

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020** SPAN 333 B1: Reading Popular Culture  
(Winter 2020)

Instructor: Stephen A. Cruikshank  
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E-mail: [scruiksh@ualberta.ca](mailto:scruiksh@ualberta.ca)  
Class Website: See eClass site.

Time: M/W/F 10:00 - 10:50 am  
Place: HC 2 38  
Office Hours: By appointment

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:  
<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** SPAN 300 or 306 or consent of department  
It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed, no such projects approved.

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students' Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes       No

**Course Description, Objectives, and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

This course will look at questions of nation, class, race and gender in Hispanic popular cultural production. The course will evaluate both textual and visual cultural production in Latin America and Spain ranging from lessons on architecture, art, literature, film and television, theatre, music, dance, fashion, religion, and festivals. A key objective of this course is to explore the diverse ways in which culture has been identified, expressed,

and celebrated from the twentieth century until today. Students will be encouraged to consider the meanings of national culture and the methods of its production in Spanish speaking countries throughout the world.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course successful students will be able to:

- Increase efficiency in both written and oral Spanish.
- Enhance Spanish vocabulary.
- Expand knowledge on cultural production in Latin America and Spain.
- Analyse, argue, and communicate ideas culture in Spanish.
- Compare and contrast Hispanic cultures through the mediums of visual and textual artistic practices.

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, guest presentations, assigned readings, images, and audiovisual materials.

**Texts:**

**Required:** All texts are available online and may be accessed through the eClass website.

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020  
Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020  
50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020  
Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020  
Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020  
Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2019-2020 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grade Percentage</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
• Class Participation & Attendance	10%	Cumulative
• Pop-Culture Blog	10%	Cumulative
• Term Exam I	15%	Feb 7
• Term Exam II	15%	April 8
• Poster Presentation	20%	Mar 9, 11, 13
• Research Paper	30%	Mar 27

## **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

### **Class Participation & Attendance (10%)**

In this class students are expected to attend all lectures and engage in class discussions. An absence without a valid reason will result in a complete loss of the grade for the day missed. All class readings or films are available in advance on eClass. As a student you are responsible for coming to class prepared to participate in group and class discussions revolving around the day's texts, images, and discussions.

### **Pop-Culture blog (10%)**

Every week students will be responsible for writing (in Spanish) either a 150-250 word reflection or a 150-250 word response to another student's reflection on a forum available on eClass. Student's will be divided into two groups: group A and group B. Depending on the week, students in one group will be responsible for writing a reflection, while the students in the other group will be responsible for writing a response. Students will be marked on their completion, analysis, and engagement with the weekly subject matter in their writings. For the reflection, students are to write about 1 cultural production topic mentioned during that week. For example, on a week that discusses "art," the student may choose to write on a popular Spanish or Latin American artist or famous work of art. The student should analyze both the cultural significance of their topic and briefly discuss how it contributes to expressions of nation, race, gender, class, or self. Note that no blog is to be written during the presentation week. As well students are given one freebie, permitting them to neglect a blog reflection or response that week, which will not count against their grade.

### **Term Exam 1 & 2 (15% each = total 30%)**

Two term exams will occur throughout the semester. The first exam will cover all content discussed in class prior, while the second term exam will cover all content following the first exam. Exams will include a range of activities including multiple choice, matching, and long answer responses.

### **In Class Poster Presentation (20%)**

#### Part I: In-Class Presentation (10% presentation/ 5% poster)

In groups students will be responsible to present a poster on a topic on Latin American Popular Culture. The topic of presentation must be based on one of the weekly unit topics from the class, but should engage with content not discussed or mentioned in our class lectures. Any other choices must be approved by the instructor. Students must work individually to create their posters, which will include a title, images, and limited text (in Spanish) on a large poster board. Students will then be required to prepare a 5 minute presentation in Spanish detailing their chosen topic and research. They will share their presentation with classmates who will circulate to observe their posters. The instructor will also circulate and grade students on their presentation. Not all students will present their posters on the same day. Three classes of 50 min will be provided and students will be assigned the day in which they must present their poster. See eClass for

specific instructions on poster expectations and formatting.

### Part II: Reflection Forum (5 %)

Each day that students are not presenting, they must observe a minimum of 3 poster presentations from classmates and then write a 100-150 word reflection of 1 chosen presentation on a forum provided on eClass. That means that every student must write 2 reflections on the forum. The reflection should consider: (1) A short summary of the research, (2) at least 1 interesting point that stuck out in the presentation and why, and (3) at least 1 additional point of information that could have been added to the presentation. Students will need to briefly do their own research on the topic to find the last point and should consider inquiring into important readings or research on the topic following the classmate's presentation in order to help them complete their forum response.

### **Research Paper (30%)**

Students will be responsible to write a 5-6 page research paper (in Spanish) on a topic of their choosing that deals with a popular cultural production in Latin America or Spain. Whatever topic chosen to write on, it must relate to a topic or topics discussed during our class lectures. All papers should be written in MLA format and must be double spaced using Times New Roman and 12 point font. See eClass for more details on paper expectations and formatting.

### **Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

### **Student Responsibilities:**

#### ***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

***Language & Translation Courses:*** Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct.

Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections

[Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result. Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

**In this course**, 10% of the total mark will be given for attendance and participation. Students will be expected to attend class and engage in discussions. Each class will include either individual or group directed questions to provide the opportunity for student engagement in conversations, criticisms, debate, and analysis on the subject in discussion. A lack of attendance or participation will be noted throughout the semester and will directly impact this part of the grade.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will incur a 5% per class day penalty.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources:** (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre:** (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers:** (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>

subject matter.			
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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