Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
CC325	Latin American Culture: Identity, Mythology, and Everyday Life	1	2	0	0	2	3

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	English
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	This course aims to explore the cultural formation of Latin America from pre-Columbian civilizations to contemporary societies. It examines the region through key cultural dimensions such as mythology, indigenous worldviews, food culture, music, urban life, and artistic production. The course approaches Latin America not only as a geographical region, but as a complex cultural universe shaped by historical encounters, cultural hybridity, and diverse social practices.
Content	This course explores the historical and cultural development of Latin America from pre-Columbian civilizations to contemporary societies. Major topics include Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations; Indigenous cosmologies and belief systems; European conquest and cultural encounters; cultural hybridity (mestizaje); and the formation of new identities. The course also examines food culture, music and dance, urban life, clothing and textile traditions, literature, cinema, and visual arts. Particular emphasis is placed on understanding Latin America's cultural diversity within its historical and social contexts and examining its contributions to global culture.
References	Lecture notes and selected readings prepared by the instructor. Core Books Chasteen, John Charles. Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America. García Canclini, Néstor. Hybrid Cultures: Strategies for Entering and Leaving Modernity. King, John (ed.). The Cambridge Companion to Modern Latin American Culture. Rowe, William, and Vivian Schelling. Memory and Modernity in Latin America. Skidmore, Thomas E., and Peter H. Smith. Modern Latin America. Galeano, Eduardo. Open Veins of Latin America. Academic Articles Coronil, Fernando. “Beyond Occidentalism: Toward Nonimperial Geohistorical Categories.” García Canclini, Néstor. “Cultural Reconversion.” Mignolo, Walter. “Coloniality, Subaltern Knowledges, and Border Thinking.” Quijano, Aníbal. “Coloniality of Power and Eurocentrism in Latin America.” Grandin, Greg. “The Liberal Traditions in the Americas.” Films The Motorcycle Diaries (2004) Roma (2018) Cidade de Deus (2002) También la lluvia (2010) Frida (2002) Documentaries The Story of Latin America (BBC) Lost Kingdoms of South America (BBC) Street Food: Latin America (Netflix) Buena Vista Social Club Music and Visual Materials Buena Vista Social Club Mercedes Sosa Astor Piazzolla Selected films, documentaries, music, and visual materials will be integrated into weekly discussions.

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction to Latin America: geography, history, and cultural diversity
2	Pre-Columbian civilizations: Maya, Aztec, and Inca cultures
3	Indigenous cosmologies and belief systems: Andean worldview and Pachamama
4	Conquest and cultural encounter: interactions between European and indigenous cultures
5	Cultural hybridity (mestizaje) and the formation of new identities
6	Food culture: maize, cacao, and regional cuisines
7	Urban culture: Mexico City, Buenos Aires, and Lima
8	Music and dance: salsa, tango, and samba
9	Art and identity: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, and muralism
10	Clothing and visual culture: indigenous textile traditions
11	Literature and imagination: magical realism
12	Cinema and cultural representation
13	Contemporary Latin American culture: festivals, popular culture, and everyday life
14	Latin America in global culture