



**Sul Ross State University**  
**Course Syllabus**  
- SPAN 5314-  
**CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION OF LATIN AMERICA**  
**ONLINE**

---

Course Number: SPAN 5315  
Course Title: Culture and Civilization of Latin America  
Type: Online, Asynchronous  
Credit Hours: 3  
Class meetings: Asynchronous  
Student/professor hours: to be determined

**Instructional Plan**

This course will be ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS.

**Instructor Contact Information**

**Office Hours**

**Course Description**

This course aims to give an overview of some of the major trends in Latin America history, literature, and culture from ancient times to present. The course provides a background for understanding Latin America civilization and culture. It emphasizes the issues of gender, class, race, and the construction of regional identities in Spain.

**Instructional Materials**

- Chang-Rodríguez, Eugenio. Latinoamérica su civilización y su cultura. Heinle Cengage Learning. 4th ed.
- Materials provided by the professor or accessible via the internet.

**Student Objectives/Competencies**

Students who complete this course will be able to do the following:

- C-SLO 1: Explain the evolution of Latin America culture and civilization from the Paleolithic period to the present day.
- C-SLO2: Incorporate vocabulary and terminology related to history, culture,

- folklore, the arts, literature, etc., and develop a broad understanding of literary terms in Spanish.
- C-SLO3: Identify major historical events, cultural trends, and literary movements, and analyze them within the political contexts in which they emerged.
- C-SLO 4: Write an analytical essay, formulating and expressing a hypothesis about the meaning of a text, gathering textual evidence, citing sources according to MLA style, and drawing well-supported conclusions.
- C-SLO 5: Explain key features of the context of selected written works, mass media, and films from each century studied in class.

### Course learning Activities

1. **Homework and Reading Quizzes:** For each class, there will be a quiz based on the assigned readings and material. Additionally, there will be homework related to the reading for that class.
2. **Oral Presentation:** Students will give an oral report (approximately 10-15 minutes) to the class on a topic related to any aspect of the history, culture, music, art, etc., of Latin America. The topic **must** be approved by the professor. The presentation should include visual elements, such as videos or media clips, to enhance the presentation. At the end of the presentation, the student will pose questions to the class to prompt further discussion.  
**Be creative!** Use technology to develop your presentation, such as creating your own videos or using tools like QuickTime Player.  
The Oral Presentation is **due week 7**
3. **Current Event Presentation:** Each student will present three current event topics related to Spain over the semester. The topic can cover areas such as politics, culture, history, science, health, arts, etc. The topic **must** be approved by the professor. The deadline to post students current events are the following:
  - a. Current event #1: week 3
  - b. Current event #2: week 8
  - c. Current event #3: week 12
4. **Blog:** To assess the learning material of the course, each student will create a blog using Google Blogger (<https://www.blogger.com/about/?bpli=1>). The blog will serve as a take-home final exam. Students should include information on every subject studied in class. It is encouraged to incorporate videos, photographs, and other media. Every blog entry **must** include: a clear explanation of the topic and a personal evaluation of the topic. The professor will evaluate the blog twice during the semester: once as a midterm and once for the final grade.
  - a. Blog due: week 15 is due
5. **Final Paper:** At the end of the semester, students must submit a final written paper of 10 pages. The topic for the final paper may be chosen by the student or assigned by the professor. The final paper is due **the last week of class**. No

papers will be accepted after **the deadline**. All written work should be typed, double-spaced, in Times New Roman, 12 fonts, and grammatically accurate (including spelling and diacritical marks). For the paper, students should follow MLA guidelines.

[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/mla\\_style/mla\\_formatting\\_and\\_style\\_guide/mla\\_general\\_format.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_general_format.html) or <https://www.easybib.com/guides/citation-guides/mla-format/>

### **Assessments**

Oral Presentation .....	15%
Current event Presentation .....	15%
Homework/quizzes: .....	20%
Blog:.....	25%
Final Paper .....	25%

### **Grading System**

100 - 90: A  
89 - 80: B  
79 - 70: C  
69 - 60: D  
59 - 0: F

### **ADA Statement**

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) or [ronnie.harris@sulross.edu](mailto:ronnie.harris@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

### **Student Responsibilities**

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the [Student Handbook](#) and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

### **SRSU Distance Education Statement**

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.

Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

### **Counseling**

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](#). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.

### **Libraries**

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu/](#). Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting [library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/](#) or ask a librarian by emailing [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu).

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Students should also avoid using open AI sources *unless permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course.

Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

### **Classroom Climate of Respect**

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

### **Supportive Statement**

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports various perspectives and experiences. I understand that the recent pandemic, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events may impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create a supportive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

### **Tutoring Center**

[The Lobo Den Tutoring Center](#) offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

### **Important Information:**

- **Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments:** Flexible options to fit your needs.
- **Hours of Operation:** Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- **Workshops:** Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.
- **Location:** BWML Room 128.
- **Contact Us:** For more information or to book an appointment, email [tutoring@sulross.edu](mailto:tutoring@sulross.edu) or call (432) 837-8726.

### **Looking for additional support?**

- Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

## **Class Schedule**

THIS CALENDAR IS TENTATIVE. IT HAS TO BE TAKEN AS A GUIDELINE ONLY.  
IT MAY BE MODIFIED TO FULFILL THE NECESITIES OF THE CLASS

### **WEEK 1:**

Introduction of the course. Distribution of student's presentations.

#### ***Chapter 1: Unidad del mundo latinoamericano.***

- La cuestión del nombre
- El problema de la unidad
- Razones históricas
- Razones políticas
- Razones económicas
- Razones sociales
- Razones lingüísticas
- Razones psicológicas

### **WEEK 2:**

Assignment Chapter 1

#### **Chapter 2: La geografía y la gente**

- El medio físico
- La altitud modifica la latitud
- La importancia de las cordilleras
- Los grandes sistemas fluviales
- Las planicies y los desiertos
- Los límites del medio físico
- Heterogeneidad del recurso humano
- El carácter de la población

### **WEEK 3:**

Assignment Chapter 2

#### **Chapter 3: Las grandes civilizaciones precolombinas**

- Orígenes del hombre americano
- Visión arqueológica de Mesoamérica
- La civilización olmeca
- Los mayas y los quichés
- Las culturas del Valle de México
- Nuevos descubrimientos arqueológicos en Sudamérica

Los incas  
La herencia indígena

**Current event presentation #1 is due.**

Film: *Apocalypto* de Mel Gibson

<https://therokuchannel.roku.com/watch/58a076d863a8539f8aa72d7bcaa510ac>

**WEEK 4:**

Assignment Chapter 3 and questionnaire of film *Apocalypto* by Mel Gibson

**Chapter 4: Las exploraciones, la conquista y su significado.**

Colón y sus cuatro viajes  
Vespucio, Magallanes y otros navegantes  
Conquista de México  
Conquista de América Central  
Colonización hispana en los futuros Estados Unidos  
Conquista del Perú  
Conquista de Quito, Nueva Granada y Venezuela  
Conquista de Chile  
Significado de la Conquista

**WEEK 5:**

Assignment Chapter 4

**Chapter 5: Régimen colonial y su legado**

Organización y política  
Organización económica  
Organización judicial  
La pirámide social  
Aporte cultural positivo de los españoles  
Aspectos polémicos de la herencia hispánica  
Herencia política, económica y social  
Balance de la herencia cultural  
Fusión cultural

**WEEK 6:**

Assignment Chapter 5

**Chapter 7: La vida intelectual durante la colonia**

La educación  
La censura de los medio de expresión  
La Ilustración en Hispanoamérica  
Primeros grandes escritores de la literatura hispanoamericana  
Teatro latinoamericano

**WEEK 7:**

Assignments Chapter 7

**Chapter 8: Las guerras por la independencia hispanoamericana**

Autonomías o emancipación  
Causas externas e internas  
Las rebeliones

Simón Bolívar  
San Martín  
La independencia de México  
Significado de la Independencia

**Oral Presentation due**

**WEEK 8:**

Assignment Chapter 8

**Chapter 10: Los países del Río de la Plata**

Exploraciones y fundaciones  
La región del Río de la Plata en el siglo XVII y XVIII  
Las Provincias Unidas del Río de la Plata  
La República de Argentina: perfil y su gente  
La República del Paraguay: perfil y su gente  
El legado cultural de los países de la Plata

**Current event presentation #2 is due.**

**WEEK 9:**

Assignment Chapter 10

**Chapter 11 and 12: Los Países andinos meridionales y septentrionales**

Chile  
Bolivia  
La República del Perú  
Ecuador  
Colombia  
La República de Venezuela

**WEEK 10:**

Assignment Chapter 11 and 12

Chapter 13: México y su revolución

La era de Santa Anna (1829-55)  
La Reforma (1855-72)  
La Paz Porfiriana (1876-1910)  
La Revolución mexicana: La lucha armada (1911-20)  
La etapa organizadora de la Revolución (1920-40)  
La etapa conservadora de la Revolución (1940-2000)  
Perfil de México y su gente

**WEEK 11:**

Assignment Chapter 11 and 12

**Chapter 14: Centroamérica republicana**

Periodo de unificación (1821-42)  
La República de Guatemala  
La República de Honduras  
La República de El Salvador  
La República de Guatemala  
La República de Costa Rica  
La República de Panamá



**WEEK 12:**

Assignment Chapter 14

**Chapter 15: La personalidad hispánica de las Antillas Mayores**

Proyección histórica de Cuba colonial

Cuba republicana y la Revolución cubana

Santo Domingo colonial y la República dominicana

Puerto Rico y la problemática actual de Puerto Rico

**Current event presentation #3 is due.**

**WEEK 13:**

Assignment Chapter 15

**Chapter 17, 18, and 19: La arquitectura, las artes plásticas y la música**

La arquitectura precolombina

Los estilos durante la colonia

México y sus 15000 iglesias coloniales

La arquitectura militar y civil

El neoclasicismo

La influencia francesa e italiana del S. XIX

La arquitectura del S. XX

Las Bellas Artes en México precolombino

Las artes plásticas en la Colonia

Del Impresionismo al modernismo

El arte como expresión de ideales sociales

El abstraccionismo

La música precolombina, colonial, afrocubana, en el México republicano

**WEEK 14:**

Assignment Chapter 17,18, and 19

**Chapter 20: El feminismo en Latinoamérica**

Interpretaciones y críticas recientes

Desafíos a la nueva cultura

Los amerindios

Deculturación africana y aportes afroamericanos

La presencia asiática

La liberación femenina

El papel de la Iglesia

Los latinos en EEUU

Los feminicidios

**WEEK 15:**

Assignments chapter 20

**Blog due for final exam**

**Essay due**