



INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN  
EN ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS  
“BENJAMIN FRANKLIN”

<b>Course</b>	Introduction to the Language and Cultures of the Spanish-Speaking World
<b>Program, semester, year</b>	International Studies Program, Spring 2023
<b>Credits ECTS</b>	3
<b>Instructor's full name and email</b>	Dr. Ruth Mandujano López mandujanor@douglascollege.ca
<b>Block dates</b> (days and time)	Monday-Thursday, 9am-12pm February 6 – March 1, 2023
<b>Classroom</b>	TBA
<b>Class hours</b>	45
<b>Office Hours</b>	TBA
<b>Requirements</b>	
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>Type of teaching</b>	In person

## INTRODUCTION

This course provides an introduction to a wide range of language and cultural practices and issues specific to the Spanish-speaking world, as well as to the critical tools from diverse methodologies needed to analyze and understand them. It focuses on the interaction between the Spanish language and the cultures that underlie it and is designed to increase students' ability to navigate more meaningfully within these cultures and potentially use Spanish more effectively. It is also interested in making students reflect on public issues that affect them beyond Spanish. We will examine written, audio, visual, and audiovisual texts. This course is taught in English, so prior knowledge of Spanish is not required. Nevertheless, most materials are also available in Spanish and Spanish students and native speakers may hand in journal entries and the final exam in Spanish.

## COMPETENCIES

Successful students will:

- increase their knowledge of pertinent aspects of the Spanish-speaking world;
- increase their understanding of how the Spanish language and the diverse cultures that underlie it interact;
- increase their ability to navigate more easily and meaningfully within these cultures;
- increase their skills in learning, understanding and using Spanish;
- increase their understanding of basic concepts needed to examine cultural issues in general;
- increase their ability to interpret visual and audiovisual cultural manifestations;
- increase their appreciation of cultural practices distinct from their own;
- increase their awareness of the socio-economic and political processes that shape cultural practices;
- increase their understanding of the historical processes that have shaped various cultural practices in the Spanish-speaking world;
- increase their awareness of, and sensitivity to, different modes of thought and belief;
- increase their ability to examine issues from an interdisciplinary perspective.

## METHODOLOGY

The course has three main parts or sections. The first is an introduction to the course and the Spanish-speaking world. The second focuses on the history of the Spanish language, paying particular attention to its relation to other languages and to its cultural diversity. The third consists of various cultural units where we will review different written, visual and audiovisual materials, such as songs, films, theatre plays, short stories, TedTalks, etc. Each cultural unit will concentrate on a particular topic related to the Spanish-speaking world. Unless otherwise noted, for each unit, students will have to complete and submit three main tasks: a) read/watch/listen to the materials assigned for the class and participate in our discussions; b) answer a short quiz on the class materials; c) write a journal reflection at the end of the unit. In addition, there will be a mid-term test, a group presentation related to a research project, and a final exam. Please refer to the section called "Evaluation" to learn more about each of these.

## PREPARATION FOR CLASS

Students will need to read, watch and/or listen to all the materials assigned as homework before coming to class. While in class, students should show preparation of the materials by participating actively, timely and respectfully in the discussions. We will be addressing sensitive topics. Take into consideration that we will be in a multicultural setting where students come from different backgrounds, have diverse life experiences and therefore have different opinions. Be respectful when expressing your disagreement. We are here to learn from each other with an open mind in a supportive environment.

## EVALUATION

- Journal (one per unit) 20%
- Class Preparation and Discussion 20%
- Unit Quizzes (one per unit) 15%
- Mid-Term Exam 10%
- Research Project and Presentation 20%
- Final Exam 15%

### Journal (20%)

This course is particularly interested in engaging critically with written, visual, and audiovisual materials. For this purpose, the instructor will pose a general (set of) question(s) at the end of each unit to be responded in the journal. Students should make an original individual entry (do not copy or paraphrase unless it is extremely necessary for your argument and must include source) of at least 100 words (no maximum limit). These journals are not open to other students; only your instructor will read your entries and may give comments. Journals may be written in English, Spanish, or a combination of both. For every day late, you will be deducted 5%. Students will not be allowed to submit journals after a week past the due date.

### Class Preparation and Discussion (20%)

Each unit provides space for discussions intended to expand our knowledge and share our ideas in relation to the themes discussed in the course. Assessment for active participation will be ongoing and will focus on attendance, preparation, amount and quality of your interventions and the respect you show for everyone's opinions.

### Unit Quizzes (15%)

Each unit has one quiz composed of multiple-choice or short answer questions referring to specific unit materials specified to students in advance. Students will not be allowed to submit the quizzes after due date or outside of class.

### Mid-Term Exam (10%)

The mid-term exam will consist of multiple-choice and/or short answer questions related to the materials previously analyzed in class. The best way to prepare is to go over all the quizzes done up to then. Students will not be allowed to submit the exam after due date or outside of class.

### Research Project and Presentation (20%)

Students will work in groups of 2 to 4 people (depending on enrolment) in order to create a cultural unit similar to those that guide our course and present it to the class. If you know

someone that you want to work with, let me know during the first week of classes. Otherwise, you will be divided randomly. Specific instructions will be given during the first week of classes.

### Final Exam (15%)

The final exam will consist of open questions related to the different topics studied in our course. Students will be asked to draw on different materials studied in class in order to support their opinion. The final exam questions and instructions will be released a day prior to submission. The exam may be written in English, Spanish, or a combination of both. Students will not be allowed to submit the exam after due date or outside of class.

### ATTENDANCE (Instituto Franklin-UAH Policy)

Attendance is mandatory. Students are not permitted to miss any classes of the program without proper justification (i.e. emergencies, health problems, in this case students have to show a medical note). The following types of excuses are not justified: family visits, illnesses without a medical note, personal trips, etc. Each unjustified absence will result in a grade deduction of 10 points in the final grade of the class (example: from A to B). Students will not be allowed, in the classroom or fieldtrips, to arrive 10 minutes late or more. If a student has continual delays, he/she will be penalized with an absence and the instructor may not allow them into class or the visit.

### STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (Instituto Franklin-UAH Policy)

Students with special needs should contact Antonio Fernández: [antonio.fernandezm@uah.es](mailto:antonio.fernandezm@uah.es). Instituto Franklin-UAH can accommodate these students who show through a medical note or a note from their academic advisor that require help in order to fulfill the program.

### USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASS

Students may use personal devices to take notes for the class.

### USE OF BLACKBOARD

Instructor will post class PPTs and links to materials in Blackboard.

DAYS	CLASS SCHEDULE*	ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1		
2/6/2023	Welcome – Course Overview Unit 1: The Danger of Single Stories	
2/7/2021	Unit 2: An Overview of the Spanish-Speaking World Today	Journal 1, Quiz 1
2/8/2021	Unit 3: The Spanish Language and Dialects: A History of Power and Exchanges	Journal 2, Quiz 2

<b>2/9/2021</b>	Unit 3 (Cont.)		Possible Field Trip
			Week 2
<b>2/13/2023</b>	Unit 4: First Nations and (De)Colonization		Journal 3, Quiz 3
<b>2/14/2023</b>	Unit 4 (Cont.)		
<b>2/15/2023</b>	Unit 5: The Influence of Afro-Latinx Cultures in Latin America		Journal 4, Quiz 4
<b>2/16/2023</b>	Unit 5 (Cont.)		Possible Field Trip
			Week 3
<b>2/20/2023</b>	Unit 6: Gender Roles in Spanish-Speaking Films and Shows		Journal 5, Mid-Term Test
<b>2/21/2023</b>	Unit 6 (Cont.)		
<b>2/22/2023</b>	Unit 7: Art in the Time of War		Journal 6, Quiz 5
<b>2/23/2023</b>	Unit 7 (Cont.)		Possible Field Trip
			Week 4
<b>2/27/2023</b>	Student presentations		
<b>2/28/2023</b>	Student presentations		
<b>3/1/2023</b>	Student presentations/Conclusions		<b>Final Exam</b>

Note:

\*Subject to change depending on the cultural sites and activities available in Alcalá de Henares during program dates.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS:

Dorfman, Ariel. *Death and the Maiden*. USA: Penguin Books, 1994 (original book in Spanish written in 1991).

Available online for free here: [https://www.vanderbilt.edu/olli/class-](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/olli/class-materials/Death%20and%20the%20Maiden%20script.pdf)

[materials/Death and the Maiden script.pdf](https://www.vanderbilt.edu/olli/class-materials/Death%20and%20the%20Maiden%20script.pdf) or <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/03064229108535119> .

En español: <https://www.scribd.com/document/353413536/33841900-La-Muerte-y-La-Doncella-Ariel-Dorfman-1-pdf>

\*Additional materials will be posted in Blackboard on a regular basis and are available at no cost on the web.

## INSTRUCTOR



Dr. Ruth Mandujano López is Chair and faculty member of the Department of Modern Languages at Douglas College in British Columbia, Canada. She received a Master's degree in Latin American Studies and diploma in Teaching Spanish as a Second Language from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). She graduated with a PhD in History from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and received the 2013 Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CALACS). Her ongoing research and academic interests include transoceanic migrations, transnational studies, global and migration studies, diasporas, history of the Spanish language, feminist Latin American literature and contemporary art. She loves reading, going to the movies, playing/watching soccer and tennis, traveling and learning from other cultures.