

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2019-2020 LA ST 205: A1 (Fall Term)

Introduction to Latin American Studies: Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean

Instructor: Dr. Stephen A. Cruikshank
Office: Old Arts Building, 217-D
E-mail: sruiksh@ualberta.ca
Class Website: See eClass website under LA ST 205

Time: M/W/F 2:00 - 2:50 PM
Place: CAB 281
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Prerequisite: None

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

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

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

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 and Objectives:

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.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, online discussions, assigned readings, and audiovisual materials.

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 3, 2019

Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019

50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019

Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019

Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:

<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?”](#)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Fall Exam Planner for the 2019-2020 can be found at the following site:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grade Percentage</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
• Class Participation & Attendance	15%	Cumulative
• Pop Quizzes (5 at 3% each)	15%	Random
• Term Exam I	20%	Oct 18
• Research Proposal	5%	Nov 8
• Research Paper	25%	Nov 22
• Term Exam II	20 %	Dec 6

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

- **Class Participation & Attendance (15%) - Cumulative**
Ten percent of this mark will be based on attendance (5%) and active participation

during classes (10%). As for attendance, a name sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each class for students to sign. An absence without a valid reason will result in a complete loss of the grade for the day missed. As a student you are responsible for coming to class prepared to participate in the in-class assignments, group work, and discussions that will complement readings and lectures (live and online). 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.

Included as part of the participation grade, students are required to complete a 150-200 word response or reflection to weekly blog questions posted on eClass or a reflection to another student's blog. Five responses will count towards 100% completion and at least 2 of these must be reflections on other student's responses rather than their own. See eClass for more information on the blog.

- **Pop Quizzes (15%)**

Five unannounced quizzes (3% each) will be given throughout the semester to test reading material. Quizzes may take the form of true & false, multiple choice, and/or possible short answer. Absolutely no make-ups will be available for these quizzes, but students will have the option of dropping the lowest quiz grade and replacing it with blog entries. To make this happen, students are required to complete a 150-200 word response to weekly blog questions posted on eClass or a reflection to another student's blog. Six responses will count towards 100% and at least 2 of the responses must be reflections. See eClass for more information on the blog.

- **Term Exam I (20%) - Oct 18**

This exam will cover theoretical concepts and practical exercises based on the material in the first half of the semester. Questions may include true/false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, and long answer responses. The exact format will be clarified to students in advance.

- **Research Proposal (5%) - Nov 8**

A paper proposal must be submitted prior to the analytical essay. The proposal will be approximately 1-2 pages and will include (1) a research question, (2) a thesis statement, (3) a 200-250 word abstract, and (4) a bibliography of sources intended to be used. A list of possible essay topics will be discussed in class. Any topics different from those discussed must be approved by the professor prior to the due date. The bibliography must include a minimum of 3 scholarly sources and must be formatted according to the MLA, 2018 standards.

- **Term Paper (25%) - Nov 22**

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/topic in Latin American Studies. The final paper topic must correspond with the approved topic presented on the research proposal. The essay will be 5-6 typed pages, as well as contain bibliography (a minimum of 3 scholarly sources) and notes in correct MLA format. See eClass for specific guidelines on the paper expectations and formatting.

- **Term Exam II (20%) - Dec 6**

This exam will cover theoretical concepts and practical exercises based on the material in the second half of the semester. Questions may include true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and long answer responses.

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](#).

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

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](#).

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>

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*).

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, five percent of this mark will be based on attendance and five percent will be based on active participation during classes.

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 just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will incur a 5% per class day penalty.

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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