

US Spanish Language&Cultures

Last Updated: Tue, 01/06/2026

Course prefix: SPAN

Course number: 4160

Section: OL1

CRN (you may add up to five):
33170

Instructor First Name: Osvaldo

Instructor Last Name: Cleger

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

Spanish 4160 is a course designed to help students develop their research and methodological skills through the study of a specific topic, in this case the cultural and literary production of Latina/o immigrants in the United States. Throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to become familiar with the phenomenon of Latin American immigration to the United States, both in its historical dimension and in its diverse cultural manifestations. Among the cultural forms examined in the course are the journalistic article and chronicle, poetry, autobiography, the novel, television shows, documentary film, theatrical drama, and performance art. All the works analyzed share two common features: they were produced by Hispanic authors residing in the United States and they constitute expressions of Latino immigrant culture. Concepts such as “cultural assimilation,” “hyphenated Americans,” and “Latino/a U.S. identity” form part of the theoretical framework that will be discussed in class. During the first part of the course, we will focus on acquiring the theoretical tools necessary to understand the phenomenon of Latin American immigration to the United States in its various historical, social, and cultural trends. During the second half of the semester, each student will choose a research topic and work on the preparation of a final paper of 6–7 pages. The research topic must be related to the materials studied in class and must receive the instructor’s approval.

Course learning outcomes:

- Discuss the topic of Latin American immigration to the United States using appropriate theoretical frameworks.
- Understand the phenomenon of Latin American immigration to the United States in its different historical currents and trends.

- Analyze a variety of cultural products that form part of Latino immigrant culture in the United States.
- Critically analyze complex literary texts (novels, plays, essays).
- Prepare summaries and critical commentaries on secondary texts.
- Generate discussion among classmates about literary texts and other cultural products.
- Conduct an academic research project.
- Formulate a thesis and support it with argumentation.
- Use an academic register in both written work and oral participation.

Required course materials:

- García, Cristina. *Soñar en cubano*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1994.
- Santiago, Esmeralda. *Cuando era puertorriqueña*. New York: Random House, 1994.
- Díaz, Junot. *Negocios*. Vintage, 1997.

Grading policy:

Participation	30%
Presentations (3)	30%
Assignments, quizzes, and short written work	15%
(critical response papers)	
Final Project	25%

Attendance policy:

Regular attendance is expected. Students may miss up to three hours of class over the course of the semester without penalty, for any reason. After these three hours, each additional absence may result in a deduction of 2% from the overall course grade. Absences are calculated in hours rather than class meetings.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's

academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Arts, Humanities & Ethics area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts in English or other languages, or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence