Selected Readings) available from the University Bookstore. (Kindly request a reprint from the Bookstore if no copies are available on shelf.)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Term Work (Total of 70%):

Midterm (Friday October 19th, 2018): 25%

Final Paper (December 14th, 2018): 25%

Participation: 10%

Pop-quizzes (5 each @ 2%): 10%

Final Exam (Monday December 17 @ 9 AM): **30%**

Total: 100%

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Please consult the following site:

[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_\(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Class attendance is important as participation will count for 10% of the term work. It is to the benefit of the student to attend class regularly and be prepared to contribute to the class discussion, make comments, and ask questions. This will make the learning experience more enjoyable for all of us. Throughout the semester there will be in class group-work and discussions to complement the professor’s lectures.

Five unannounced pop-quizzes testing the reading material will be given throughout the semester (at 2% each for a total of 10%). No make-ups will be available for these quizzes, but students will have the option of dropping the lowest quiz grade and the grades of other quizzes will be weighted accordingly.

Class notes and questions on readings and films will be posted on eClass ahead of time. Students are urged to check the website in preparation for each class lecture, reading, and film. Students are responsible for doing the assigned reading and/or viewing the assigned film in

advance and attend prepared for class discussion.

Each student will have to hand in a **final term paper** to show how the student grapples with the material discussed in class, and his/her ability to take a critical position on an important issue in Latin American Studies. The final term paper topic must be approved in writing by the instructor through submission of an abstract by the student on Wednesday November 21, 2018. The essay will be a maximum of **six** typed pages, as well as contain bibliography and notes in correct format (Consult the [MLA Handbook](#) for acceptable format). The due date for the paper will be December 14, 2018. Students must send their paper as a word.doc or word.docx file to the instructor by email. Essays not handed in on this day will lose 1% per day.

There will be one **midterm** (October 19th) worth 25% and one **final exam** (December 17th) worth 30% in the course, testing the student's comprehension and grasp of the material as well as the student's ability to take that knowledge and apply it in a discussion of certain related topics.

If you have any questions and/or problems regarding the course, I am available during my office hours or by appointment.

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels

that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”
(*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent.

Sexual violence is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for

the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, attendance and participation is important as it counts both for in class participation and pop-quizzes (totaling 20%) of your grade.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, assignments may be handed in one class-day after the stated deadline without penalty, with a 1%-per-class-day penalty assessed for each subsequent class-day of lateness.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

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