

FALL 2021
Department of Languages & Cultures
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UWO
INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO HISPANIC STUDIES (SP 9785)
[Friday, 9.30 - 12.30 - UC 3320.](#)

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 10.30 to 12.30 (in person and/or on Windows Teams)

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is conceived as a space of dialogue and multi-disciplinary encounters, in which specialists within the field of Hispanic Studies, the arts, and the wide sphere of culture discuss their research and their work with graduate students, and the university community at large. The different presentations are organized around three loosely defined units: “Cultural Studies and Literature”, “Linguistics”, “Arts, Media, Heritage”.

From a wide array of theoretical and methodological approaches, but always with the Hispanic world as the common denominator, the course’s objective is to delve into current debates about culture and language, understood as dynamic and perpetually reconfiguring landscapes of intercultural communication.

METHODOLOGY

The course is structured around the presentations offered by specialists in different areas of scholarly research (Humanities, Social Sciences, Linguistics). Depending on the presenter’s preference, the lectures will be delivered in Spanish or in English. They will be followed by a round of Q&A, during the second half of the session.

Each week, students should come to class having read the bibliography specified in this syllabus, all of which will be available through the course’s OWL site or through links provided.

There will be periodic group discussions to reflect on the most relevant ideas, to examine the lines of research introduced by the presenters, and to clarify doubts. Throughout these conversations, we will return to both the readings pertaining to the individual presentations and to the course’s introductory readings (Shohat & Stam), with the aim of establishing a wide conceptual map, complex and critical about the dialogue between specific matters and the wider, more general ones, concerning the field of Hispanic Studies.

REQUIRED READINGS

** All readings listed in this syllabus are mandatory **

Introductory reading / general frame of reference for the course:

- Shohat, Ella and Stam, Robert, "Introduction", "From Eurocentrism to Polycentrism" (chapter 1), "Afterword: Thinking about Unthinking", in *Unthinking Eurocentrism: Multiculturalism and the Media*, London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2014 (Second Edition).

<http://alpha.lib.uwo.ca/search~S20?/tunthinking+eurocentrism/tunthinking+eurocentrism/1%2C1%2C2%2CB/frame&FF=tunthinking+eurocentrism+multiculturalism+and+the+media&2%2C%2C2>

Specifications for each week's readings are listed in the Course Schedule (last section of this syllabus).

ASSESSMENT

** All assignments can be completed in English or Spanish, at the student's discretion.

- Participation in class discussion – 20%
- Reflections on presentations – 30 % (3 x 10%)
 1. Due Monday October 4th @ noon through OWL – 10%
 2. Due Friday October 29th @ 9.30 am through OWL – 10%
 3. Due Monday December 6th @ noon through OWL – 10%
- Oral Presentation: Friday December 3rd – 15%
- Handout: Friday December 3rd – 20%
- Article for Lay Audience: due Monday Dec. 13th @ noon through OWL – 15 %

Grading scale

A+ (90+) Work of publishable standard, albeit with some revisions possible. Equivalent to advanced PhD level work.

A (88-89) Excellent: displaying extensive originality.

A- (85-87) Strong performance at MA level, fully equal to that of an average PhD student. Must be well-written and show some originality.

B+ (80-84) Good MA-level work, indicating the student's potential (with some reservations) to work successfully at the PhD level.

B (78-79) Competent MA work, but it does not suggest potential to proceed to PhD level.

B- Any mark below 78 indicates performance below the level required of a graduate student.

Participation in class discussion (20%)

The success of this course relies on the frequency and the quality of the students' participation. Readings must be completed prior to the Friday session for them to be properly discussed in class and with the respective guest speaker. To be present during a session is not the same as to participate in it. Equally, unjustified absences will have a negative impact in the grading of this component.

Reflections on presentations (3 x 10% each)

Due: October 4 (12 pm), October 29 (9.30 am), December 6 (12 pm) – OWL > Drop Box

By the end of each unit, and on the stipulated due dates, students will submit a brief report on one of the presentations of each unit – students decide which presentation they want to focus on. After clearly identifying the presentation that is being discussed by title and name of presenter, the report must address the following questions:

- Why did you choose this presentation to focus on?
- Summary of main ideas
- How do the readings relate and complement the exposition – make sure to properly elaborate on this point by including specific references

* Reflections should be 750 words long (+/- 50 words). Word count should be included at the end of the document. Please be aware that observing the length is part of the exercise and that failure to comply to this requisite will affect your grading.

Oral Presentation (15%)

Friday, December 3rd

Each student will present on their own research topic: make sure that you explicitly state the objectives, specify the research question/s, provide a summary of the project and explain how it relates to the field of study, your progress, and which are the resources (bibliography, primary and secondary sources, etc.) needed and consulted.

The duration of the presentation cannot exceed the 12 minutes. After the allotted time, you will be asked to conclude within the following 60 seconds. Presentations will be followed by a brief Q&A round.

Handout (20%)

Due: Friday, December 3rd

Students must produce a double-sided handout to distribute in class on the same day of their presentation (Friday, Dec. 3). Examples will be provided. Please, make sure to bring enough printed copies for everyone.

The handout shall include:

(Side 1)

- a. Title of your project.
- b. One image, illustrative of the ideas that you will be presenting on (make sure to include the image's copyright / reference).
- c. Objectives (bullet points)
- d. Research question/s (bullet points)

(Side 2)

- e. Annotated bibliography: at least 10 different sources (including primary sources and scholarly ones)

<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/annotatedbibliographies/index.html>

Article for Lay Audience (15 %)

Due: Monday December 13th (12 pm) – OWL > Drop Box

Students have to write a 600-word (+/- 5%) article on their research project. The target audience is the readership of London's Spanish-language newspaper, *La Jornada*, where our program (Hispanic Studies) usually publishes a section called "Tendiendo Puentes".

* Make sure that you understand the difference between an abstract and a lay summary

* Articles written in Spanish may be sent for publication, if the student / author agrees to it.

PLEASE NOTE

*** Submission of all written assignments**

All essays and written assignments must be submitted through OWL > Drop Box. If you fail to submit your assignments by the due date and time, it will be considered a late submission and it will be marked accordingly.

*Except for duly documented medical illnesses and emergencies, **late assignments** will be penalized **3 points per day late** (including weekends). Assignments turned in a week after the due date (7 days) will not be accepted and will receive a grade of "0."

*If you are absent or if an assignment is late due to illness or other legitimate reasons, please contact me by email as soon as possible and forward supporting documentation.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

→ Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

*** E-mail policy and etiquette**

Generally, all emails will be responded to within 24-48 hours during weekdays (not including holidays). Emails will *usually* be addressed during regular work hours (9-5). The instructor may choose, at her discretion, to respond outside these hours, depending on availability. If you send an email at 11 pm, it is highly unlikely that you will get a response before 9:00am.

When sending an email to me, please make sure of the following:

- That it observes the basic rules of etiquette:
 - o Include the proper salutation and sign-off
 - o Avoid abbreviations – an email is not a text message
- That it is clearly written
- That the tone is the appropriate one in an exchange between a professor and a student.

Failure to comply with these simple rules will affect your participation mark.

If you would like to learn more about email writing, there are some useful tips and examples in the following website: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/effective-e-mail-communication/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

(To be provided on the first day of class)