

Global Latin America

Course Prefix: SPAN

Course Number: 3200

Course Name: Global Latin America

Semester: Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Miguel Rosas Buendia

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General Course Information

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the complexity and diversity of Latin America through the study of topics and questions relevant to the contemporary world. Through the analysis of historical, social, and cultural features, students will gain an understanding of some of the central dynamics that shape the subcontinent as a region with a distinctive historical trajectory and, at the same time, one that is deeply connected to global processes. The course is organized into four thematic units: culture and society, the environment, Indigenous peoples, and migration. It adopts an interdisciplinary approach, integrating concepts and perspectives from the social sciences, as well as from history, literature, and the arts. Students will engage with a wide range of cultural materials and scholarly perspectives in order to become familiar with the region and its global significance.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course student will be able to:

- Students will become familiar with key figures, historical events, cultural products, and major trends that have shaped—and continue to shape—the central crossroads of the region.
- Students will be exposed to a wide range of critical perspectives from multiple disciplines for the study of the region's history and culture.
- Students will acquire and apply strategies for analyzing course materials from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- Students will develop a conceptual framework and communicative strategies to situate Latin America's historical experiences and contemporary challenges from a Global South perspective.

Required Course Materials:

All course materials (discussions, assignments, grades etc.) will be hosted in Canvas.

Grading Policy:

Grading for the course will be broken down as follows:

- Participation: 14%
- Quizzes (12): 18%
- Asynchronous homework: 32%
- Presentations (3): 24%
- Final project: 12%

Description of Graded Components

Attendance and Participation: 14%

Attendance is mandatory, and students are expected to attend all scheduled sessions. Failure to attend an in-person class meeting (Mondays) will be recorded as an absence. For each absence, one (1) point will be deducted from the student's final grade for the course. In cases of absence, students must provide medical or other official documentation substantiating the reason for the absence and must contact the instructor via email. In each case, the instructor will determine the appropriate steps regarding the participation grade and any assignments associated with the missed session.

Students are required to complete all assigned materials **prior to** each class meeting. Participation will be evaluated according to two primary criteria: evidence of preparation based on engagement with the assigned materials and the initiative to contribute constructively to class discussion.

Quizzes (12): 18%

At the beginning of each in-person session (Mondays), students will complete a brief, one-question quiz based on the assigned material for that class. These quizzes are intended to verify students' preparation and engagement with the required readings and materials. There will be a total of 12 quizzes, and all quizzes will count toward the final course grade. No make-up quizzes, substitute assignments, or alternative assessments will be permitted to replace any missed weekly quiz.

Asynchronous Homework - 32%

Students are required to complete designated assignments covering the second part of each week's content. Assignments are completed individually unless otherwise specified; some assignments consist of group conversation exercises. All assignments must be completed by the specified deadlines. Late assignments will not be accepted. All materials, instructions, and submission guidelines for each assignment are provided on Canvas.

Presentations (3) - 24%

Students will complete three group presentations over the course of the semester. The purpose of these presentations is to deepen and, where appropriate, broaden the topics studied in the course. Students are expected to demonstrate a critical engagement with the assigned sources as well as a creative and analytical approach to the course themes. Detailed instructions and expectations for each presentation will be provided on Canvas in advance of the scheduled presentation dates.

Final Project - 12%

The final project will be completed in pairs. Students will select a topic or guiding question that allows them to connect two or three course materials from different units. Using this shared point of analysis, students will identify similarities and differences in how each material approaches a social or cultural issue in Latin America. The project has two components. During the final weeks of the semester, students will deliver an in-class presentation in which they introduce the selected topic, provide a justification for their choice, and outline preliminary ideas. After the conclusion of classes, students will upload a recorded version of their final presentation. Detailed instructions will be available on Canvas.

Grade Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 100%-90%
- B 89%-80%
- C 79%-70%
- D 69%-60%
- F <60%

Course Policies

Modified Operations and Digital Learning Days

In the event of a weather-related campus closure or other emergency requiring modified operations, the instructor will communicate with all students via Canvas regarding class cancellations and/or the implementation of a digital learning day. If such an event coincides with an asynchronous assignment day, students are expected to proceed with the assigned work as scheduled. However, reasonable accommodations will be considered in cases where circumstances (e.g., loss of internet access) prevent a student from completing online work. The instructor will exercise flexibility as appropriate under these conditions.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

No late assignments or extensions will be granted. Please plan accordingly. Contact your instructor in the case of extenuating circumstances.

Collaboration & Group Work

Language learning occurs in a community of people. However, the following forms of assistance are not allowed for doing any of the work in this course: copying (from someone else's assignments or from another source [a reading in a textbook, the Internet, etc.]) without clear attribution of the source; having another student, a tutor, or a friend suggest changes or correct the work you are to turn in; completing assignments in consultation with other students ("working together") unless specified by your instructor; translating directly from another source; and especially using electronic translation programs. These restrictions apply to any work turned in for this course. The issue of digital plagiarism has raised concerns about ethics, student writing experiences, and academic integrity. GT subscribes to a digital plagiarism detection program called Turnitin, which may be used to check assignments submitted in this course.

Academic Integrity:

Georgia Tech strives to foster a community founded on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest ethical standards. Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and determine the appropriate penalty for the violation. It is strongly recommended that you familiarize yourself with these sites:

- Honor Challenge — <https://osi.gatech.edu/students/honor-code>
- Office of Student Integrity — <http://www.osi.gatech.edu/index.php/>

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Campus Resources for Students

The Center for Academic Success (success.gatech.edu/) offers a variety of academic support services to help students succeed academically at Georgia Tech (e.g. tutoring, peer-led study groups, study skills, etc.).

The Office of Disability Services (disabilityservices.gatech.edu/) ensures that students with disabilities have equal access to all programs and activities offered at Georgia Tech. They provide documentation and officially sanctioned requests for accommodation for students and serve as a resource for instructors as they build learning environments to meet the needs of all students.

OMED: Educational Services (omed.gatech.edu/) is the unit charged by Georgia Tech with the retention, development, and performance of the complete student learner who is traditionally underrepresented: African American, Hispanic, and Native American. OMED's programming and academic support services are aimed at equipping all students with strategies to navigate the Georgia Tech environment.

Support for Students in Distress

Counseling Center counseling.gatech.edu/ 404-894-2575

Dean of Students (Student Life) studentlife.gatech.edu/ 404-385-8772

GT Police police.gatech.edu/ 404-894-2500

Stamps Health Services health.gatech.edu/ 404-894-1420