

## Spanish 4900: Contemporary Mexican Culture Thorough Cinema

Fall 2023

Special Problems Course

Professor: Dr. Jongsoo Lee

**Office Location:** LANG 403E

**Phone Number:** 940-565-2404 (Spanish Dept. Office)

**Office Hours:**

Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 pm (either Virtual or LANG 403E with a prior appointment). Please email me at least one day before you want to schedule office hours so that I may set up a time for an audio Zoom conference or in-person meeting.

**Email:** Jongsoo.lee@unt.edu

### Communication Expectations:

**E-mail.** If you have any specific and essential questions, the preferred method of communication is through email (Jongsoo.lee@unt.edu). I will regularly check my email throughout the day (during daytime work hours, M-F; usually not after hours nor over the weekend). Please do not send me messages via CANVAS inbox as I will not use the inbox function in CANVAS frequently.

### Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

**Course Description:** This course examines Mexican political, economic, and cultural topics through film, starting from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. Several movies will be introduced to discuss Mexican revolution, literature, popular icons, and current political issues. Most of the movies will be shown with English subtitles, but it is expected that students are fluent enough in Spanish to understand and discuss the movies.

**Required Texts:** NO

### Evaluation:

Daily Homework	25%
Final Project	25%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

A 100-90      B 89-80      C 79-70      D 69-60      F 59-00

**1. Weekly Homework (25%):** Before and after each movie is shown, students will write a brief report on the movie in Spanish and upload it every Friday. Please see the attached sheet for report format.

**2. Final Project (25%):**

- Each student will select an American movie that deals with Mexican history/culture and compare it with one or two (or several) of the movies discussed in class.
- The paper format:
  - Length between 850 and 1000 words: **Number of words must be printed at the end of the paper.**
  - Double space with 1 inch margin of each side of paper
  - MLA or Chicago Manual of Style: Bibliography that provides at least three sources for your research.

**3. Two Exams (50%):** There will be 2 exams covering information on the interpretation and discussion of the movies. Historical events and the images of the actors who appeared in the movies will be also included in questions. No make-ups will be given.

## **Course Policies**

### **Class Materials for Fully Remote Instruction**

Students will need access to a webcam and microphone to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: computer, reliable internet access, speakers, plug-ins, Microsoft Office Suite, downloading and uploading files, using Zoom, and using LockDown Browser system. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>.

### **Late Work**

Late assignment is not accepted; NO MAKE-UP of any kind (e.g., Quizzes and Homework). If you have a *valid official* documentation (e.g., doctor's note with a signature) that has been provided to the professor within a week, your grade (a zero) will be simply changed to 'excused' in case of quizzes and HW. Your missed exam grade (a zero), however, will not be replaced by 'excused' even with a valid official documentation: a zero may be replaced by a make-up exam grade if you are given an opportunity to take it 1) with a valid official documentation presented to the professor 2) within a week at latest.

### **Examination Policy**

All exams are closed book, closed notes, closed resources. Exams must be taken alone and no communication with other individuals is allowed. The usage of electronic translators is completely prohibited. As a UNT student, academic integrity and honesty are expected of you. Infringements on this policy will result in a grade of zero (0). You are NOT allowed to discuss the questions and answers with your classmates; you are NOT allowed to consult with or contact other students in any way during and after these quizzes. (See the section of Academy Integrity). It is the student's responsibility to carefully read and follow all the rules and regulations before taking exams and quizzes. Rules are available in Canvas in folder "Rules and Regulations for Exams" (under Module: Course Intro and Syllabus). Failure to follow the rules will result in a

grade of zero (0) in your exams with no opportunity to retake it. Do not wait to take your exams until the last minute. Take your exams as early as possible. In case of a technical issue with your computer, you need time to solve the issue and take the exam before the exam closes. Make sure that your laptop computer is fully charged before beginning the exam. Be sure to check if your internet connection is good. Make up for exams will not be allowed due to computer or internet problems.

### **Assignment Policy**

Due dates for each assignment are indicated in the class schedule of the syllabus. It is students' responsibility to check the assignment due dates in the syllabus to submit assignments online in Canvas. Canvas calendar may not be complete for the entire semester, so don't always rely on the automatic due date reminder generated by Canvas. Any change of due dates and assignment instructions (if needed) will be provided/announced in Canvas. For any written assignments submitted in Canvas (if applicable), Turnitin may be applied to check any possible plagiarism.

***Extra credits.*** There will be some extra credit opportunities during the semester that can be completed and submitted online. (Details TBA)

***Server unavailability.*** The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

### **Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback**

Instructor responsibilities include: teaching class materials; providing instructions for assignments and assessments, answering questions about assignments, reviewing and updating course content, etc. Questions sent to me via an email will be normally responded within 24 hours on weekdays (usually sooner) during work hours (8 am-5 pm). Please do not expect a response over the weekend. Assignment feedback (if applicable) and grades are expected to be available within a week (or sooner).

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

Changes to the syllabus, course information, and due dates will be announced in class and also in Canvas Announcement. The changes/revision will be indicated in Canvas and also in the revised syllabus if applicable.

### **Grade Appeal:**

If a student wants to appeal a grade, he/she needs to follow UNT policy. Basically, the student should talk to his/her instructor, but this effort does not work out, the student must initiate a grade appeal with the instructor based on one of these three grounds:

- The grade was based on unfair treatment.
- Instructor departed from standards set out in the course syllabus without a rational academic reason.
- An error was made in calculating the grade, including failure to factor an assignment, project, quiz, or examination.

UNT policy document:

(<https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.040%20Grade%20Appeals.pdf>)

## UNT Policies

### Academic Integrity Policy

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences.** According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. All assignments should be your own work only. This means no help at all from humans or technology (i.e. translation program). Cheating, plagiarism, and other examples of academic misconduct will be pursued and sanctions will be levied. More specifically, you cannot copy others' work or sentences from textbooks, *web*, etc. You CANNOT have another student, a tutor or friend/family CORRECT or TRANSLATE your work. Your work should reflect the level of proficiency that you are in. Any attempt to hand in work not done by yourself will receive a zero (0) and may be reported to the Dean of Students.

### Addendum to Academic Integrity for the remote/online learning in this class:

Students who violate University rules on academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary actions, including the possibility of failure in the course. A violation of the course policy may include (but is not limited to) the following:

- Providing your UNT EUID to any other person
- Collaborating or sharing information with another person regarding the material on any assessment or assignment, before, during and/or after any assessment or assignment
- Recording any quiz, assessment or assignment material in any format
- The public (such that it can be viewed by more than one person) posting of any form of a test bank or group of questions from any assignment

### ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every

semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)**

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### **Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect).

### **Student Evaluation Administration Dates**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [dates TBA] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](http://spot.unt.edu/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### **Survivor Advocacy**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

### **Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

### **Use of Student Work**

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

### **Class Recordings**

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course (if any) may be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this

restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

## **Academic Support & Student Services**

### **Student Support Services**

#### **Mental Health**

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

[Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)

[Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)

[UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)

[UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)

[Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

Día	Lectura/ Tarea	Temas para el trabajo semanal
Week #1 08/25	Introducción	
Week #2 09/01	<i>Vámonos con Pancho Villa</i>	
Week #3 09/08	<i>La ley de Herodes</i>	
Week #4 09/15	<i>María Candelaria</i>	
Week #5 9/22	<i>El Analfabeto</i>	
Week #6 09/29	<i>Canoa</i>	
Week #7 10/06	Mid-Term	
Week #8 10/13	<i>Rojo amanecer</i>	
Week #9 10/20	<i>Como agua para chocolate</i>	
Week #10 10/27	<i>El jardín del Edén</i>	
Week #11 11/3	<i>Un día sin mexicanos</i> (2004)	
Week #12 11/10	<i>Coco</i>	
Week #13 11/17	<i>Día de muertos</i>	
Week #14 11/24	Thanksgiving	
Week #15 12/01	<i>¡Que viva México!</i>	
Día #16- #17 TBA	Trabajo final/ Examen final	