

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES

<https://ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2020-2021 SPAN 499-B1/LA ST 499-B1: Special Topics in Literature and Culture:
Indigenous Latin America: Through its Cultural Artefacts
(Winter Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Ann De León
Office: REMOTE
E-mail: adeleon1@ualberta.c
Course Website: eClass

Time: T, Th 2:00PM-3:20PM
Place: REMOTE
Office Hours: TBA
or 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>



Course Prerequisite: This is a cross-listed course. If signing up for the LAST 499 class component conducted in English there are no prerequisites. If signing up for the SPAN 499 class component conducted in Spanish you will need SPAN 320 or SPAN 321 or consent of department. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Technology requirements (minimum): This course requires that you have access to a device with a camera and a microphone such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or cellphone and a fast and reliable internet connection in order to access course materials on eClass and in order to participate in Zoom class sessions. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course. For more information on technology requirements: <https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html>

Experiential Learning Component

- this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

- Yes No, not needed

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

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

In this course we will analyze a selection of important Indigenous Latin American cultural artefacts focusing primarily on Mexico and the Andes (studying objects such as: books, textiles, monuments, architecture, maps, cuisine, tombs etc.) and we will also look at how some popular cultural artefacts have represented or represent these cultures (e.g., through paintings, videogames, comics, movies, fashion etc.). By historically contextualizing the production of these cultural artefacts (objects) both past and present, we will gain insights not only into how these societies saw/see themselves, but we will also learn about how they have been represented (or misrepresented) and how, despite centuries of conquest and colonization, these groups continue to resist, innovate and reinvent themselves through a variety of cultural productions.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- *Identify, historically contextualize, and analyze the important contributions of some Mexican and Andean Indigenous Latin American cultural artefacts from the past/present.
- *Understand how and why some popular cultural artefacts may creatively represent or

misrepresent some of these Indigenous Latin American cultures.

*Recognize how Indigenous Latin American material cultural productions have contributed and continue to contribute in meaningful ways to a variety of fields (language arts, science, engineering, environment, arts etc.)

Course Format: The course may use a combination of asynchronous and synchronous learning, and will take place on eClass and Zoom. Live/synchronous Zoom class discussions in English (required for both LAST 499 and SPAN 499 students) will take place approximately once a week. Live/synchronous Zoom class discussions in Spanish (*required only for the SPAN 499 section students*) may take place approximately every two weeks (a more detailed schedule will be available on eClass).

Texts:

All required texts will be available online for free or will be posted by the instructor on eClass.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

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

First Day of Class: January 11, 2021

Add/Delete Date: January 22, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: February 10, 2021

Winter Term Reading Week: February 16-19, 2021

Withdrawal Date: April 9, 2021

Last Day of Class: April 16, 2021

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

<i>Class Participation</i>	15%
<i>5 eposts on select readings (@ 5% each)</i>	25%
<i>Class Presentation on a cultural artefact (pre-recorded)</i>	15%
<i>Take home open book midterm: Emailed to students on March 11th & due to the instructor before or by March 19th, 2021.</i>	20%
<i>Final project: an analysis of a cultural artefact of your choice. Due before or by April 17th, 2021.</i>	25%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Class participation (15%): For an enjoyable and productive class experience for all, it is imperative that students show up to the live Zoom class prepared, that is having completed all assignments and readings thoughtfully and ready to engage vocally or through the chat function. Joining Zoom class and not engaging in thoughtful vocal or chat participation will not constitute “active” participation. (*Note: Students in the LAST 499 section (i.e. non-Spanish speakers) do not have to attend the Zoom sessions conducted in Spanish for SPAN 499 students; otherwise all students are expected to attend and thoughtfully participate in the the regular English Zoom meetings.*

5 Critical Eposts on Eclass forum (25%): Throughout the semester, students will be asked to submit 5 critical eposts (300-350 words max. each) related to particular reading or assignment for that day. Each epost will be worth 5% for a total of 25%. *The lowest epost score will be dropped. Due dates will be noted on eClass.*

Class Presentation (15%): By the second week of the course, students will be asked to sign up to carry out a pre-record a Zoom presentation (10-15 minutes long max.) related to a particular reading/topic/object for that day. They must share their Zoom recording with their instructor (at least two nights before the topic discussion date) so that the instructor can post it on eclass thus allowing all students to view the video in preparation for discussion day. During the topic discussion date, the student who created the video must be available in Zoom class in order to engage thoughtfully with student questions and discussion on the subject.

1 Take Home Midterm (20%): There will be one open book take home Midterm in this course. Students will have the choice to develop 3 out of 5 potential short essay questions related to materials addressed in the course. The midterm will be emailed out March 11th, 2021 and will be due to the instructor by email before or by March 19th, 2021.

Final project (25%): An analysis of a cultural artefact of your choice. Students will get to choose either:

- 1) One Latin American Indigenous cultural artefact or
- 2) One popular cultural artefact representing and Indigenous Latin American group or cultural practice.

They must carry out an analysis of the artefact (either as a written piece, audio, or video recording) which will include a solid bibliography containing relevant scholarly and popular resources on their object (e.g. books, articles, museums, educational websites, videos etc.). This final project will be due to the instructor by email before or by April 17th, 2021. *Detailed guidelines will be provided in the course.*

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 and 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 work and study 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, 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).

Should live lectures be recorded during the course, students or guest speakers will be notified beforehand. Students can opt to turn their cameras off during these live recordings. Links to these live recordings will be shared with students by email.

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, students are expected to participate actively in live Zoom class/group discussions (vocally or chat function) and through critical eposts on the forums where they will showcase how they have thoughtfully completed their readings or other assignments for that day. In the case of an unforeseen emergency or an upcoming religious holiday/important family event, students may request an excused absence in advance or within two working days through email. In this email the student will explain how they plan to complete any missed attendance/participation component. Requests beyond this 2-day time frame will not be considered unless there are special circumstances.

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who consult in advance with the 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 without penalty. Should a student be given an extension for a late assignment but fail to abide by the new deadline, no further extension will be granted and the student will receive a zero for that assignment. In case of an emergency which has impeded the student from submitting an assignment by the deadline, an email should be sent to the instructor within 48 hours of the due date explaining the situation. Unless supported by substantial reasons, a grade of zero will be assigned to any work not submitted on time.

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	%
<p>Excellent. 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.</p>	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
<p>Good. 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.</p>	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. 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.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. 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 subject matter.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59

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