

SPAN2029 –Introduction to the Cultures and History of Latin America

Category: Elective Course

Year: Open to all 2-4-year students in HKU

Medium of Instruction: English

Semester: Offered in the second semester

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an interdisciplinary introduction to representative cultural practices and key historical processes of Latin America through a selection of source materials such as films, paintings, historical accounts, religious texts, and music. Discussions in lectures will emphasize aspects of Latin American culture and history that prompt reflections on ethnic diversity, colonialism, political evolution, gender equality, and the role of the arts in understanding all these issues. Guest speakers will be invited to give talks on selected topics. English is the medium of instruction.

1.1 COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:
• Appreciate differences between the largest Spanish-speaking cultures of Latin America
• Describe some of the achievements and characteristics of pre-Columbian civilizations
• Identify key historical events and figures of Latin America
• Describe some contemporary socio-political processes
• Identify major characteristics of Spanish-speaking societies regarding religion and music
• Discuss the representation of some historical and contemporary events and figures in cinema and literature
• Discuss some aspects of China-Latin American connections
• Develop an appreciation for Latin American cultures.

1.2 PRE-REQUISITES

None.

1.3 ASSESSMENT

This course is graded on the basis of continuous assessment and is as follows:

1. In class tests: mid-term (15%) and final (30%)
2. Group project (25%)
3. Essay of 1,500 words (30%)

For a description of course grade expectations, please visit

<http://arts.hku.hk/current-students/undergraduate/assessment>

2. COURSE CONTENTS

The course has 2 contact hours per week. Attendance is expected to all classes and non-attendance may affect students' final grade.

There is no textbook for this course, all materials will be provided by the teacher in the classroom or via the Moodle platform. The course has an important component of work outside the classroom which serves as either preparation for the next class or reflection about a topic previously seen in class. Topics covered in the course are as follows:

COURSE TOPICS (to be updated in the academic year 2019-20)	
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