

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: SPAN 280
Course Title: Hispanic Literature and Culture I

Year: 2025-2026
Credit Hours: 3

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Course Description

This is an advanced-intermediate course, intended to be a bridge to upper level literature courses. Major emphasis is placed on helping students to improve their oral communication skills and reading comprehension. Students continue to explore different aspects of the cultures, history, and current events of the Spanish speaking world. Students are expected to be able to communicate in the present, past, and future tenses as well in the indicative, subjunctive and imperative moods in Spanish. The class is conducted exclusively in Spanish. Prerequisites: SPAN 202 or equivalent; prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL101. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Occasionally.

Course Context/Audience

This is an advanced-intermediate level Spanish course which will emphasize speaking, reading, writing, and listening comprehension. Students will study Hispanic culture and history. They will be introduced to the literature of important Latin American and Spanish authors and will learn to write critical reaction papers. This course is appropriate for students wishing to travel abroad and for heritage speakers and native Spanish speakers whose proficiency in Spanish makes taking lower level language courses inappropriate.

Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations

Writing: WC3 Prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 101. The course requires short written responses and/or short papers.
Math: M0 Course requires very little or no math.
Reading: R4 RDNG 116 if required by placement testing.

Course Goals

By completing this course, students will

1. Research a topics to enable them to apply the knowledge they acquire about Hispanic culture and society to better interpret the Hispanic literary texts they read.
2. Improve their oral proficiency and listening comprehension skills.
3. Improve their writing and reading comprehension skills.

Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Students will be able to analyze the plot, climax, narrative voice, character development, setting, tone, theme, point of view in short stories, movies or other literary genres.	25%
Students will write critical reaction papers analyzing the literary elements mentioned above.	50%
Students will give presentations about the literature and pertinent cultural information.	10%
Students will participate actively in class discussions.	15%

General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
Students will be able to ➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues. ➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information. ➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions. ➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.	Not addressed Students will research a topic relating to Hispanic culture, history or literature and give an oral presentation in class based on their findings. Not addressed Students will be required to analyze literary works and write about the themes, citing specific passages that support their viewpoint.
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live. ➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences.	Students will study various aspects of Hispanic culture such as the family, ethnic diversity, religion, etc. and make cross-cultural comparisons Not addressed

Instructional Methods

The course format will entail discussions about the poems, short stories and cultural readings being studied. Students will work together as a class, in small groups and individually. Participation is critical. Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively participate by expressing their opinions, perspectives and knowledge.

Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
Homework assignments, presentations and examinations	25%
Class participation and preparation	15%
Students will research and give a speech (speeches) about an important cultural, historical, or literary topic pertinent to the Hispanic world.	10%
Students will write at least one paper four (2-3 page) papers in which they analyze a cultural element such as the role of social class, the religion, ethnicity or another important cultural element or do an analysis of one or more of the literary elements (narrative voice, setting, characters, tone, theme, plot, climax, point of view) in of one of the literary works studied.	50%

Text(s)**No text specified****Bibliography****No print resources specified****Other Learning Resources****Audiovisual****No resources specified****Electronic****No resources specified****Other****No resources specified**