

Spanish 2213F/G – Exploring Hispanic Cultures



Professor: Rafael Montano

Antirequisite: The former Spanish 2215F/G, the former Spanish 2216F/G

Pre-or Corequisite(s): Spanish 2200 or permission of the Department.

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed.

Course Content and objectives

This course is an introduction to reading, writing and researching in the Hispanic visual, performing, literary arts, and in socio-linguistics. The course has a double objective. First, to improve the Spanish language conversation, reading and writing skills of all students; and second, through the realization of research projects on the cultural production of the Hispanic world, to improve the research abilities on a variety of aspects of the Hispanic cultures and civilizations on both sides of the Atlantic, Spain and Hispanic America. This year, we will be studying major cities (Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Madrid, Seville, Granada, Lima, Machu Pichu, and Cusco) from a historical perspective and as cultural centers. The course will also examine representations of social and cultural movements on films and photography. Students will be doing research on major literary figures (Cervantes, Borges, Tirso de Molina, García Márquez, Ak'abal) and the impact of their work on world literature. Moreover, there will be an introduction on the history of the Spanish language, and a study on the Spanish language rich dialectal differences on both sides of the Atlantic.

Methodology

Guided and assisted by the instructor, students will write one (1) annotated bibliography, selected from subjects proposed in class. Students will also write two short assignments and a final research essay. In addition, there will be eight (8) brief quizzes or questionnaires on subjects taught and discussed in class. Moreover, each student will prepare and present in class the results of her/his research of one of the topics chosen from the list provided by the instructor (the subject for this oral presentation must be different of the subject of the annotated bibliography). Finally, there will be a group project (instructions will be provided in class). Most classes will be student-centered, and the rest will be taught by the instructor or guest speakers.

Learning outcomes

- At the end of the course students will have acquired an overall knowledge of different historical, cultural and linguistic aspects of Hispanic cultures
- Students will have improved their writing, reading skills and understanding of the Spanish language
- Students will have improved their analytical skills of cultural artifacts
- Students will have improved their research abilities on Arts and Humanities subjects.

Grade distribution

2 written assignments	15%
1 oral presentation	10%
1 group project	15%
1 final essay	30%
1 annotated bibliography	10%
8 Quizzes	20%