

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

## **SPANISH-AMERICAN CIVILIZATION**

Spanish 2219G

Instructor: Carlos-Urani Montiel  
Schedule: M 12:30-2:30  
              W 12:30-1:30 Room: SEB-1056  
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Office Hours: W 1:30-2:30, or by appointment

### I. DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to Spanish-American civilization through the study of representative historical and literary works from Prehispanic times to our days. The link between the readings is that between two elements in constant re-creation. The first one, intertextuality, allows the analysis of how and to what degree a text has incorporated and engaged critically other works. The second element, nahualismo, is a magic conception of the world where there is not a clear distinction between living creatures and inanimate objects.

The course is divided into five modules: Prehispanic times; Encounter, Conquest, and Invention; Viceregal times; Independent life; and Contemporary times. The readings come from different traditions (oral, pictographic, and literary) embodied in various media (codex, manuscripts, printed books, electronic resources), and written in different genres (narrative, lyric, theater, and essay). All course materials (readings, audio files, images, notes) are available in the WebCT page.

### OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

Spanish 2203 will:

- provide a critical overview of the major artistic trends in the Spanish-American tradition
- introduce students to primary source texts relevant to the topics covered
- expose the main research lines in the field of cultural dynamics in Spanish-America
- review the basic principles of writing an academic research paper on literature

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course students are expected to have acquired:

- the knowledge to identify and explain major cultural patterns and artistic issues in Spanish-American civilization
- insight into the application of the two elements selected to link the material (i.e., intertextuality and nahualismo) as a means of studying a significant corpus
- an ability to write an academic work that reviews topics covered in class
- an improved ability to express themselves in Spanish both orally (through class discussions and presentations) and in writing (through essays)

## II. PREREQUISITES

In order to take this course, the student must have satisfactorily completed Spanish 2200, or the former Spanish 020, 020w/x with a minimum standing of 60%, or have the permission of the department. This course is offered in Spanish and the expectation is that the student will be able to communicate both orally and in written form in this language.

PLEASE NOTE: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

## III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

**10%** *Class participation and attendance.*

**20%** *Five quizzes.* Each module will be completed in its entirety along with a 30 minute end-of-module quiz (multiple-choice, true/false, or other question formats) on the readings.

**15%** *Three assignments.* At the end of each module, in the Course Schedule, are academic articles and film material (fiction and documentary) where the student will choose two articles and one movie. The first assignment is to make a one-page handout outlining one article. The second one is to write a short-essay (3 pages long) explaining the relationship between an article and its module. The last assignment is a movie review (2 pages long). A model for each essay will be provided during the first week.

**20%** *Group presentations.* Each team one to three presenters will select a literary work from either the course or the Supplementary Bibliography and will present it to the class. Presentations should be 15 minutes long (minimum) and 20 minutes long (maximum). The topics are: 1. Textual transmission (historical background). 2. Structure (plot, characters, and themes). 3. Bibliography (what has been studied on the work). The overall presentation grade will be comprised of an individual mark (10%) and a group mark (10%).

**10%** *Research paper proposal.* To outline the final paper, the proposal (2-3 pages) will guide your ideas. Its required components are: a tentative title, a brief description of the topic (this could be related with the two elements that link the readings), significance (justification), main research question or hypothesis, tentative organization (methodology), and at least three references. It will be due on the seventh week.

**25%** *Final paper.* Once the proposal is approved, the final paper (9-10) can be written and handed in at the end of the course. The formal specifications (font, submission, style) will be explained during the second week.

**PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

ABSENTEEISM: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

- UWO’s Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:  
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>
- Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):  
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

#### IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

Material covered in lectures by the instructor [•]

Readings done by the student [o]

Week	
1.1	<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course description</li> <li>• Chronological tables and geographic-cultural areas</li> </ul>
1.2	<p><b>A. PREHISPANIC TIMES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prehispanic writing systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Codex Bodley, Borgia, Fejérváry-Mayer, Nuttall</i></li> <li>— <i>Codex Aubin, Telleriano-Remensis, Mendocino</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Mesoamerican and Andean lyric poetry (maya, náhuatl, quechua) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— R. Chang-Rodríguez (2008): “Antología: el antiguo canto indígena”, <i>‘Aquí, ninfas del sur, venid ligeras’</i>. <i>Voces poéticas virreinales</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Storytelling in Mayan communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Popol Vuh</i> (1861): selections</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Unified gods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Chilam Balam de Chumayel</i> (1633-1913): selections</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Idolatry treatise or the resistance of Inca towns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Huarochirí. Manuscrito quechua del siglo XVII</i> (1608?): selections</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Articles:</b> R. Adorno (1988): “Nuevas perspectivas en los estudios literarios coloniales latinoamericanos”; M. Lienhard (1991): “De la oralidad a la escritura alfabética”; W. Mignolo (1986): “La lengua, la letra y el territorio (o la crisis de los estudios coloniales)”.</p> <p><b>Filmography:</b> <i>Retorno a Aztlán</i> (1992); <i>El alma de México</i>, v. 1: <i>Amanecer de Mesoamérica</i>; v. 2: <i>Paisaje de pirámides</i>; v. 3: <i>Los hijos del sol</i> (2001).</p>

3.2	<p><b>B. ENCOUNTER, CONQUEST, AND INVENTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The other’s vision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— C. Colón (1492-3): “Diario del primer viaje”: selections; “Carta a Luis de Santángel”; “Carta a los Reyes anunciando el Descubrimiento”, <i>Textos y documentos completos</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indian chronicles – Spanish writers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— H. Cortés (1519-26): <i>Cartas de relación</i>; B. Díaz del Castillo (1632): <i>Historia verdadera de la conquista de la Nueva España</i>; B. de las Casas (1552): <i>Brevísima relación de la destrucción de las Indias</i>; J. de Acosta (1590): <i>Historia natural y moral de las Indias</i>; B. de Sahagún (1547-77): <i>Historia general de las cosas de la Nueva España</i></li> <li>— F. de Jerez (1534): <i>Verdadera relación de la conquista del Perú</i>; P. Cieza de León (1553-1946): <i>Descubrimiento y conquista del Perú</i>; A. de Zárate (1555): <i>Historia del Perú</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indian chronicles – Indigenous writers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Anales de Tlatelolco</i> (1528); <i>Codex Aubin</i> (1576?-1867); F. de Alva Ixtlilxóchitl (1848): <i>Obras históricas</i>; F. Alvarado Tezozómoc: <i>Crónica mexicana</i> (1848)</li> <li>— T. Cusi Yupanqui (1570): <i>Relación de la conquista del Perú y hechos del Inca Manco II</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Epic poetry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— A. de Ercilla (1569-89): <i>La Araucana</i>; J. de Castellanos (1589-1847): <i>Elegías de varones ilustres de Indias</i>; A. de Saavedra Guzmán (1599): <i>El peregrino indiano</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Articles:</b> J. Diamond (1997): “Hemispheres colliding”; J. H. Elliott (1970): “El proceso de asimilación”; T. Todorov (1982) “Amar”.</p> <p><b>Filmography:</b> <i>Conquest of America</i> (2005); <i>Cabeza de Vaca</i> (1990); <i>Jericó</i> (1991); <i>Cristóbal Colón, de oficio descubridor</i> (1982); <i>El alma de México</i>, v. 4: <i>De la Conquista a la Revolución</i> (2001).</p>	

5.1	<p><b>C. VICEREGAL TIMES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Perú and its interpreters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— F. Guamán Poma (1614): <i>El primer nueva corónica y buen gobierno</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ I. Garcilaso (1609): <i>Comentarios reales</i>: selections</li> </ul>
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● American picaresque <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— J. Rodríguez Freile (1859): <i>El carnero</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ C. de Sigüenza (1690): <i>Los infortunios de Alonso Ramírez</i>: selections</li> </ul>
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Villancicos (christmas songs) and entremeses (interludes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— J. Inés de la Cruz: selections</li> <li>— I. Arellano, ed. (2005): “Entremés de los compadres”; “Los remedios del ayuno”, <i>Entremeses, loas y coloquios de Potosí</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Mexican biombos (folding screens): between Codex and paintings</li> </ul>
<p><b>Articles:</b> J. Brown (1999): “La antigua monarquía española como área cultural”; M. Lucena (2004): “La constitución atlántica de España y sus Indias”; L. P. Zamora (2006): “Quetzalcóatl’s Mirror and Guadalupe’s Eye”.</p> <p><b>Filmography:</b> <i>La otra conquista</i> (1999); <i>Yo la peor de todas</i> (1990); <i>The Mission</i> (1986).</p>	

6.2	<p><b>D. INDEPENDENT LIFE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● J. M. Heredia (1820): “En el teocalli de Cholula”; (1824) “Niágara”, <i>Niágara y otros textos: poesía y prosa selectas</i></li> <li>● A. Bello (1826): “La agricultura a la zona tórrida”, <i>Obra literaria</i></li> <li>○ J. Fernández de Lizardi (1816): <i>El Periquillo Sarniento</i>: selections</li> </ul>
7.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ C. Matto de Turner (1886): “Malccoy”, <i>Hojas sueltas</i></li> <li>○ J. Martí (1891): “Nuestra América”, <i>Ensayos y crónicas</i></li> <li>○ R. Darío (1892): “A Colón”, <i>El canto errante</i></li> <li>○ B. Lillo (1904): “El chiflón del diablo”, <i>Sub-terra</i></li> <li>● J. C. Mariátegui (1928): “El problema del indio”, <i>Siete ensayos de interpretación de la realidad peruana</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Articles:</b> J. Chasteen (2008): “Discovering America, 1799-1805”; Á. Guido (1936): “América frente a Europa en el arte”; J. A. Manrique (1977): “Del barroco a la Ilustración”.</p> <p><b>Filmography:</b> <i>Manuela Sáenz la libertadora del libertador</i> (2000); <i>El alma de México</i>, v. 4: <i>De la Conquista a la Revolución</i> (2001); <i>Bolívar soy yo</i> (2002); <i>Subterra</i> (2003).</p>	

7.2	<b>E. CONTEMPORARY TIMES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A. Carpentier (1975): “Lo barroco y lo real maravilloso”, <i>Razón de ser. Conferencias</i></li> <li>○ Indigenous voice and the new novel of the XX century <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— M. A. Asturias (1949): <i>Hombres de maíz</i>: selections</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— M. A. Asturias (1949): <i>Hombres de maíz</i>: selections</li> <li>• R. Castellanos (1957): <i>Balún-canán</i></li> </ul>
8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. Cortázar (1956): “La noche boca arriba”, <i>Final de juego</i></li> <li>○ Chimbote and the oral tradition from Huarochirí <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— J. M. Arguedas (1971): <i>El zorro de arriba y el zorro de abajo</i>: selections</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— J. M. Arguedas (1971): <i>El zorro de arriba y el zorro de abajo</i>: selections</li> <li>• C. Fuentes (1954): “Chac Mool”, <i>Los días enmascarados</i></li> </ul>
9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• S. Sarduy (1972): “El barroco y el neobarroco”, <i>América Latina en su literatura</i></li> <li>○ Conquest parody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— P. Neruda (1950): “Los conquistadores”, <i>Canto general</i>: selections</li> <li>— A. Carpentier (1979): <i>El arpa y la sombra</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— A. Carpentier (1979): <i>El arpa y la sombra</i></li> <li>• P. Gasparini (1970): <i>La ciudad de las columnas</i>: photographs</li> </ul>
10.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ G. García Márquez (1975): <i>El otoño del patriarca</i>: selections</li> <li>• E. Diego (1977): “Cristóbal Colón inventa el Nuevo Mundo”, <i>Los días de tu vida</i></li> <li>○ A. Roa Bastos (1992): <i>Vigilia del almirante</i>: selections</li> </ul>
11.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dissident Narratives: orality, resistance and border <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Subcomandante Marcos (1994): “Hoy decimos basta”, <i>EZLN. Documentos y comunicados</i>; (1998): <i>Relatos del viejo Antonio</i>: selección; (2003): “Los zapatistas ni se rinden ni claudican”, <i>La Jornada</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ E. González Viaña (1979): <i>¡Habla. Sampedro: llama a los brujos!</i>: selección; (2000): “Siete noches en California”; “El programa de Dios”, <i>Los sueños de América</i></li> <li>• G. Gómez-Peña, E. Chagoya y F. Rice (2000): <i>Codex Espangliensis: From Columbus to the Border Patrol</i></li> <li>• Conclusions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Articles:</b> G. Celorio (2001): “Del barroco al neobarroco”; P. Lange Churión (2001): “Neobarroque: Latin America’s Postmodernity?”; J. Lezama Lima (1972): “Imagen de América Latina”.</p> <p><b>Filmography:</b> “Hasta los huesos” (2001); <i>Guardianes de un tesoro musical: el barroco misional</i> (2007); <i>The Devil’s Miner</i> (2005); <i>Los niños invisibles</i> (2001); <i>El gallo de oro</i> (1964); <i>El topo</i> (1970); <i>Santa sangre</i> (1989); <i>El evangelio de las maravillas</i> (1998); <i>El alma de México</i>, v. 5: <i>Herencia viviente</i> (2001); <i>Pedro Páramo</i> (1966).</p>	

## V. SUPPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY

A. Carpentier (1949): *El reino de este mundo*; D. Durán (1581): *Historia de las Indias de Nueva España e islas de tierra firme*; G. Fernández de Oviedo (1526): *Sumario de la Natural Historia de las Indias*. C. Fuentes (1987): *Cristóbal Nonato*; E. Garro (1963): *Los recuerdos del porvenir*; F. Hernández (1947): *Nadie encendía las lámparas*; J. Icaza (1954): *Seis veces la muerte*; D. de Landa (1566): *Relación de las cosas de Yucatán*. A. Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (1555): *Naufragios y comentarios*; F. Núñez de Pineda (1673): *El cautiverio feliz*; S. Ocampo (1959): *La furia y otros cuentos*; R. Rocha (2001): *Potosí 1600*; A. Uslar-Pietri (1974): *Treinta hombres y sus sombras*.

**N.B.** E-mail will be used extensively for communication with the students. Please make sure your UWO account is in order.