

Point Loma Nazarene University
Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing and Modern Languages
SPA 4085 Senior Seminar (3 units)
Syllabus, Spring 2020

Professor: Dr. Paula Cronovich

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Office Hours: M, W, Th, F 10:20am-12pm, Th 2:30-4:20pm and by appointment

Class Meeting Time: Mondays 3:30-6:30pm BAC 102

PLNU Mission:

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description:

A course designed to reflect upon and to integrate issues of culture, civilization, language, and literatures of the Spanish-speaking world. Research is conducted to see how areas such as cultural contrasts, linguistic and lexical variations, and political and artistic realities have influenced modern literary pieces. Completion of a portfolio and a summative evaluation of language skills will be required.

Required Texts:

Each student will evaluate from his/her own interests and will choose the most pertinent readings according to his/her future career plans. These selections will then need to be approved by the Professor for legitimacy, value and purpose. We will discuss more about the readings in class, and we will come to an agreement on these.

Recommended: A good Spanish/English Dictionary (i.e. *Larousse*, *Oxford* or *Harper Collins*).

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Create a written portfolio that exhibits written skill levels at the advanced low level (ACTFL¹ standards);
2. Analyze literary pieces from a variety of perspectives;
3. Converse in Spanish at the advanced low level (ACTFL);
4. Exhibit reading comprehension at the advanced low level (ACTFL);

¹ American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages

5. Discuss and write about the influence of his/her perspective on cultural interconnections through engagement with local, national or international communities.

Attendance: According to the University Catalog, attendance is a requirement for each class. There are no excused absences, except those allowed by the Provost of the university. Therefore, it is required to be in class, and to participate in class discussions. Students will be deducted **2%** from the participation grade for each absence. If the student is absent 4 or more days, the Professor may fail the student.

NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

Readings and Assignments: Students must prepare readings and assignments prior to class. Students will then be able to comment or ask questions in class regarding the assignments.

Academic Accommodations/Tutorials:

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Academic Honesty Policy:

The Department of Literature, Journalism, and Modern Languages deems intellectual and academic integrity to be critical to academic success and personal development; therefore, any unethical practice will be detrimental to the student's academic record and moral character. Students who present the work of others, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, or using the thoughts or ideas of others as if their own (using information in a paper without citation), commit plagiarism. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course. In

either event, a written report will be filed with the department chair and area dean. The dean will review the report and submit it to the provost and the vice president for student development. It will then be placed in the student's academic file. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

Evaluation: The Final grade will be determined according to the following scale:	
Professional Portfolio with narrative reflections	35%
Final Exams- Oral Proficiency	15%
In-class Essay	10%
Final Presentation	30%
Participation	10%

Scale:

A 93-100
A- 90-92
B+ 88-89
B 83-87
B- 80-82
C+ 78-79

C 73-77
C- 70-72
D+ 68-69
D 63-67
D- 60-62
F 59-or below

Signature Assignments
<p><u>1. Written Communication/ Critical Thinking</u></p> <p>Academic writing assignment as required for the portfolio, as well as for the research paper: literature or film analysis or critique. There will also be a timed in-class writing assignment/ final essay.</p>
<p><u>2. Oral Communication</u></p> <p>ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview, to be scheduled with Prof. Mitchell via e-mail: jmitchel@pointloma.edu</p>
<p><u>3. Quantitative Reasoning</u></p> <p>Each student will develop a research a project that highlights aspects of a particular area of interest. As an act of completion for the semester, students will present a final oral presentation (30 minutes of presentation and 15 minutes for questions and comments from the public). Throughout the semester, students will prepare a written and visual presentation that evaluates sources studied. Each student is expected to demonstrate his fluent Spanish Oral skills and his/her advanced research capabilities.</p>
<p><u>4. Informational Literacy/ Oral Communication</u></p> <p>Each student will develop a research project that highlights aspects of a particular area of interest. As an act of completion for the semester, students will present a final oral presentation (30 minutes of presentation and 15</p>

minutes for questions and comments from the public). Throughout the semester, students will prepare a written and visual presentation that evaluates sources studied. Each student is expected to demonstrate his fluent Spanish Oral skills and his/her advanced research capabilities.

1. Professional Portfolio Requirements: (35%)

- a. Professional – 2 *curriculum vitae/ résumé* in English and Spanish
- b. Academic – Samples of the student’s best work.
This should include three written pieces: Research paper and/or Literary/film critique (2), Cultural essay (1).
- c. Service – A reflective piece that includes a summary of either current or previous service.
- d. Cultural Connections – A written reflection of the student’s Study Abroad Experience: include perspectives on intercultural connections and international communities, how the culture differs from one’s own and what was learned. Students may also comment on interdisciplinary activities, trips, hobbies and any other activity related to the Hispanic world according to his/her individual experience during his/her stay abroad.

2. Summative Exams, written and oral (15%)

In order to determine competency levels, there will be an exit interview. The results of this will provide a point of reference for the student and the Department. The determined competency level will provide insight into how and where the student will be able to function in the target language, how much each student needs to improve. It will also allow the Department to evaluate how well the program is working and if it is fulfilling its goals. In addition, the University will give an exit exam of its own to each student enrolled in this course.

-Oral Proficiency Interview (Interview to determine oral level of competency)

3. In-class Essay (10%)

This essay will require students to respond to a prompt in-class and demonstrate their argument, organization of ideas and thoughts, and sophisticated writing style.

4. Final Presentation (30%)

Each student will develop a research project that highlights aspects of a particular area of interest. As an act of completion for the semester, students will present a final oral presentation (30 minutes of presentation and 15 minutes for questions and comments from the public). Throughout the semester, students will prepare a written and visual presentation that evaluates sources studied. Each student is expected to demonstrate his fluent Spanish Oral skills and his/her advanced research capabilities. The presentations will take place at a public event celebrating this accomplishment.

5. Participation (10%)

Students are expected to come to class prepared, engage with one another for editing and critique, work on revisions throughout the semester, and participate in a learning community of respect and collegiality.