

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020 LA ST 210: Introduction to Latin American Studies: South America**  
(B1 Winter Term)

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Time: 11:00-12:20TR  
Place: T 3-65  
Office Hours: Friday, 3:00-5:00  
or by appointment

**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>

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**Course Prerequisite:** N/A

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

Yes       No, not needed

**Community Service Learning Component:**

Yes       No       Optional

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exams>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This introductory course will provide students with a panoramic view of South America using an interdisciplinary method. The course will rely mainly on a historical approach as a means to understanding the issues that have shaped South American identities, but it will also explore other means of cultural expression to better convey the rich diversity that makes up the South American continent. Class time will be devoted to the discussion of texts—movies, art, music, etc.—in relation to their historical, political, and social contexts. The active

participation of students in debates and discussions is fundamental. Class presentations, readings, and discussions will be conducted in English.

**Objectives.** Successful students will be able to do the following:

- demonstrate a basic understanding of Latin American culture, history, and geography by describing and critically reflecting on key events, figures, movements, issues, and attitudes
- define and discuss some of the key terms and concepts in Latin American studies.
- write critically about Latin America's relationship to the rest of the world, especially Europe and North America.
- produce a work of depth—either through the CSL component or through a traditional research paper that showcases your expertise in one aspect of Latin American life
- build capacity for teamwork through presentations and group discussions

**Course format:** Lectures, discussions, and activities in class. Substantial reading and writing outside of class.

**Important Dates:** See Academic Schedule in current Calendar

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020

Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020

Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020

Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020

Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020

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))

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

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**Grade Distribution** (see “Explanatory Notes”):

**Term Work** 100% No final exam

Exam 1: 20% **Feb. 6**

Research Prospectus 5% **March 26**

Final project: 20% **April 13**

Physical class participation: 10%

Written class participation in three written forums: 15% **various dates**

Exam 2: 20% **March 19**

Benchmark quizzes: 10% (Two very short quizzes to make sure you are on the right track. Think of them as mid-mid-terms).

## **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Exams: There will be two exams, each worth 20% of the final grade. They are a straightforward test of your knowledge of course material—lecture, readings, and some class discussion. There is NO final exam in this course.

Research Prospectus (5%): Will include annotated bibliography of at least five sources (3-4 sentences per source), a brief statement (one paragraph) on the question to be explored, why you chose the topic, and your "plan of attack" (methodology and research plan).

Written Class participation (15%): Students should make the effort to attend class prepared, i.e. having done the readings (thoughtfully) and also be ready to engage in active participation in class discussions and in individual and group activities. Simply showing up to class does not constitute “active” participation. Approximately every fourth class will be devoted to discussion and group work—i.e., no lecture. It is during these classes that I will assess your participation, along with written forums. Forums will be posted approximately three times during the term to evaluate your intellectual engagement with a polemical topic. You will have one week to write them and there should be no more than one page, double-spaced. The writing is informal and you have the option of either offering your own opinion or responding to someone else’s opinion. You must post original thoughts twice, and response to others' thoughts once.

Physical Class Participation (10%) This portion of the grade exclusively measures your attendance. You are granted two free absences. After that, this grade decreases 10% per absence, with exception for cases of personal illness or domestic affliction.

Benchmark quizzes: 10% Very short true/false quizzes to gauge students’ progress, midway between midterms.

Non-CSL students: Research essay on topic of student’s interest (20%) Students will research one specific question in Latin American Studies (to be cleared with professor by March 14). Word count must be at least 1500 words, not to exceed 2000 (Approximately 5–7pages) Due on April 13 via email or Google Docs.

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CSL Students: Transcript and reflection on CSL project (20%)

Students will log at least 20 hours of community service while building an audio or visual documentary about Latin American culture in Edmonton through CJSR radio or the Gateway. By April 13, students will hand in an annotated transcript of the broadcast with CJSR or article in the Gateway, along with a one-page reflection on the intersection between the project and course materials.

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](http://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.

### ***Sexual Violence Policy:***

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>

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material 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 is evaluated by your presence in the classroom, your active participation in classroom discussions, and presence in online forums. Sleeping, texting, and facebooking in class will reduce your participation grade. Every absence after two unexcused absences results in a 10% reduction of the class participation segment of the course. Participation will also be assessed by preparation for discussion and will be self-assessed at the end of the course.

***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 once throughout the course with no penalty. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason. Assignments handed in late will be deducted 10% per each working day they are handed in late. For example, if a paper is due on Tuesday, but you hand it on Thursday, that will incur a 20% deduction.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass.

**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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>

<b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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