Spanish 232 Special Topics Fall15

**CULTURES IN CONTACT: THE ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY OF SPAIN, PUERTO RICO, CUBA, AND MEXICO**

The overall focus of this course, inspired by photography and Spanish language, will be to explore and celebrate different expressions of art in Spain, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Mexico, beginning in the early to mid 20th century and ending with a more contemporary perspective.

**HISPANIC WOMEN WHO MADE HISTORY**

This course will provide an overview of the roles of several key women that have had historical relevance in different Hispanic countries.

- FRIDA KHALO
- EVA PERÓN
- SOR JUANA INÉS DE LA SANTA CRUZ
- MADRES DE PLAZA DE MAYO
- ISABEL ALLENDE... ETC.

Each woman studied will serve to contextualize other themes that relate to the history, politics, culture and society of the country studied.

**RHYTHMS OF LATIN MUSIC & CULTURE**

Rhythms of Latin Music & Culture is a course centered on the topic of music and dance that arises from a personal desire to share aspects of Latin culture that inherently define what it means to belong to this cultural group: music, history and dancing are cross-linked disciplines that in this course will bring to the students a deeper understanding of Spanish beyond the language. The aim of this course is not to present solely factual information but rather, through songs and stories, to bring students to recreate the feelings associated with these time periods and the people that lived them. Students will empathize with the lyrics of songs, feel the emotions, and connect in this way with the cultural heritage of Spanish-speaking countries.

**THE HISPANIC WORLD THROUGH FOOD**

19th century gastronome Jean Anthelme Brillat-Savarin said “Tell me what you eat, and I’ll tell you who you are.” In this course we will explore the Hispanic world not just through what foods it eats, but also how it eats, as well as how it (and we) perceives, produces and treats food. From traditional agricultural practices that predate Columbus’ arrival to the “New World” to innovative techniques in the 21st century’s most renowned kitchens, the Hispanic world from Mexico to Spain to Perú to Miami to even Michigan has been shaped by its relationship to food and in turn has had a profound gastronomic influence on the rest of the world. It will be in these historical, social, economic, political and gastronomical contexts in which we will study Spanish in this course.

**FROM ARGENTINA TO CUBA: A LIFE CHANGING JOURNEY.**

Ernesto Guevara in “Diarios de Motocicleta” describes a journey of discovery that changed his life and had an impact on the future of a nation. Join us to discover the unique power of literature to explore the culture of several Latin American countries during three historical periods (50s, 70s, and present). Different types of written and visual texts will be incorporated. Through class discussions and group and individual written projects students will have opportunity for intensive use of the language to further develop ability to perform at a higher level of proficiency.

**A LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL VOYAGE THROUGH THE HISPANIC WORLD**

Sail through time to learn about the origin of castellano, and how it came to be the official language of Spain. In this course, we will explore how the Spanish language traveled to the New World and became the mother tongue of nearly 500 million speakers in 20 different countries. Additionally, we will examine Spanish as a living language that has adapted and changed over time, nuanced by regional differences, the legacy of a cultural melting pot.

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**CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF SPAIN THROUGH MUSIC & CINEMA**

The aim of this course will be to provide students with the understanding of the Spanish contemporary history and its consequences in creating a new culture and life style. By studying the events, students will get to know, not only the political changes of a country but also how history is represented through the cinema and the music; and how these two artistic representations play an important role in the life of the people.

**MUSEO DE LA REGIÓN ANDINA**

This class is a collection of topics focussing on Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. Topics such as El Dorado, la coca, and Andean textiles recognize and represent the geographic, cultural, and historical similarities and differences to be known as the Región Andina. Students will engage with authentic objects in class and participate in hands-on activities creating “objects” for our own lyrical museum of the Andean Region.

**ONLINE WORKBOOK**

Courses differ thematically but ALL of them share the same grammar component and the same online grammar activities. Grammar activities are graded for accuracy and for completion.