

## Spanish 3130: Topics in Latin American Cultures (Mexico and Costa Rica)

Professor: Dr. Lee

Office Hours (MW 9:00-10:00)

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**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide various cultural and intellectual traditions of the Costa Rican and Mexican world as described in literature, art, music, and film. Each week of the course focuses on a certain period or topic of Mexican and Costa Rican history and culture from pre-Hispanic times to the present. At the same time, it is also designed to help students improve their language skills in Spanish.

### Required Texts:

-Course Packet: *Copy Pro*, 1300 W. Hickory. (940-566-1151)

### Recommended Texts:

-*Pequeño Larousse Ilustrado*. Mexico: Larousse, 1994

-*The Oxford Spanish Dictionary: Spanish-English/ English-Spanish*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1994

### Evaluation:

Participation and attendance	20%
Presentation	10%
Pop Quiz	10%
Homework	10%
Group project	10%
Two Exams	40% (2 x 20%)

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

**1. Participation and Attendance (20%):** Student group and individual participation are essential for class discussion and thus active daily participation is required. Attendance does not affect your grade unless you miss class. You may miss 2 classes with no penalty. Each subsequent absence will result in the reduction of the final grade by 2%. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If you arrive late, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to notify the professor at the end of the session. Otherwise, you will be marked as absent.

**2. Presentation (10%):** Each student will give a presentation on a prescreened topic. It must last 8 to 10 minutes. Keep in mind the following steps while preparing for the presentation:

- 1) Select a topic and date from the course syllabus and talk to the professor at least 1 week prior to the presentation.
- 2) The professor will provide detailed guidelines for your presentation.
- 3) On the day of the presentation, prepare a 1 page summary of your presentation and make a copy for each student and the professor.

\*Evaluation criteria: preparation, organization, audio-visual sources, and Spanish.

\*Please note that presentation is not an act of reading. You are allowed to take a look at your notes but you **should NOT read** them. If you do not follow this rule, you will lose at least a **50%** of your presentation grade.

**3. Pop Quiz (10%):** There will be four pop quizzes about basic terms and concepts. Its format will be True/False type questions

**4. Homework (10%):** The professor will randomly conduct a completion check of homework. Homework should be done **before** coming to class.

**5. Group Project (10%): TBA**

**6. Two Exams (40%):** There will be 2 exams covering information on historical events, persons, concepts, geographical terms, and literary texts, etc. No make-ups will be given. Note the dates of exams before making travel plans.

**\*Rules of conduct: You must abide by the University of North Texas policies, including the UNT Code of Conduct, while enrolled in the program and you may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of those policies upon your return to campus.**

1. All work must be your own. Academic dishonesty in any form will be dealt with severely.
2. Disruptive behavior is not tolerated: if you seriously disrupt the group learning process, or if your behavior gives the program director reasonable cause to believe that your continued presence in the program poses a danger to the health or safety of persons or property, or impedes, disrupts or obstructs the program in any way, you will face immediate dismissal. Alcohol, drug and weapons related violations, assault, and sexual or racial harassment, are so seriously problematic that dismissal is highly likely.

**\* The department complies with the American with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodation for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a qualifying disability, please see me and the ODA immediately.**

**\* Travel in Costa Rica**

- If you plan to travel inside San José, you don't need to inform me of your trip. However, it is a good idea to let your host family know about your whereabouts.
- If you plan to travel outside San José, you must leave your travel itinerary with the following people at least two or three days in advance.
  - 1) **Dr. Lee or Dr. Yoon (in writing)**
  - 2) **at least two classmates who do not travel with you**
  - 3) **your host family**

(Leave the following information with those people: destination, duration, place to stay if away more than one night, emergency contact number, people who travel with you and their contact information.)

\*Whether you travel inside or outside San José, always carry the address and phone number of your host family. It is always safer to travel with others, not alone.

Día	Lectura/ Tarea
Día #1	Introducción City Tour
Día #2	Geografía: Costa Rica y México
Día #3	La familia latinoamericana
Día #4	Época pre-Hispánica: Mesoamérica general
Día #5	Época pre-Hispánica: Los Aztecas
Día #6	La conquista de Tenochtitlan y Costa Rica
Día #7	La conquista de Tenochtitlan: los vencidos
Día #8	La Malinche/ La Llorona
Día #9	La época colonial/ Sor Juana
Día #10	Examen I
Día #11	Las Vírgenes: Guadalupe y los Angeles
Día #12	La independencia: México y Costa Rica
Día #13	La revolución mexicana
Día #14	México contemporáneo
Día #15	Costa Rica Contemporáneo
Día #16	Los problemas de los indígenas
Día #17	Al norte: Los Hispanos en los EE.UU.
Día #18	Proyecto grupal *Repaso
Día #19	2 de Junio: Examen II
Día #20	3 de Junio: Reunión final