



EAST TEXAS A&M

UNIVERSITY

SPA 595 - 83495

“Research, Literature and Techniques”

Course Syllabus: Spring 2025

Instructor: Maria Lamarque, PhD

Class meetings: TBD

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11am @ David Talbot Hall 313

Office phone: 903 886-5270

Email: maria.lamarque@tamuc.edu (Important note: *I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the work week and by the next business day on weekends and holidays.*)

COURSE INFORMATION

Course description

This graduate course fulfills the research requirement for those students in the Spanish MA non-thesis option (36 hours) track. In this class, students will take their comprehensive exam—a critical annotated bibliography essay—, and complete their final project, an individual research work agreed upon with their advisor. Students who need to complete the Departmental Foreign Language Exam will also take it while enrolled in this course.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete the course will:

- Demonstrate the ability to identify and critically analyze and comment appropriate secondary sources. Appropriate sources include: peer-reviewed journal articles, monographs, and book chapters published by academic presses. Attention should be paid to dates of publication in order to balance current and foundational research.

- Demonstrate critical understanding and knowledge of main research processes and technics in the selected area (literature, cultural studies or linguistics) by developing a complete research project in the subject area.
- Demonstrate the ability to write an academic report, in Spanish, in ways that reflect the conventions and tools associated with academic researched writing; this include deep understanding of ethical uses of academic sources, including summaries, paraphrasing, and quotations.
- Demonstrate the ability to deliver an academically appropriate lecture, in Spanish, by presenting their research project to a specialized audience.

These learning outcomes will be measured through three main activities: an annotated bibliographic examination, a final research report, and an academic oral presentation of the project.

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness:

In order to measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, I will collect some of the ungraded materials you will produce for the class. These materials will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation" (see "Department of Institutional Effectiveness," www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx HYPERLINK "http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx"). This is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

Textbook and materials:

Compilation of articles, TBA

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

***Please note that all assignments will be graded 'S' (Satisfactory) or 'U' (Unsatisfactory)**

- ***Comprehensive exam (annotated bibliography report).*** The comprehensive examination consists of three open questions regarding the main subject area and specific topic the student has selected for the final project. The questions are designed to measure student's general knowledge of the study area, ability to conduct scholarship research, and ability to write in Spanish at the academic level. The general questions will deal with 1) the theoretical framework of the project and its connections to the fields of Peninsular/Latin-American Literature, Spanish Pedagogy, Spanish Linguistics or related areas; 2) the presentation of relevant annotated bibliography; and 3) the project's relevance, main objectives, and methodology. The exam will be taken over the weekend, on the indicated dates, at any location convenient to the student. The student will receive a PDF document with the questions on Friday 8:00am, and will return

the completed exam the following Monday at 8:00am via email (with copy to the Advisor and Program Director). See “Spanish MA Examination Rules” for more information.

- **Research paper:** During this course, you will elaborate a research project focusing on a topic of interest agreed upon with your advisor. You need to elaborate a specific research question related to a particular subject in the general areas of Spanish literature, Hispanic Cultural Studies, or Hispanic Linguistics & Pedagogy. Then you need to critically review and integrate pertinent literature (which has been selected and annotated for the Comprehensive Exam), analyze corresponding data, and summarize and discuss your findings in a standardized style (MLA, APA or Chicago) formatted paper. You will present an initial draft for discussion with your advisor, and present the final version at the end of the semester. See Schedule for details.
- **Academic Presentation:** You will present the results of your research project following the conventional structure of a conference presentation; the presentation will last about 20 minutes and should not be read; the presenter can use card notes or a PPoint to support the delivery, but the reading should be kept at minimum. The presentation will consist of a brief introduction to the topic, a description of methodology, previous literature, results obtained in your research, and a critical discussion of the conclusions.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES

1. Late work

No late work will be accepted in this course, without exceptions. Work should be submitted on the due date provided in the class schedule. Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in ‘U’ (unsatisfactory) grade, which will prevent student to complete this course. In the case of an emergency or other reasonable situation which may affect your submissions, please contact me immediately.

2. Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is borrowing the work of others and not giving credit where credit is due. It is unethical and reflects very poorly on a person’s character. Copying someone else's work, or asking a friend or tutor to write your work constitutes a violation of the TAMUC Academic Honesty Policy. Likewise, the use of electronic media to translate your work to Spanish is also unacceptable. Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise.

Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3]). For further

information please see the *Academic Honesty* statement of the Department of Literature and Languages below.

3. Students with Disabilities:

The *Americans with Disabilities Act* (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination 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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library, Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

<http://www.tamuc.edu/CampusLife/CampusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>

4. Student Conduct and Discriminatory Behavior

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*). A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Students also should consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with peers and instructor in an online forum: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

5. Withdraws & Incomplete grade.

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLeo account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the web page.

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Incomplete grades (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances which are fully documented; students requesting an incomplete grade should contact the instructor as soon as possible, provide all pertinent documentation, and sign the 'X' grade contract which details the coursework they need to complete to pass the class.

6. Grievance procedures.

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by

email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Director of the Spanish Program, Dr. Flavia Belpoliti (flavia.belpoliti@tamuc.edu). If there are still unresolved issues, students need to schedule an appointment with the Department Head, Dr. Hunter Hayes, by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the Main Office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (“Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation”).

7. Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to: www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf, and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

This course schedule is subject to revisions and changes as the instructor deems necessary. Any changes to the course schedule will be announced in class and on the course website in advance.

Date	Activity
January-February	Meeting with advisor to discuss topic and bibliographic research.
March 31	Comprehensive exam: annotated bibliography report
April 15	Research project: first draft
April 30	Foreign Language Departmental Exam (<i>as needed</i>)
May 5	Oral presentation of research project
May 7	Research project: final version (<i>please use correct template</i>)

May 14	Turn in two bound copies of your work to the Lit&Lang Department Main Office
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Academic Dishonesty Appendix

Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Policy #12
April 28, 2003
ACADEMIC HONESTY

Preamble. Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. Faculty members are expected to employ teaching practices that encourage academic honesty.

1. Academic Dishonesty Defined. Texas A&M University-Commerce defines “academic dishonesty” in the following way (Procedure A13.12 “Academic Honesty”): Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.

2. “Plagiarism” Further Specified. The Department of Literature and Languages builds on the university definition of “plagiarism,” given in 1, in the following manner (taken from “Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The Council of Writing Program Administrators’ Statement on Best Practices” undated, pages 1-2, 12,2003. <http://www.ilstu.edu/~ddhesse/wpa/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf>)

Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. [. . .] Ethical writers make every effort to acknowledge sources fully and appropriately in accordance with the contexts and genres of their writing. A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

3. “Collusion” Further Specified. Collusion specifically includes selling academic products. According to the Texas Penal Code (Title 7 Offenses Against Property, Chapter 32 Fraud, § 32.50 Deceptive Preparation and Marketing of Academic Product), an “academic product” means a term paper, thesis, dissertation, essay, report, recording, work of art, or other written, recorded, pictorial, or artistic product or material submitted or intended to be submitted by a person to satisfy an academic requirement of the person.”

The Texas Penal Code also specifies that person commits a Class C misdemeanor offense “if, with intent to make a profit, the person prepares, sells, offers or advertises for sale, or delivers to another person an academic product when the person knows, or should reasonably have known, that a person intends to submit or use the academic product to satisfy an academic requirement of a person other than the person who prepared the product.”

4. Responsibility. Matters of academic dishonesty are handled initially by the instructor. If the instructor feels the problem warrants more attention, it should then be pursued through the department Head. If the department Head and instructor wish, it should be brought to the attention of the Dean of the college for study and review before being referred to the University Discipline Committee (adapted from Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedure A13.04, "Plagiarism").

Instructors may also choose to refer cases directly to the University Discipline Committee (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 6.a [2]).

5. Statement for Course Outlines. Instructors of record in the Department of Literature and Languages are required to include an Academic Honesty statement in all course outlines. The following language is suggested for that statement:

Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3])

6. This Policy supersedes Department of Literature and Languages Policy #12, "Plagiarism," dated October 10, 1990, and will be effective until further notice.

7. The Head of the Department of Literature and Languages is responsible for maintaining this policy current.

Dr. Christian Hempelmann, Head, Department of Literature and Languages
April 28, 2003