



Department of Literature and Languages

SPAN 4360-001 (CRN: 20738)

Special Studies in Spanish Literature and Language:

Exploring Latin America through Film: Culture, Sites, and Language (3 Credits)

Spring 2026: 01/12/2026 to 05/02/2026

Meeting Location and Time:

College of Arts and Science, Room 210, 6:00pm – 8:45pm on Mondays

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Selected readings from various authors, genres, periods, and themes. Concentrated study of language problems. Taught in Spanish. May be repeated for credit when content changes.

This course explores Latin America through film. Students analyze movies from select Spanish-speaking countries to study cultural practices, historical and social contexts, and language use. They research cultural sites and create virtual itineraries connecting cinematic portrayals to real-world locations. The course culminates in a creative project in which students write and perform an alternate ending to a selected film, demonstrating their understanding of language, culture, and place.

Course Delivery Method: Lecture; face-to-face

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor Name: Brandon Goodale

Office Location: CAS 245

Phone Number: (903) 565-7373 (main office)

Email: bgoodale@uttyler.edu

Best way to contact: bgoodale@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11:00am–12:00pm, or by appointment.

During the semester I will respond to emails within 24 hours, excluding holidays and weekends. I will contact the class via Canvas announcements (turn email notifications on) whenever I need to address the entire class. It is expected that you check your emails regularly.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Analyze** films from diverse Latin American countries to identify cultural themes, social issues, and historical contexts.
2. **Compare** cinematic representations of Latin America with real cultural sites and destinations through research and presentation.
3. **Demonstrate** improved Spanish language skills by engaging with authentic film dialogue and related activities.
4. **Develop** a virtual travel itinerary that connects filmic portrayals to cultural and geographic realities in Latin America.
5. **Create** an original alternate ending (script and/or performance) for a selected film that reflects the language, culture, and setting of its country of origin.

COURSE RESOURCES

Required Textbook: N/A

All material will be provided by the instructor of the course.

Dictionary

Also, referencing a good monolingual dictionary ([Diccionario de la lengua española](#)- RAE) will be useful for you in this course and beyond.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance Policy: Students must be on time for class. Since this class only meets once per week, absences will drastically impact your course grade. Every two tardies counts as one absence. If the student knows they are going to be late or absent for/from class, they must notify the professor ahead of time. Notifying does not excuse the absence or tardy, but leniency will only be considered with prior notification. Each student is allotted 2 absences without penalty. For each subsequent absence (3+) the student loses percentage points from their final course grade. Minus -4% for 3 absences, -8% for 4 absences, thus doubling with each subsequent absence (i.e., -16% for 5, -32% for 6, -64% for 7 etc.) Save these absences for when you get sick or have a family emergency.

What absences are excused?

Excused Absence for University Events or Activities

- Each student delivers a copy of the memorandum to the instructors, in person, at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time with the student when the make-up assignment or equivalent work will be completed.

Excused Absence for Religious Holy Days

- Any student seeking to be excused for religious observance, must provide written notification to the instructors at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time with the student when any make-up assignment or equivalent work will be completed.

Excused Absence for Active Military Service

- A student who is in the Reserves or National Guard and receives orders to active duty for any purpose (including training) after a semester begins should immediately inform their professors of their activation and provide the Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) a copy of their military orders. (If the absence is for more than 25% of the class meetings, please refer to the policy on Withdrawal for Military Service.)

Absence Due to Injury, Illness, Death, or Major Illness in a Student's Immediate Family

- When a student has an injury/illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class or when a student experiences a death or major illness in their immediate family the student may request of an instructor that the absence be excused. Instructors are encouraged to review documentation on a case-by-case basis and allow students to make up missed coursework. (These absences count toward the 2 allotted absences).

If you are unable to complete this course, you must drop/withdraw by January 26th to not receive a Q or W on your transcript. March 30th is the final date students are eligible to withdraw from courses for grades of "W" or "Q". After this date students can no longer formally drop/withdraw from courses and will receive grades based upon both work completed and outstanding.

Discontinued attendance will likely result in a failing grade per the Attendance Policy.

Due Dates: Due dates for all your work are listed in Canvas. All dates and times are based on Central Time.

Minimum Technical Expectations: To successfully complete this course, in addition to the requirements listed in your syllabus, you will need to have access to:

- Computer with reliable internet connection
- Ability to open and/or submit documents on MS Word and PowerPoint.

Minimum Student Skills: You should be able to use the features of your browser, download files, and attach files.

Etiquette Expectations:

- Standards of courtesy and respect must always be maintained in the classroom. Join the classroom oral language activities with respect and remember that consideration for others is crucial for any intellectual discussion.
- Name-calling and personal attacks are not permitted in our learning environment.
- Any violation of the standards of appropriate behavior will be reported to the Dean of Students and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the college.

AI is Not Permitted in this Course:

I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning

objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) to aid in graded work. The use of translation apps like Spanish Dictionary or Google Translate may be used at the word level, but must not be used to translate full sentences, paragraphs, or essays. Evidence of advanced grammar beyond a student's demonstrable abilities will receive a 0 grade. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values. Spell check in Word or Google Docs is permitted.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 and below	F

Grade Distribution

Homework/Classwork	35%
Travel Itinerary Project	20%
Alternate Ending Project	20%
Participation	25%
See Attendance Policy on p. 2	

Check “Grades” in Canvas regularly for your grades. If you have questions about any grade, contact your professor immediately.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional **6 hours** per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading/watching required materials, research, completing assignments etc.

EXPLANATION OF COURSE COMPONENTS

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

- **Homework/Classwork:** Homework are assignments that are completed in preparation for class participation, whereas classwork constitutes all activities completed in class based on the topics presented. Both homework and classwork are submitted via Canvas.
- **Travel Itinerary Project:** Each student individually creates and presents a travel itinerary, designed for a particular clientele, that visits and explores each of the countries for which we watch a film (Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador, Mexico). More details are on

Canvas. Presentations will take place during finals week, Monday 4/27/26 6:00-8:00pm. *Mostly completed outside of class, recommended to complete each country's itinerary during the weeks we are discussing that country.*

- **Alternate Ending Project:** For one of the films covered in class, working in pairs, students will write and submit a script that provides an alternate ending to one of the films. The pair will then perform a dramatic reading of the script for the class. More details are on Canvas. Presentations will take place during finals week, Monday 4/27/26 6:00-8:00pm. *Mostly completed outside of class after April 6.*
- **Participation:** Students are responsible for completing all homework activities prior to class in preparation to fully participate in class. Failing to adequately prepare will impact the experience of your peers, therefore participation is taken seriously.

STUDENT RESOURCES

Resources to assist you in the course:

- [UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource \(SAR\) Office](#) (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning)
- [UT Tyler Writing Center](#)
- [The Mathematics Learning Center](#)
- [UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [Upswing \(24/7 online tutoring\) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas](#)
- [Robert Muntz Library and Library Liaison](#)
- [Canvas 101](#) (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)
- Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)
- LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam
- [The Career Success Center](#)
- [UT Tyler Testing Center](#)
- [Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab](#)

Resources available to UT Tyler Students

- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](#) (available to all students)
- [MySSP App](#) (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages)
- [Student Assistance and Advocacy Center](#)
- [Military and Veterans Success Center](#) (supports for our military-affiliated students)
- [UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry](#)
- [UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships](#)
- [UT Tyler Student Business Services \(pay or set up payment plans, etc.\)](#)
- [UT Tyler Registrar's Office](#)
- [Office of International Programs](#)
- [Title IX Reporting](#)

- [Patriots Engage](#) (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Withdrawing from Class: Students, you are allowed to [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course through the [Withdrawal Portal](#). Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, and speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop-Shop (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. Make sure to carefully [read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions](#) on using the [Withdrawal portal](#).

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career¹. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance.

CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule](#).

CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.

CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course.

CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the [Military and Veterans Success Center](#).

Artificial Intelligence Statement: UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

¹ Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law

Final Exam Policy: Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy: If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when all of the following conditions are met:* (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy: Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit

<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students: UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa: To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct: The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA: UT Tyler follows the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities: This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for University Events or Activities](#) as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays: This course follows the practices related to [Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog](#).

Absence for Pregnant Students: This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the [Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form](#).

Campus Carry: We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

COURSE CALENDAR Spring 2026 (may vary)

Weeks 1-4 Chile

Film 1: Nadie sabe que estoy aquí (2020) – TV-MA Netflix

Jan 12 (Intro)

Jan 19 Holiday no-class

Jan 26: Discussion and Activities

Feb 2: Discussion and Activities

Weeks 5-8 Uruguay/Argentina

Film 2: La sociedad de la nieve (2024)

Feb 9 (Intro)

Feb 16: Discussion and Activities

Feb 23: Discussion and Activities

Mar 2: Discussion and Activities

SPRING BREAK

Weeks 9-11 Ecuador

Film 3: Que tan lejos (2008) Not Rated

Mar 16 (Intro)

Mar 23: Discussion and Activities

Mar 30: Discussion and Activities

Weeks 12-14 Mexico/USA

Film 4: La misma luna (2007) PG-13

Apr 6 (Intro)

Apr 13: Discussion and Activities

Apr 20: Discussion and Activities

April 27th Finals Week (6-8pm Presentations)

I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Brandon Goodale