

Final Project Instructions:

You will be conducting research to inform your final project, using primary sources that come from Latin America or Spain as the basis of your investigation. Our hope is that you view this project as an opportunity to explore in depth an aspect of Spanish speaking cultures that is of particular interest to *you*. As you complete the last half of the *Acceso* project, think back on the topics that we have explored:

Were there any issues, events, topics that you found especially intriguing and would like to investigate in greater depth? Did one of the activities or regions have a special connection for you?

You may focus on something from Span 212 or SPAN 216 or you may also look ahead and investigate something we haven't covered yet. You **MUST**, however, choose and follow one of the **Primary Source Options** (below, p. 3). Also, please rely on your instructor—he or she is your greatest resource and sincerely wants to help you! As you will see, each of the topics requires or evaluate your primary sources **BEFORE** you can do anything else.

This is NOT simply a book or history report that you are writing, **but an investigative essay with a thesis statement**. This means you must make a unique argument that is supported by primary sources that you investigate.

CONTENTS:

General Instructions-----	p.1
Timeline and Important Dates-----	p.2
Primary Source Options-----	p.3
Structure of Your Essay-----	p.5
Virtual Presentations-----	p.6

***Additional documents (listed below) can be found on Blackboard:**

- Evaluation Criteria
- Primary Source Options Handout
- Thesis Handout
- Peer-Edit Handout
- Self-Edit Checklist
- Presentation Follow-Up

SPAN 216/217
El Proyecto Final

Timeline and Important dates:

- 9/16 -Read the **Final Project Instructions** (this entire document).
-Think about and fill out the **Primary Source Options Handout**. *You will turn in this handout to your instructor within a week.*
- 10/2 - Working with your instructor, begin the process of creating your thesis by using the **Thesis Handout**. **Important: You must have already read, seen, and evaluated your primary sources BEFORE you can begin this process!!**
- 10/7
5% -Turn in your completed **Thesis Handout**.
- 10/23
5% -Submit an electronic version of the first draft of your composition (500 palabras al mínimo) to your Class location.
-Each group will peer-edit all the compositions in the group by following and filling out the **Peer-Edit Handout** (found on Blackboard). *These edits are due within a week.*
- 11/11
30% -Turn in a hard copy of your draft of the composition (which should be BOTH peer-edited and SELF-edited). This draft must at least include the first two sections to receive full credit (min. of 800 words).
-Turn in any Primary Source materials that are required by the **Final Project Instructions** document (such as CDs of recordings of interviews, lists of songs analyzed, newspaper articles, plot summaries for movies or short stories.)
- 12/2
60% -Submit your presentation to VoiceThread for your writing group. (See below)
-Submit your paper to SafeAssign.
-Turn in a paper copy of the final draft (55%) in class.
-Turn in a bibliography (MLA style) (5%).
- 12/9 -In-class group discussion/reflection on virtual presentations.
-Turn in **Presentation Follow-Up** to your instructor.

****Presentations of the Final Project will take place virtually on VoiceThread**

Primary-Source Options:

A. An ethnographic interview with a native speaker of Spanish. This project consists of conducting two interviews (a minimum of 15 minutes each) with a native speaker of Spanish about his or views on certain issues or aspects related to his or her cultural background. You can use the Voces section from one of the regions as a point of departure. Does your interviewee agree or disagree with the opinions expressed in the Voces video? You could also organize the interview around a particular cultural practice (holidays, structure of education, etc.) of interest to you. Please try to conduct as much of the interview as possible in Spanish. Your instructor can help you with the formulation of your questions, if you want. After the first interview, you should explore in detail the aspect of the first interview that you found most interesting by researching the topic and then developing more informed questions for your next interview with the same interviewee. Perhaps the interviewee discussed his or her immigration experience or that of his or her parents. Or maybe the interviewee mentioned that his country switched to using the dollar as their monetary unit. Make use of the ability you have developed to access web-based information in Spanish to find out when, why and how this happened. Maybe she said that *Las fallas* is her favorite festival and the most important time of the year for her family. Look into it (i.e. research it). Get an idea about what she was talking about, and THEN formulate your questions for your next interview. Your composition will then focus on the understanding that you gained as a result of conducting the interviews. Both interviews should be recorded to help you remember what was said. These recordings (on CD) should be turned in along with the first draft of your composition. Again, you will not simply be reporting what the interviewee says, but rather, using whatever information you have gathered in order to create a well-argued investigative essay—therefore, both interviews must be completed BEFORE you can write your thesis.

B. Culture as represented through Spanish language cinema. Choose 2 Spanish language movies based on a specific aspect that they share (they are both by the same director, they are both from Mexico, they are from different countries but focus on a particular theme—family, war, love). Your instructor can really help you with this! Watch both movies (in Spanish w/ subtitles!), and think about what cultural information you can extrapolate from them. Compare and contrast the movies, and then construct a cohesive argument in your composition. Would you recommend the movies? Why? Your essay will consist of your analysis of what message or views these films convey and how this relates to specific cultural issues. You will also turn in an extra 75-100 word plot summary in Spanish of both films along with your first draft (but in a separate page). This will allow you to avoid simple plot summaries of the films. Remember, you are not simply writing a report or summary of what happened in the films!

C. Music and culture. Choose at least 2 Spanish language songs that share some common aspect (theme, country of origin, style, genre, group) and analyze the lyrics and musical performances/videos in order to relate them to some aspect in the country or culture of origin. Write a composition in which you relate the aspect of the music in focus to the cultural influences and issues that, in your opinion, informed its creation. Does the music have a particular message? What do the songs tell us about the region in which the music was produced? If there is a particular style of dance that goes with the music, how does that relate to the culture? Please note that we are not looking for a general summary of music and dance (for example, the history of the tango), but a more detailed look at what these things can tell us

SPAN 216/217
El Proyecto Final

about history, culture, and societal issues. Turn in the list of songs and links to videos (if applicable) along with your first draft. Be very careful not to generalize with this primary-source option, but rather, be very specific!

For example, a BAD generalization would be:

By looking at these 5 country songs, we can clearly see how Kansans are all down-to-earth people with big hearts who have a passion for life and dancing.

D. Read a collection of short stories or a book of poetry (translated into English) by a famous Spanish language author. Choose at least two short stories or a collection of poems originally written in Spanish that have been translated to English. Analyze the content and style of the writing, and relate it to the history of its country of origin and/or literary movement to which it pertains. How does this literature differ from other types of stories or poetry that you have read? What messages does it convey about culture and society? How does this relate to the author's life and history? Your essay should explore the issue or theme that you believe is being explored in the works that you choose. Also comment on any differences made in the translated version, and what you observed was lost or enhanced in the art of translation. Turn in a 75 to 100-word summary of each of the works that you read along with your first draft (in a separate page).

**** Remember to properly cite all your sources and use proper punctuation for direct quotations. Any case of plagiarism or cheating will result in earning a zero in the whole assignment, and it could lead to more severe penalties. ****

SPAN 216/217
El Proyecto Final

Structure of your essay

Minimum of 1,000 words

Un título original y preciso

** Make sure to use double space, 12p Times New Roman font, and a word count in all drafts of your composition **

Sección 1

En el primer párrafo, debes escribir una introducción para el ensayo final y también formular tu tesis. Hay un PowerPoint en Blackboard que puedes consultar acerca de cómo formular una buena tesis. Recuerda que esto es un proyecto de investigación. Debes decir lo que quieres averiguar o estudiar más a fondo con este ensayo.

Sección 2

Esta sección es el “cuerpo” de tu ensayo. Haz los argumentos sobre el tema escogido. Ofrece evidencia basada en tu investigación para apoyar los puntos principales.

Sección 3

En esta última sección vas a ofrecer una conclusión de tu ensayo (no sólo un resumen sino un punto final que se puede sacar de tu análisis) y luego reflexionar sobre lo que aprendiste de haber completado el proyecto. Piensa y comenta sobre el valor de explorar producciones culturales de otros países.

SPAN 216/217
El Proyecto Final

Virtual Presentations

Creating an Online Presentation:

You will also virtually present your Final Project through an online site called “VoiceThread.” This site allows students to record their PowerPoint presentation and then have other students leave comments and questions for each presentation that they view.

Online

Your instructors will assign small groups of students to whom you will present your Final Project. You will be required to ask two questions and make one suggestion for each presentation that you view in that same group (online).

In class

After viewing all your group’s presentations at home, you will have time in class to discuss and respond to the comments and questions that were virtually submitted about your project by the different group members.

During your Hybrid Day assignment that weekend, you will also self-reflect and talk about what you believe you did best in the presentation—as well as what you would have done differently, if you had the chance (see the document **Presentation Follow-Up**). You will conclude by turning in the **Presentation Follow-Up** document to your instructor **as part of your overall presentation grade**.