

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

2020-2021 SPAN 323 B1: Latin American Literature and the Environment

(Winter Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: *Odile Cisneros*

Office: REMOTE

E-mail: cisneros@ualberta.ca

Personal Website: <https://apps.ualberta.ca/directory/person/cisneros>

Course Website: *eClass under SPAN 323*

Time: *MWF 11:00-11:50 AM*

Place: REMOTE

Office Hours: [F 2-4 PM](#)

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: 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.

Technology requirements (minimum): computer or phone with camera and microphone, stable high-speed internet or data connection

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

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:

Following the recent critical trend known as “ecocriticism,” this course will explore the relations between Latin literature and the environment. As an ethically committed critical

practice, ecocriticism seeks to create an awareness of our responsibilities toward the natural world beyond the human. In this view nature is not simply a human construct, but has value in and of itself. Through a series of selected readings from critical and creative texts, this course will address issues such as: What is the relationship of literature to the environment? How can we read the presence of nature in writing differently and re-imagine our relationship to the non-human world? How have writers and intellectuals in Latin America tried to create environmental awareness through writing and activism? Is Latin America the ideal “habitat” for the new literary approach known as “ecocriticism”? This course will explore these questions and many more.

This course counts toward the [Certificate in International Learning \(CIL\)](#).

At the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Define ecocriticism and develop appropriate vocabulary to explore concepts and approaches in ecocriticism them.
- Discuss assumptions behind Western approaches to humans and nature and how they shape our interactions with the environment.
- Compare and contrast Western notions about nation with Native American and indigenous views.
- Name several environmental problems prevalent in Latin America.
- List 6 major intellectual figures from Latin America who have engaged arts and literature and environmental thinking and comment how they have done that.
- Describe how art and culture can uniquely inform ecological thinking and environmental attitudes.
- Perform a reading of a literary or visual text from an ecocritical perspective.
- Develop skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking as well as appropriate vocabulary and structures that will allow the students to carry out all of the above in Spanish.

Course Format: Synchronous and asynchronous learning: lectures, practical assignments (in-class and prepared ahead), readings, class discussion, guest presentations, group work.

Texts:

Required:

SPAN 323 Selected Readings. Posted 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”):

Attendance (5%) and Participation (10%):	15 %
This involves an active presence in discussion and activities	
Midterm Exam (Wed., March 3):	25 %
Final Exam (Wednesday, April 28, 2:00 PM):	30 %
Written Assignments (2), each 15 % (Due: Fri., March 12 and Wed., April 14):	30 %
Total:	100%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

This being a course primarily based on literary texts and films, students are required to attend class properly prepared, having done the readings and/or viewing specified on the class schedule. For “SYNCHRONOUS” sessions, students need to do the readings/viewing ahead of the class. For “ASYNCHRONOUS” sessions, students may do the work at their leisure, as long as they complete it before the next class meeting.

Notes and other materials for class preparation will be provided electronically by the instructor and posted on eClass; it is the student's responsibility to check the site often for updates. Attendance and active participation in class discussion and activities will determine 15% of the grade.

Two written assignments (1200-1500 words) on assigned topics will be due in the course of the semester (due: Fri., March 12 and Wed., April 14) and will count for 15% of the grade each (30% total). Details on these assignments will be given by the professor ahead of time. Late assignments will lose 1% of the grade for that assignment.

One midterm exam will be given Wed., March 3, based on material from the first part of the semester and will be worth 25% of the grade. The final exam on Wednesday, April 28, 2:00 PM will cover the material in the second part of the semester and will count for 30% of the grade.

If you have any questions and/or problems regarding the course, I am available during my virtual office hours or by appointment.

Further details of assignments will also be discussed in the course of the semester and detailed instructions will be posted on eClass.

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 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, attendance and participation will count for 15% of the grade. Please see course description, grade distribution, and explanatory notes on assignments above for details on participation.

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. Otherwise, assignments may be handed in one class-day after the stated deadline without penalty, with a 1%-per-class-day penalty assessed for each subsequent class-day of lateness.

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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