

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

2021-2022 LA ST 205: A1
Introduction to Latin American Studies: Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean
(Fall Term)

Instructor: *Odile Cisneros*

Time: *MWF 11:00-11:50AM*

Office: *Arts 218-C*

Place: *BUS 1-09*

E-mail: *cisneros@ualberta.ca*

Office Hours: *F 1:00-3:00PM,*

Personal Website: <https://apps.ualberta.ca/directory/person/cisneros>

or by appointment

Course Website: eClass under LA ST 205

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: None

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Technology requirements (minimum): computer or phone with camera and microphone, stable high-speed internet or data connection. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

Experiential Learning Component

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

Yes No, not needed

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

See explanations below

Document distributed in class

Other (please specify)

NA

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Cite major 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 material 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.

Course Format: In person and recorded lectures (synchronous and asynchronous); class readings, class discussion, guest presentations, written assignments.

Texts:

Required:

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

Recommended:

Thomas E. Skidmore, Peter H. Smith and James Green. *Modern Latin America*. 8th Ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. (Available from amazon.ca.)

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

Final Exam Date (if applicable): *Monday, December 13, 2:00PM*

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): *TBA*

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

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Term work:	70%
Midterm (Oct. 18):	25%
Final Paper (Dec. 6):	25%
Attendance:	5%
Participation :	5%
5 pop quizzes (2% ea., drop lowest grade):	10%
Final Exam (Dec. 13, 2:00PM):	30%
Total:	100%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Class attendance is important and participation will count for 10% of the grade: 5% for attendance and 5% for participation (participation expectation rubrics posted on eClass). 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 improve the learning experience. Attendance will be strictly numerical, but on days that students are not present (beyond the 3-day holiday described below), participation marks may be earned by contributing to the class forum for the topics of the readings and materials for that day. Details to follow. **Please see “Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components” below.**

Throughout the semester there will be in-class assignments, group work, and discussions to complement readings and lectures (live and online). Five unannounced quizzes testing the reading material will be given throughout the semester 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 grades of other quizzes will be weighted accordingly.

Videos and outlines of class lectures, 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 meeting. Students are responsible for doing the assigned reading and/or viewing the assigned video or film in advance and attend class prepared for 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 paper topic must be approved in writing by the instructor through submission of an abstract by the student **on November 15**. The essay will be a maximum of **six** typed pages, as well as contain bibliography and notes in correct format (Consult the Chicago Manual of Style or MLA Handbook for acceptable formats.) The due date for the paper will be the last day of class (**December 6, 2021**). Essays not handed in on this day will lose 1% per day.

There will be one midterm and one final exam 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. (See dates above.)

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

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 will count for 5% and participation will count for 5% of the grade. Participation is a fundamental part of the course. We read texts, view videos, and discuss together in class. However, sometimes it may happen you are unable to attend class for illness or other reasons. In this class, the policy is that, except when there is an exam in the class, you may miss a total of 3 classes maximum--no questions asked. You do not need to justify or provide explanations, however, you are still responsible for the material and assignments for those classes. You may still earn participation marks (though not attendance marks) by contributing thoughtful comments to the class forum. After 3 absences, marks will be deducted proportionately to the total number of meetings, excluding those 3 days.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an 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.

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](#) 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](#).

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).

Should the need arise to move aspects of the course online due to circumstances, the following guidelines will be followed:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/chief-information-security-officer/online-meetings-and-classes/best-practices-recording-lectures.html>

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>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[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.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

Learning and working environment:

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

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

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.

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

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.	A+	4.0	95-100
	A	4.0	90-94
	A-	3.7	86-89
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	82-85
	B	3.0	75-81
	B-	2.7	70-74
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	66-69
	C	2.0	61-65
	C-	1.7	58-60
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	55-57
	D	1.0	50-54
Failure.	F	0.0	0-49

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