

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SPAN 4053 Topics in Culture

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: SPAN 3063 Advanced Composition

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Explores a specific aspect of Spanish and/or Latin American culture, by focusing on historical, ideological, linguistic, and social elements of that culture. May be repeated when topics differ for a total of six hours.

B. Additional Information

This is a student-centered lecture course where students will be expected to participate actively not only as individuals but also in pair and group work. Topics in Culture can be taken twice, as long as the topic is different.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss aspects of Latin American civilizations and civilizations of the Iberian Peninsula.
2. Compare and contrast elements of Spanish or Latin American culture through oral communication.
3. Discuss the heterogeneity in Spanish-speaking culture.
4. Exhibit speed in reading and comprehension in the target language.
5. Analyze texts in essays and compositions in the target language.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULOs)

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills Goal

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

This will vary depending on the cultural topic. Topics can be organized geographically or thematically and should cover the following components:

- A. Historical context
- B. Contemporary aspects
- C. Comparative analysis
- D. Linguistic factors