**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
School of Languages and Literature  
Fall 1: 2020**

**Wayland Baptist University Mission Statement:**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

# I. General Information

## A. Course Name

SPAN 3313 Spanish-American Culture and Civilization

## B. Instructor

Dr. Jesús Romero

## C. Contact Information

**Phone:** (806) 291-1108

**Email:** romeroj@wbu.edu

## D. Office Location and Virtual Office Hours

212C Gates Hall

Virtual office hours to be posted on weekly assignments

## E. Course Description

This course is a historical approach to the study of culture and civilization in Spanish-America.

## F. Prerequisites

Span 2302

## G. Required text

Fox, Arturo A.*, Latinoamérica. Presente y pasado.* 4th ed., Prentice Hall

# II. Course Outcome Competencies

Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Spanish-American civilization and culture from its beginnings to the present.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the outside influences upon Spanish-American culture and language.

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the different peoples and dialects of Spanish-America.

4. Demonstrate knowledge of the geography of Spanish-America.

5. Demonstrate knowledge of the important persons in the history of Spanish-America.

The more the student puts into the course, the higher his or her outcome competencies will be.

# III. Course Evaluation and Grading

## A. Exams & Quizzes (Examencitos)

Students will complete *examencitos*, or quizzes throughout the term as indicated in the tentative calendar. *Examencitos* will cover the chapters in our textbook. **They should be completed no later than 9:00 am on Wednesdays**, so that the student has ample time to participate in discussion boards on the second half of each week

## B. Films

This course will include a film component that is crucial to the accomplishment of its objectives. Students will watch several films during the semester and will prepare analytical reports in Spanish to be turned in for credit. **The professor will assign four (4) movies to be watched during the term**. Questionnaires will be completed and written reports about these movies will be turned in on the days indicated in the course calendar.

Be advised that some of those films include scenes of violence, war, brief nudity, profanity and sexual references. It is not the professor’s intention to offend students by requiring them to view these films. They are assigned within an academic context for the purpose of strengthening the students’ grasp of Spanish-American culture. Moreover, they provide an opportunity to hone writing skills, which is a strong component of foreign language learning.

## C. Final Composition

**Students will be required to write a final composition of 8-10 pages based on the material being studied and discussed in class.** This composition will be discussed during the course of the term. Please do not use any online or personal translators, since these programs are far from perfect and cannot translate idiomatic expressions and other expressions well. Also, do not avail yourself of native speakers, as the purpose of the course is to increase your skills in the language through personal trial and error. It is very obvious when a student has used a translator or received help from a heritage speaker. In the event that it is obvious that the student has used any of these resources on any composition the student will NOT receive credit for the assignment.

All guidelines and expectations for the composition will be provided during the course of the term.

## D. Online Discussions and PowerPoint Cultural Presentation

**Every Monday the professor will post a new question (or questions) to the discussion board**. The goal is to encourage online conversation within our academic community. **Students will have to respond to the weekly post by Wednesday at 12:00 pm.** The professor expects responses to be 15-200 words in length. **Students will also respond to another student’s post (100-150 words) by Sunday at 12:00 pm.**

The question posed each week is designed to start a conversation on a particular topic. Students may post other questions that interest them, raise an issue derived from the reading, or to share any other material related to the topic.

**Once a week, one student will be asked to briefly summarize key points from the discussion, which can be read by the entire class. All students will do this at least once during the course.**

It is expected that students will conduct themselves with the utmost integrity and respect as they engage each other in dialogue. Posts that do not meet these standards will not be given credit.

**Students will design a cultural presentation on PowerPoint as a final project for the class.** Students may focus on any topic (historical, artistic, philosophical, religious, socio-economic), as long as it has not been covered with detail in class. Students will share their presentation with the class as a whole and will give feedback on other students’ presentations through the discussion board. Students will share their presentations on week ten (10) of the course.

## E. Communication with Students

The professor will communicate important developments **by e-mail and Blackboard Announcements**.

**The professor will respond to student e-mails within 24 hours** and will provide feedback on course content within 48 hours.

Regular email through the Wayland system is the most efficient way to get in touch. The professor will post his availability or “virtual office hours” weekly. Students can also contact the professor at (210) 633-6257. He lives in Central Time Zone.

Deadlines for most weekly assignments and online discussions are no later than midnight Sunday, Central Time of the following week.

To receive a grade, students must turn in assignments on time. **No late assignments will be accepted** unless there are exceptional circumstances that students clear with the professor in advance whenever possible.

# IV. Grading System

## A. Course Grade

The following criteria will be used to determine each student’s final course grade:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Movie reports and questionnaires | 10% |
| Online Discussions | 20% |
| Final composition | 20% |
| Examencitos | 10% |
| Examen parcial | 20% |
| PowerPoint Cultural Presentation | 20% |
| **Total** | **100%** |

## B. Grading Scale

| **Letter grade** | **Percent** |
| --- | --- |
| A | 90-100 |
| B | 80-89 |
| C | 70-79 |
| D | 60-69 |
| F | 0-59 |

## C. Grading System

| **Letter Grade** | **Grade Description** |
| --- | --- |
| A | **Excellent, Superior**  This grade is given for work that exhibits unquestionable excellence and outstanding quality. |
| B | **Above Average**  The grade given for work that is clearly high quality. |
| C | **Average**  The grade given for the kind of work most students do most of the time. |
| D | **Weak**  The grade given for work which does not exhibit the basic understanding expected, but which does show some elementary development and comprehension. |
| F | **Failing**  The grade given when student clearly fails to comprehend the fundamentals of the course, and shows no significant development throughout the semester. |

**Policy 9.4.1.:“Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”**

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**: Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

## D. Attendance Requirements

As stated in the WBU Catalog, students should make attendance and participation a priority, making every effort to complete weekly activities. Students are responsible for making up any missed assignments.

Attending and participating online mean completing all assigned weekly core activities, such as Examencitos, Discussions, etc. Evidence of these efforts will be tracked in Blackboard.

If a student fails to participate for a week without alerting the professor, the professor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus executive director.

Students missing more than 25% of scheduled core activities may receive an F and should consider dropping the course.

All absences, including university-sponsored events, must be cleared in advance.

Unforeseen circumstances and emergencies will be accepted if documented. This could include medical records, military deployment letter, or other evidence.

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**Disability Statement**: “In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university.  The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765.  Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”

**Integrity in Academic Evaluation:“Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”**

**E. Basic Bibliography**

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