

**FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Humanities**  
**SPA 313 Hispanic American Culture & Civilization**  
**Spring 2009**

**Instructor:** Dr. Zoila Clark  
**E-mail:** [zoilyova@yahoo.com](mailto:zoilyova@yahoo.com)  
**Classes:** MWF – 11:00am-11:50am  
**Room:** WLAC17 301

**Textbook:** Fuentes, Carlos. *The Buried Mirror: Reflections on Spain and the New World*. Ed. 2002 Mariner Book Houghton Mifflin Company. This course covers units 11 to 18, while SPA 312 Peninsular Culture and Civilization covers units 1 to 10.

**Goals and Teaching Method:**

The purpose of this course is to discuss the multiethnic and multicultural aspects that shaped Latin America and the Caribbean Basin, from its independence as new Latin American nations to the 21st century. By the end of this course, students will know the most important aspects of Hispanic-American Culture, including geography, history, and study of folklore and customs: food preparation, songs, dances, rituals, revolutions, theater, writings, field trips to museums and Hispanic events in Miami. Students will also learn about the Afro-Hispanic communities in South America, the Caribbean, and the US as part of their culture. The course combines history, literature, sociology and art through a selection of readings, documentaries, films and presentations. Student participation is very important because of the project presentations, field trips, and group discussions.

**IMPORTANT:**

- You need to turn off your telephones during our classes.**
- Attendance is mandatory. You need to check your email or call (305) 626-3600 to know if classes have been cancelled because of a hurricane watch or warning.**

**Evaluation:** The final grade will be based on the following:

Attendance and “Active Oral Participation”:	20%
Homework	20%
Midterm Written Exam in class:	20%:
Final Oral Exam in class:	20%
Final Written Exam in class:	20%

**Course Grades:**

93- 100=A	77-79=C+
90- 92=A-	73-76=C
87- 89=B+	70-72=C-
83- 86=B	67-69=D+

80- 82=B-

63-66=D

60-62=D-

00-59=F

### **Attendance, participation, and homework:**

**Regular attendance is mandatory.** In order for students to progress in their ability to understand and speak the language, they must be exposed to hearing and speaking it on a regular basis. “No more than three absences will be permitted”. **Three late arrivals** (that is, 10 minutes after the start of class) equals **ONE ABSENCE**. **Every absence above the permitted will result in the lowering of the “final grade” because you need to be in class to participate.** The student must have a valid reason for missing class and not have it count as an absence (e.g. serious illness, family emergency, etc. by a written document to prove it). Merely notifying the instructor by phone or email that you will be absent just shows respect to your instructor, but that still counts as an absence).

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate actively. A participation grade is assigned daily. Students are expected to be in class and also to participate.

### **Policy on Native Spanish Speakers or Bilingual Students in Miami:**

SPA 313 is designed for students who have an intermediate command of Spanish or students that are Spanish Native Speakers. Students can hand in their written papers in Spanish or in English. The class is conducted in English and the main textbook is in English because the class focuses on content. This is not a language class.

### **Incomplete Grades:**

A grade of “I” is only given when there is a valid, documented reason that prevents the student from finishing the class. This means that the student attended classes regularly and just missed the last part of the course. If such reason arises, please advise your instructor immediately.

### **Academic dishonesty:**

The university does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or forgery. Final exams, homework, or any graded exercises ought to be individual work; otherwise, it is cheating.

**Oral Evaluation or Presentation:** Students in groups have to create a cultural project and present it in the classroom. A special guide will be given previous the oral evaluation to serve you as a model. Besides, students will always have other activities during the course.

**Exams:** There are no extra credits for oral, midterm, and final exams. No exceptions!

## SEQUENCE BREAKDOWN

(Subject to be changed if needed).

**Reminder:** It is “your responsibility” to check with your classmates if there is homework and you have been absent.

Introduction to the course.

Lesson 11: Colonization vs. Independence

Lesson 11: Towards Independence

Lesson 12: Part IV: The Price of Freedom

Lesson 12: Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín

Lesson 13: The Time of Tyrants

Lesson 14: The Culture of Independence: Film: *Camila*

### **Mid-term exam**

Lesson 15: Land and Liberty

Lesson 15: Identity

Lesson 16: Food, Dances, and Rituals

Lesson 16: Part V: Unfinished Business

Lesson 16: Latin America

Lesson 17: Field trips and Festivals

Lesson 18: Hispanic USA: Film *Zoot Suit*

### **Final Oral Exam**

### **Final Written Exam**

**Dates and activities are subject to be changed in case of hurricanes or major problems.**

I, (Name of the student) \_\_\_\_\_ accept the terms and conditions given in this document.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

