

**Spanish 4633**  
**Independent Study: Latin America Culture**  
**spring 2026**  
**Online**

**Instructor information:** Dr. Oxford

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**Required materials:**

1. *Iberoamérica: Síntesis de su civilización*, by Carlos A. Loprete and Dorothy McMahon. Scribners.

**Recommended materials:**

1. Access to a computer with high-speed internet capabilities—NOT a Chromebook (see below for MSU recommendations).

PC Desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications	Mac desktops and laptops Minimum Specifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4<sup>th</sup> generation or newer</li><li>• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is highly recommended</li><li>• 256 GB SSD Storage</li><li>• Dual band spectrum (2.4GHz and 5 GHz with 802.11ac or 802.11n</li><li>• Use Windows' Operating System and PC Info to find your hardware information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intel Core (i3, i5, i7) processors; 4<sup>th</sup> generation or newer</li><li>• 4 GB of RAM, 8 GB of RAM is highly recommended</li><li>• 256 GB SSD Storage</li><li>• Dual band spectrum (2.4GHz and 5 GHz with 802.11ac or 802.11n</li><li>• Use Apple's About this Mac feature to find your hardware information</li></ul>

**Chromebooks are not recommended** as they will not work with D2L.

**Please note:**

1. This course is an online course, and is designed with that in mind. This class uses supplemental D2L as an important component of the class. Please make sure you access the D2L (MSU site) every week for homework assignments, class updates, additional explanation, practice materials, etc. Either check your D2L email daily or have that email set up to forward to an account that you check daily—your D2L email is my only way of contacting you in case I need to do so.
2. As per The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Title 34, Part 600.2), “a credit hour is an amount of work [...that] reasonably approximates not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester.”

**Prerequisites:**

6 advanced hours of Spanish, senior standing and permission of instructor.

**Objectives:**

1. Understanding of the basics of Spanish-American history and culture.
2. Developing communicative and cultural competencies, demonstrating an awareness of history as a role in the formation of contemporary Latin American culture.
3. Furthering the student's written and oral proficiency in Spanish.
4. Producing quality written Spanish.

## POLICIES

**Assignments.** Regular assignments will be made from the textbook. Student will need to answer all the questions at the end of the chapter and submit those, on a weekly basis, to the appropriate D2L dropbox. Some of the “out-of-class” assignment grades may be quizzes based on required readings, either from the textbook or other sources. Out-of-class assignments will be 40% of your overall, final class grade.

### **Final Project.**

Students will complete an individual \***research** project based on your own interests and experience. During the first week of classes, you will gain permission from the instructor for your Final Project topic. The Final Project will be 40% of your final class grade.

**Participation.** Students will need to connect online for the weekly meeting to discuss the content of the chapter assigned for that week as well as a “check-up” on the research project. Participation is 10% of the overall class grade.

**Grading curves.** There are no “curves” on grades in this class. What you make is the grade you will get. A grade of 59.499999 is an F; a grade of 69.499999 is a D, etc.

### **Student Honor Creed.**

“As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so. As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception. Thus, we, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters. We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one’s own, work or ideas which are not entirely one’s own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student. We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.” Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate

Note: All assignments submitted are to be your own individual work (unless otherwise indicated in advance by the instructor). Having native-speaker friends, acquaintances, classmates, family members, or translation software (including AI) help you to prepare your assignments will be considered an act of Academic Dishonesty and result in a grade of zero (first occurrence) or a grade of F for the class (subsequent occurrence). There may be some assignments for which technological software is allowed for assistance, but these will all be preannounced verbally (if a classroom assignment) or in writing on D2L (if an out-of-class assignment); remember, **use of translation software is only allowed if/when permission for such is also given simultaneous to, and accompanying, the assignment instructions.**

**Students with Disabilities.** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning

environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140, and provide me with a copy of the accommodation paperwork; without that I cannot provide any accommodations.

**Safe Zones Statement.** The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, given that understanding and sharing of cultural issues/differences between the original language culture and the target language culture is an extremely important part of any translation/interpretation, diversity of thought is appreciated and highly encouraged, provided you can respectfully recognize the validity of other points of view. It is the professor’s expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment; failure to respect others is grounds for immediate expulsion from the class for the remainder of the semester.

**Concealed Handguns on Campus.** Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University’s webpage regarding [campus-carry](#). If you have questions or concerns, please contact MSU Chief of Police Patrick Coggins.

## GRADING COMPONENTS

Section	Percentage
Participation	10%
Assignments	40%
Final Project	40%