

Spanish 2340

CRN 34387

Seeing and Naming: Conversations on Latin America

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Office Hours: by appointment via Zoom.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: We will discuss issues that have been key in the development and understanding of present-day Latin America. While the course is organized chronologically, from the period of so-called “discovery” and conquest to the twenty-first century, it also will consider themes, synchronically to better understand how they constitute ongoing dialogues in different historical periods.

COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course has as its primary objective to introduce undergraduate students to important manifestations and discourses about Latin American cultures. By placing Latin American cultural production within various contexts and theoretical frameworks, the course also has as a major objective to move away from outdated models for teaching Latin American “Culture”, in which names, dates, major historical figures and manifestations of high cultural production have been predominant, with “low-culture” being reduced to folklore; this time-worn model also treats Latin American “Culture” as monolithic and as an unproblematic add-on to history, politics, and economics, instead of being deeply—and problematically—embedded in them. By incorporating recent theoretical discussions and interdisciplinary research about Latin American cultures, this course also hopes to offer new ways of entering into an old theme in many undergraduate core curricula in the United States.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand key critical issues on the idea of the so-called “Discovery of America”.
- Reflect on why and how this continent was appropriated by Europeans and was named America
- How the exchange triggered by Christopher Columbus’ voyages shaped Europe’s and America’s political, cultural and natural landscapes.
- Understand where the idea of portraying the inhabitants of the New World as Savages and Cannibals came from?
- Understand the local and foreign influences that informed the creation of Latin American Nation States.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

All readings will be provided by the professor via Blackboard. The links to most of the viewings will be provided also and/or the students will be directed to the corresponding platforms when they cannot find them. **They might have to rent *The Tempest* on YOUTUBE to be able to view it with subtitles. It is less than five dollars and it will be the only material they will have to purchase.**

You will also need regular access to a computer, stable, consistent internet, Blackboard, and your UTEP email account.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

In order to pass this course students will have to complete four (4) exams. There will be one at the end of each week.

Grade Distribution:

1000-900 = A 899-800 = B 799-700 = C 699-600 = D 599 and Below = F

There will be four exams (4): 250 points each $250 \times 4 = 1000$.

Students will have four (4) partial exams. **Each one will have five (5) essay questions. Each question will be worth 50 points.** Additionally, there will be an extra credit question worth 20 points. **Extra credit cannot be rolled over from one exam to the next.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY and Make up work

This is an online class. Students will have access to all materials from day one (except for the exams) and they will work at their own pace. Every week they will have four days to finish each exam. There will be no make-up exams, unless there is an exceptional situation. Please consult with the professor and write to him immediately in case you run into problems uploading your work.

To preserve a student's GPA, he/she may be dropped from the course for failure to turn in two or more partial exams. However, it is the responsibility of the student to drop the class if she or he feels successful completion of the course is not possible.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS (very important)

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system (LMS). Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are the most supported browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications with the LMS. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have or have access to a computer/laptop. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students.

NETIQUETTE

Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.

DEADLINES AND LATE WORK POLICY

- All exams are due on Mondays at 11:59 PM after the first week. No late work will be accepted unless there is an exceptional situation. If you have problems uploading your work, write to the professor and send your exams via email immediately at wdelgadillo@utep.edu

DROP POLICY

To drop this class, please contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to learn about the drop process. If you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, please contact me. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operations and Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

STUDENT RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [Military Student Success Center](#): UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.