SPAN 313: Spanish Language through Culture

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Course Description: An exploration of cultural products, perspectives and practices of Spanish-speaking communities through the use of authentic Spanish language resources. Three (3) credits: meets three hours per week.

Prerequisites, Co-requisites and Enforced Prerequisites: Spanish 213 or placement

Course Content: We will learn about the cultural values and practices of Spanish-speaking cultures as we read carefully selected literary passages that present a historical cultural context which will broaden our understanding of how Spanish-speaking cultures developed. The examination of these readings will raise provocative questions and promote discussion that will strengthen oral skills and enhance listening abilities. Relevant grammatical points will be explained and practiced as they are introduced within the context of the readings. A variety of activities related to the readings will promote critical thinking and provide themes for short essays.

Outline of topics for the term:

1. Weeks 1-3 Pre-Columbian America  
   a. The rise of Pre-Columbian civilizations  
   b. The Aztecs  
   c. The Mayans  
   d. Social-economic organizations & religious practices and beliefs.

2. Weeks 4-5 Iberian Peninsula  
   a. The arrival of the Celts and Romans to the peninsula  
   b. The arrival of the Arabs  
      i. Cultural, scientific, architectural, and linguistic contributions to the region that is now Spain.

3. Weeks 6-8 The encounter of two worlds: Europe and America  
   a. The first encounter between the Aztecs and the Spaniards  
   b. The Conquest  
      i. Social configuration, political systems, economic structures, religious practices and linguistic diversity that develop in Mexico.

   a. The rise of the Incan civilization  
   b. The Conquest of the native people of the Andes
i. Social configuration, political systems, economic structures, religious practices and linguistic diversity that develop in the region of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Perú.

**Measurable Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Outline several major historical events that gave rise to the world’s Spanish-speaking cultures and civilizations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of several of the main external and internal forces that have shaped cultural values and practices of Spanish-speaking people discussed in the course readings.
- Show advanced Intermediate-level command of past-tense narration as you analyze connections between past and present cultural practices and values of the ethnic groups studied.
- Think critically about the organizational patterns, religious beliefs, economic and political structures that developed in the different civilizations and describe them using accurate structures and vocabulary.
- Effectively and accurately summarize key themes and styles presented in literary works.
- Show ongoing increases in language complexity, ability to communicate in more settings, familiarity with more topics and structural accuracy with a goal of reaching the Intermediate-High rating on the ACTFL scale.
- Demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of the diversity of human cultural, historical and social experiences, and reflect on how your individual life experience relates to the complex nature of human conditions in other places and times
- Present and evaluate information, devise and exchange ideas clearly and effectively with diverse audiences in a variety of situations

**Evaluation of Student Performance:**

- **Homework, attendance and participation 30%**
  Homework will be assigned on the daily basis. The homework will consist of a variety of activities; some of the homework will be collected the following class day. Other homework will be assigned with the purpose of preparing students to participate in class discussions.
  Students must attend class to participate and to gain from the material and the discussions that will take place in the classroom.

- **Oral presentations 10%**
  Students will research about a specific topic and will give a power point presentation to the entire class.
· **Vocabulary and grammar quizzes 30%**
  Students will have four quizzes throughout the term; the quizzes will give them the opportunity to demonstrate vocabulary knowledge of meaning and use as well as knowledge of reviewed grammatical structures.

· **Readings summaries 30%**
  Students will write four short compositions that will have a variety of objectives: report, reflect, inform, summarize information, etc.

**Grading Scale:**
- A (94%-100%)
- A- (90%-93%)
- B+ (87%-89%)
- B (84%-86%)
- B- (80%-83%)
- C+ (77%-79%)
- C (74%-76%)
- C- (70%-73%)
- D+ (67%-69%)
- D (64%-66%)
- D- (60%-63%)
- F (0-59%)

**Learning Resources:**
- A Spanish/English dictionary  **Optional**

**Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities:**
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541.737.4098.

**Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:**
http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon/htm