
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA | SPAN 0091 & 3910

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This interdisciplinary course exposes students to the three dimensions of sustainable development -environmental, economic, and social- through an examination of two products peyote and coffee- that are crucial in shaping modern identity in areas of Latin America. The course integrates this analysis of sustainable development in relation to cultural sustainability and cultural practices associated with peyote and coffee and their rich, traditional heritage and place in literature, film, and the arts.



COURSE OBJECTIVES

Understand

- the roots of interactions between sustainability and progress.
- the connection between biodiversity and culture, and development projects that threaten them.

Critically evaluate

- the roles of indigenous peoples in the global capitalist system.
- culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development.
- aspects of sustainable development practices used in agriculture related to coffee and peyote.
- ecocritical expressions.

Develop

- a global perspective and understanding of Indigenous and non-indigenous Latin American communities and their cultural practices.
- a personal perspective on one's own cultural practices, values, and identity.



STRUCTURE

This course is organized in three modules, each of which explores sustainability challenges in two specific areas of Latin America (Mexico and Costa Rica) through a crop from each area (peyote and coffee) that is an integral part of the culture and identity of their respective communities.

Module I	Backgrounder: This module is an introduction to the binomial ethnicity-development within the Latin American context. It explores ontological differences between modern Western development and the Indigenous ontology.
Module II	Mining and Peyote: This module delves into mining and the environmental threat it poses to the Mexican indigenous Huichol community and its sacred relationship with peyote.
Module III	Sustainable Development in Costa Rica: This module examines the historical role of coffee in shaping the economy and identity of Costa Rica along with the sustainability challenges that agricultural modernization and neo-liberalism are currently posing to this crop. While reviewing Costa Rica's history and economy this module also explores how tourism and conservation efforts interplay(ed) in preserving its rich biodiversity.

✓ GRADING

Type	Weight	Note
Participation	20%	This course is designed as a hands-on seminar with very short lectures. Therefore, your active engagement in class activities and reading discussions is key in creating an environment where other students can learn. As a class, we must agree to promote an atmosphere of mutual respect in the classroom.
Exams	40%	There will be 3 exams during the semester to recap what has been learned in each module. There is no final exam.
Quizzes	10%	There will be short quizzes to recapitulate what has been learned in class and to prepare you for each exam.
Case-Study Written Report	20%	Throughout the course you will investigate, analyze, and write a case study report on a sustainability issue related to any Latin American country of your choice.
Case-Study Presentation	10%	You will present your report to the class at the end of the course.

🎓 CODE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Department of Hispanic and Portuguese Studies fully supports and adheres to all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity (cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, etc.). The work you submit in this class is expected to be your own. If you submit work that has been copied without attribution from any published or unpublished source including the Internet, or that has been prepared by someone other than you, or that in any way attributes somebody else's work as your own (e.g., translation without proper attribution), you may face discipline by the university's Office of Student Conduct.

For more information consult: University Code of Academic Integrity: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/> | Office of Student Conduct: <https://www.osc.upenn.edu>

📅 SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	8/31	Introduction	
2	9/7	B.1 Historical Roots of the Concept. Penn Global Introduction	B.1. Readings and questions posted on Modules
3	9/12	B.2 <i>Buen vivir</i> vs Development B.3 Why Culture?	B.2 & B.3 Readings and questions posted on Modules
4	9/14	B.4 Progress vs <i>Buen Vivir</i> B.5 State of Indigenous Peoples	B.4 & B.5 Readings and questions posted on Modules

5	9/19	B.6 Modernity/Coloniality (Part 1)	B.6 Readings and questions posted on Modules
6	9/21	B.7 Modernity/Coloniality (Part 2) B.8 Cultural Rights & Intl Recognition	B.7, B.8 Readings and questions posted on Modules
7	9/26	What is a Case Study?	Case-Study assigned work posted on Modules
8	9/28	Exam 1	B.1-B.8
9	10/3	Guest Speaker	Work on the Case-study proposal
10	10/05	Case-Study	Class time will be spent working on the project proposal summary
		Fall Break 10/6 & 10/7	
11	10/10	P.1 Huichol history and introduction; P.2 Indigenous resistance	P.1.& P.2 Readings and questions posted on Modules
12	10/12	P.3 Indigenous resistance; P.4. Huichol sacred art	P.3.& P.4 Readings and questions posted on Modules Project proposal due
13	10/17	P.5 Symbolism and myth	P.5. Readings and questions posted on Modules
14	10/19	P.6 Mining conflict	P.6 Readings and questions posted on Modules
15	10/24	P.7 Sustainable mining; P.8 Cultural S, cultural heritage & cultural rights	P.7 & P.8 Readings and questions posted on Modules
16	10/26	Exam 2	P.1-P.8
17	10/31	CF.1 CR History and ecological imagination	CF.1 Readings and questions posted on Modules
18	11/2	CF.2, CF.3 Literary representations & ecological imaginations	CF.2, CF.3 Readings and questions posted on Modules
19	11/7	Guest speaker: Tourism & National Parks	No readings. Work on Case-Study report
20	11/9	CF.4 Coffee Nation	CF.4, Readings and questions posted on Modules
21	11/14	CF.5 Coffee Crisis	CF.5, Readings and questions posted on Modules
22	11/16	CF.6 Environmental Conundrums of Coffee Production	CF6 Readings and questions posted on Modules
23	11/21	Guest speaker: Environmental conundrums of coffee production	No readings; Work on Case-Study report
24	11/23	Case-Study	Bring your laptop to work in your Case-Study
		Thanksgiving Break – 11/24& 11/25	
25	11/28	CF.7 Certifications & Climate Change Mitigation	CF.7 Readings and questions posted on Modules

26	11/30	Exam 3	CF.1-CF.7
27	12/5	Presentations	Submit PPT on Canvas Submit Case-Study Report on Canvas
28	12/7	Presentations	
29	12/12	Presentations Last day of class	