

**SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPT. OF ENGLISH AND MODERN LANGUAGES**

**SPAN 411: Costa Rica. Latin American Culture & Civilization (3)**

**Dr. Denis Jorge Berenschot**

**Español 411/Costa Rica, Study Abroad, mayo 2014**

**Crédito:** 3 horas

**Sala de clase:** Uvita, Osa Ballena, Puntarenas

**Hora de clase:** L-V

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**Horas de oficina:** Por cita

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**Description:** Based on current documentation (literature and film) of contemporary society in Latin America, the course strives to give students an understanding of these cultures from a political, historical, social, and literary perspective. Since this is Study Abroad, the entire experience in Costa Rica is considered part of the course. You will have at least two excursions in San José and the South Pacific which will feature in the course. However, your dining experiences, the nightlife, your interactions with fellow students and Costaricans and for instance, your shopping experiences will all contribute to the course for they will inform your understanding of Costarican and Latin American culture. Each student will keep a diary about these experiences in Spanish. Students will only be allowed to speak Spanish (see token system). All the students will be assigned an alias (i.e. Fidel Castro) and every effort will be made to address the student by his/her alias at all time. During actual class time each student will be asked to make a 5 minute presentation on their Alias (historical background, which country, biography ....) and students will have to perform independent research online to obtain this information. Again, this presentation has to be in Spanish. During class time we will discuss our experiences in Costa Rica, the instructor will present aspects of Latin American culture and civilization and we will view films, listen to music or have guest lecturers in a fairly informal atmosphere.

**Goals: This course is based in part on the following National Standards for Foreign Language Learning: (Copyright ACTFL)**

- Standard 1.1 Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
- Standard 1.2 Students understand and interpret spoken and written Spanish on a variety of topics.
- Standard 1.3 Students present information, concepts, and ideas in Spanish to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.
- Standard 2.1 Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the

- practices and the Perspectives of Hispanic cultures.
- Standard 2.2 Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between the products and perspectives of Hispanic cultures.
- Standard 3.2 Students acquire intonation and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the Spanish language and its cultures.
- Standard 4.2 Students demonstrate understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons between Hispanic cultures and their own.

### **Education Major Standards**

<b>ACTFL: (5 level)</b>	<b>A1a; A1b; A1c; A2a; A2b; A2c</b>
<b>PRAXIS II: (5 level)</b>	<b>P1.a; P1.b; P1.c; P1.d; P2.a; P2.b; P2.c; P3.a; P3.b; P4.a; P4.b</b>
<b>West Virginia S: (5 level)</b>	<b>WV1.a; WV1.b; WV1.c; WV2.a; WV2.b; WV2.c; WV3; WV4; WV5</b>

**Technology: NA**

**Notas:** Your final grade in this course will be based on the following criteria:

30% Diario  
 20% written assignments (film compositions)  
 30% Participation in class, conversation  
 10% Presentations

<b>Grade scale:</b>	90-100	A
	80-89	B
	70-79	C
	65-69	D
	Below 65	F

**Texto:** *Hand-outs*

**Attendance:** Successful progress in a language course requires that students keep up with assigned material and attend class without absences.  
 For each absence two points will be deducted from the final grade point average. You are expected to be punctual

**Token System:** Each student will receive 15 tokens. If they catch a fellow student speaking in English they have to right to claim a token from that student. If you absolutely have to speak in English you can give up a token to do so. English will only be spoken in case of an emergency. You may be graded on your success in keeping up with this policy. The student with the most tokens will win an award upon completion of the program.

**Alias System:** Students' names will be replaced with the name of a famous or infamous person in Latin American history. Students will have to research their namesake and be prepared to make a 5 minute presentation in Spanish.

**Diary:** Each student will keep a detailed diary about their experiences in Costa Rica in Spanish. Spelling, grammar and style are not important and will not be graded. Originality and quantity **is** graded.

**Expectativas:** Students will be expected to know and to demonstrate in Spanish how to do the following:

- Appreciation of cultural and literary essays
- Participation in class discussions and debates
- Advanced essay writing on film shorts
- Interact with others to provide and obtain information
- Understanding rapid Spanish speech patterns
- Act out social interactions
- Have a good command of advanced grammar patterns
- Culture and Civilization of Latin America in context
- Understand local politics, religion, social relations
- Cultural aspects of Latin America through literature, film and immersion
- Participation in multilingual communities in Costa Rica through direct use of the language
- Demonstrate connections between their native language and Spanish and they will be able to compare their culture with the Spanish and Latin American cultures