QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Syllabus

COURSE INFORMATION
Course number and title: LS 402 Latin American and Caribbean Cultures Today
Hours: 3 hours, 3 credits
Not credited toward the language requirement.
Elective credit only, WI (writing intensive)
Prerequisite: BE 122 (or 226) and BE-112 (or 205), or satisfactory score on the CUNY/ACT Assessment Test.
Description: A journey into contemporary Latin American and Caribbean cultures through the reading and discussion of politics, customs, art, music and cinema. This course will be taught in English as a partly online course in Blackboard. (WI)

CURRICULA FOR WHICH THIS COURSE IS REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED.
Fulfills one WI requirement and may be used to fulfill humanities electives of the transfer programs. It will be taught as a blended course (partly online in Blackboard). Elective credit only.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES
Students will be able to:
- Communicate effectively through reading, writing, listening and speaking
- Use analytical reasoning to identify issues or problems and evaluate evidence in order to make informed decisions.
- Use information management and technology skills effectively for academic research and lifelong learning
- Integrate knowledge and skills in their program of study
- Work collaboratively in diverse groups directed at accomplishing learning objectives
- Apply aesthetic and intellectual criteria in the evaluation or creation of works in the humanities or the arts.

CURRICULAR OBJECTIVES
Students will be able to:
- communicate effectively by using critical thinking, and analytical reasoning to evaluate texts, films, music, shows, etc. and reach logical conclusions.
- use instructional technology effectively to research, communicate with peers and present creative works.
- demonstrate ability to work in groups and collaborate in a collective project to reach a learning objective always applying aesthetic and intellectual criteria to create an original work.
• communicate through speaking, listening, reading, and writing as required for all first time freshman and all transfer students to successfully complete two (2) credit-bearing Writing Intensive (WI) classes in order to receive an associate degree. (p.41.).
• strengthen cultural knowledge and ability to place people, concepts, and developments related to cultures in Latin American speaking in their appropriate context;
• build communication skills in class or using Blackboard Discussion Board debates through interaction with peers about key cultural issues;
• develop critical thinking and analytical skills through readings, discussions and improvement of methods of interdisciplinary inquiry;
• improve writing and research skills by stimulating increase in knowledge and analytical skills in composing research papers;
• awaken interest about Latin American and Caribbean cultures to increase intercultural sensitivity by comparing it with other cultures

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES:
• Student will be able to recognize important cultural characteristics from the main pre-colombian cultures and colonial periods as well as historical and geographic highlights about Latin American countries, such as population, capitals, presidents and other pertinent information.
• Students will learn causes and consequences of the independence movements in Latin America and new world order
• Students will learn important trends and writers in Spanish American, Caribbean and Brazilian Literature of the 19th and 20th and write a research paper about an author or artist
• Student will study the main trends in Latin American cinema and theatre and write a film, play, or show review
• Student will discuss popular culture and read Latin American and Caribbean poetry.
• Students will see and discuss Latin American and Caribbean contemporary art, and architecture.
• Students will hear and discuss Latin American Music including in the US.

EVALUATION METHODS

Attendance:
Class participation will be traced by regular and active participation in the Discussion Board by the postings of opinions and answers, active discussions, group work on blogs, collaboration on a collective glossary, and completion of all written assignments.

Grading:

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>1) Weekly reading, viewing, searching and discussing topics on the Discussion Board</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>2) Two research papers (4-6 pgs): FWA#1 and FWA#2=25% each</td>
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Assessment:

Students’ research papers and peer reviews, or high-stake writing assignments, will be assessed by the level of elaboration, style, sentence formation, cohesion, and appropriate lexical and syntactical use. Since this is a writing intensive course, the following writing assignments are expected of the students.

- Complete weekly low-stake writing assignments and post them in BB > Discussion Board
- Submit two research papers or formal writing assignments (FWA) of 4-6 pages each
- Complete two essay question quizzes
- Collaborate on a Group Country Blog
- Final project: Post FWA#1 and FWA#2 in BB > Discussion Board and write two Formal Peer Reviews of two different essays.

Your readiness for course content is assessed by timely and appropriate activities: Your weekly postings and discussions on the Discussion Board, or low-stake assignments, will be assessed by 1) content, 2) style and quality, 3) timelines, 4) frequency and 5) reflection/analysis.

Discussion Board postings will be assessed weekly and points will be given according to the following criteria:
1. Content of the answers: how the comments engaged the text;
2. Style and quality: how punctuation was used, if the text is legible and was thoroughly proofread;
3. Timelines: Postings were done before the due date;
4. Frequency: The demonstrations of engagement in a discussion with peers will be observed in the quality and quantity of comments and participation in both online and in class discussions
5. Reflection and analysis: The connections with different readings reveal an insight in the subject matter.

Quizzes: in essay form students will be able to assess their progress and feedback will be provided about students’ performance.

Formal Writing Assignments (FWA) are required, aside from 2 peer reviews. While writing the 2 Formal writing Assignments, you are required to exercise self-assessments with each FWA (including Peer Reviews), by using a rubric and techniques from the CunyWriteSite: (Net-library: http://writesite.cuny.edu/netlibrary/index.html or Writers tools, dictionaries, or references http://writesite.cuny.edu/netlibrary/writerstools/index.html or Stages of Writing http://writesite.cuny.edu/projects/stages/index.html or check your work http://writesite.cuny.edu/projects/stages/revise/check.html before submitting the text for review by the instructor.)
Peer reviews: At the end of the semester, the final versions of your essays on “People & Country” (FWA#1) and FWA#2 will be reviewed by your peers through two Formal Peer Reviews. (See rubric for peer review in BB > Course Documents and in the assignment posted in Week 12). These Formal Peer Reviews will be in-lieu-of, i.e. replace the final exam.

Note: All assignments are mandatory and deadlines will be firmly adhered to. Late submission will affect your grades negatively (each late day 1% deduction from grade).

SUMMARY OF MAIN TOPICS COVERED IN THE COURSE
- Pre-Columbian and colonial Latin America cultures.
- Independence: causes, consequences, and new world order
- Important genres and writers in Spanish American, Caribbean and Brazilian Literature of the 19th and 20th
- Main trends in Latin American cinema and theatre
- Latin American and Caribbean poetry and popular culture
- Contemporary art, and architecture.
- Diversity of Latin American and Caribbean music including Hispanic U.S.A.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY (department or college):
The Foreign Language Department abides by Queensborough Community College Policy regarding Academic Integrity. Cheating on a quiz or exam as well as the act of plagiarizing (stealing the words or ideas of another) will result in an F grade for the course. It may also lead to suspension or dismissal from the College. For more details, refer to the Academic Integrity Policy stated in the 2009-2010 College Catalogue, p. 44-45.

DISSABILITIES:
If you need an accommodation based upon the impact of a disability you might have, you should contact your instructor privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the office of Services for Students with Disabilities in Science Building, room 132 (718 631 6257) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for you.

TEXTBOOKS:
Required Text

Supplementary Text – Recommended


**Articles and additional bibliography will be stated in the Course Outline.**

**Additional online resources:**
1) See Blackboard > Course Information > Syllabus, Historical and Geographical overview => Pre-Post Columbus
2) By Latin American country: http://lanic.utexas.edu/
3) By Latin American country: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/
4) By Latin American country: http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/places/
5) By Latin American country: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

**Global Press: Newspapers, magazines, etc.**