Study Center in Santiago, Dominican Republic

Course Name: Introduction to Dominican Folklore  
Course Number: CAST 3002 SADR  
Programs Offering Course: Summer Language and Culture  
Language of Instruction: English  
U.S. Semester Credits: 3  
Contact Hours: 45  
Term: Summer 2019

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to examine the fundamental characteristics of the Dominican culture. This descriptive course will cover important elements such as culture, cultural diversity, or rites of passage. It provides a comprehensive and systematic overview of the different branches of folklore, emphasizing on those areas in which Dominican folklore is particularly rich. The course is developed within a broad theoretical spectrum. It is addressed to foreign non-native Spanish speaking students.

Learning Objectives

Problem Solving
Students use their skills and available resources to achieve objectives by following instructions in habitual situations.

Critical Thinking
Students describe and interpret simple situations and approaches.

Research
Students develop basic research skills.

Intercultural Diversity
Students understand cultural and social diversity as a human phenomenon and show respect in their interaction with people regardless of differences.

SPECIFIC SKILLS

1. Students explain logical scenarios and provide scientific explanations about folklore.
2. Students are able to analyze the main expressions of the Dominican folklore from different perspectives.
3. Students apply research skills, outlining the concepts learned in class.

Course Prerequisites
None

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES (INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD)

The course will consist of presentations of research projects assigned whether as fieldwork or bibliographic research (retrospective, prospective, or retro prospective study designs) in which students’ participation is encouraged.

Students will be assigned articles to read and discuss as specified by the facilitator in order to encourage an active exchange of ideas and viewpoints. At the end of the course, students will perform a fieldwork or bibliographic research study in order to strengthen the concepts acquired as metacognitive strategy. This project will be presented as final course assessment.

Visual resources and practical activities provide a more in-depth understanding of the nature and unique characteristics of Dominican folklore. These may be documentaries, field trips, or research assignments. Therefore, throughout the course, several videos will be analyzed, field trips will be organized, and presentations on researched topics will be performed. Students will read short stories by Juan Bosch that will be later presented in groups. Students will also visit an herbal botanical place, the public market Mercado Modelo and a cigar manufacturer.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Percentages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-assessment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hetero assessment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm written exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports about fieldtrips to cultural sites</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports on articles read as per facilitator’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class assignments</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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If a student is not able to meet 70% of the required expectations, he or she is entitled to make up for up to 50% of the assessed work.

Writing assignments
Each student will produce reposts about fieldtrips to cultural sites and on articles read as per facilitator’s instructions.

Mid-term Exam
There will be two mid-term exams, one on the theoretical aspects learned in class during Unit 1 and the second an in-depth reflection about the Rural Stay.

Attendance and Class Participation

Time: Class will start and end on time, so you must also arrive on time. Late arrivals distract, and attention to your movement disrupts the educational environment and the objectives of the class.

Texting, etc.: Students may use laptops in class to take notes; however, the use of the Web to surf, Tweet, Facebook, Email, Google, Youtube, and other E-wikileaks distractions will not be tolerated.

Late delivery of assignments: Deadlines are firm. Late submissions are not tolerated. Do not waste the professor’s time, however, by turning in an assignment that does not meet expectations. Plan ahead so that you have time to not only prepare an excellent assignment but to turn it in on time.

Expectations for all written assignments: Please label each assignment with your name, date, and a title; journal entries must have a descriptive title of creative content. Most of the writing assignments must be set up with 1.5 spaces between lines and must be a minimum of two (2) pages long, unless indicated differently. Remember that the goal is to get to the root of what needs to be said instead of simply complying with the requirement to complete a number of pages. With that said, if you what need to express cannot be said on just two pages, write more! And please check your work thoroughly before turning it in. Minor grammatical, mechanical, and stylistic errors are expected, but most can be eliminated in
advance if you take the time to review and spell-check your work before submission.

Unless otherwise specified, you can submit your homework via email to **********. If you do not receive a confirmation of receipt, you must send it back and/or contact me to confirm that I have received your work. Save all assignments with your initials + task name. For example: EA_Reflection3.

Note that if you are absent the day of the mid-term exam or the final presentation, you will receive an F on said mid-term exam or final presentation (see Absence Policy, above). Plagiarism is also cause for failure, no matter what your grade average is at the point in time when it is discovered.

Make-up/Absence Policy: At the discretion of the professor, if there are extenuating circumstances, you might be given time to make up an assignment that was not ready on time, except for the mid-term and final presentation. The only acceptable excuse for being absent on the day of the mid-term or final presentation is a doctor’s signed testimony that you were hospitalized at the time.

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK I
1. A Cultural and Conceptual Approach to Folklore
   1.1 The meaning of “folklore”.
   1.2 Scope and field of study.
   1.3 Social event vs. folklore. Characteristics of folklore.
   1.4 General Classification:
      1.4.1 Material Folklore
      1.4.2 Social Folklore
      1.4.3 Mental Folklore
   1.5 Dominican intellectuality and folk studies. Class discussions related to different articles about culture.
   1.6 Different forms of culture.
      1.6.1 Enculturation
      1.6.2 Acculturation
1.6.3 Endoculturation
1.6.4 Transculturation

2. The Study of Oral Folklore

2.1 Oral Folklore.
   2.1.1 Folklore and linguistics: convergences and divergences.
   2.1.2 Characteristics of Dominican oral folklore by regions.

2.2 Proverbs and sayings.
   2.2.1 General characteristics.
   2.2.2 Classification.
   2.2.3 Proverbial phrases.
   2.2.4 Proverbs and sayings.
   2.2.5 Other forms.
   2.2.6 Functions of proverbial phrases and sayings.

2.3 Riddles
   2.3.1 Characteristics and structure.
   2.3.2 Types of regional riddles.
   2.3.3 Functions and use of riddles.

2.4 Folk poetry
   2.4.1 Characteristics.
   2.4.2 Classification:
      2.4.2.1 Rhymes
      2.4.2.2 Couplets
      2.4.2.3 Ten-line Stanzas
      2.4.2.4 Romance
   2.4.3 Classification according to use.
   2.4.4 Relation between folk poetry and folk song.

2.5 From classic tale to folk tale.
   2.5.1 Origins and classification
   2.5.2 Elements of classic and folk tales:
      2.5.2.1 Time
2.5.2.2 Characters
2.5.2.3 Setting
2.5.3 The language of tales
  2.5.3.1 Indefinite forms
  2.5.3.2 The use of archaic language in folk tales
  2.5.3.3 Formulas

WEEK II

3. Partially Oral Folklore

3.1 General characteristics.
3.2 Classification.
  3.2.1 The folk song
  3.2.2 Music and dance
3.3 Dominican folk music.
  3.3.1 Definition and characteristics
  3.3.2 Classification according to function
  3.3.3 Relation between folk song and folk music
3.4 Folk music and dance.
  3.4.1 Origins of Dominican music
  3.4.2 The “tumba”, origins and evolution
  3.4.3 Merengue:
    3.4.3.1 The typical band: from Gayumba to the accordion
    3.4.3.2 Evolution of music and dance
    3.4.3.3 Other forms of traditional music:
      3.4.3.3.1 Carabiné
      3.4.3.3.2 Sarandunga
      3.4.3.3.3 Sticks (palos) or kettledrums (atabales): Rhythms of the Resistance
      3.4.3.3.4 Bamboulá
      3.4.3.3.5 Gagá
3.5 Children Games.
3.5.1 Definition and function of children games
3.5.2 Classification
3.5.3 Overview of some folk games that are still played

3.6 Folk Drama.
3.6.1 Definition. Purpose of folk drama
3.6.2 Classification
3.6.3 Some Dominican folk drama that still remains

WEEK III
4. The Use of Clay and Dominican Folk Materials
4.1 Craftsmanship
   4.1.1 Origins and use
   4.1.2 Importance of local and regional crafts
   4.1.3 Classification
   4.1.4 Main representation of crafts from the Cibao region
   4.1.5 Hospitals for dolls and their influence on Dominican folklore
      4.1.5.1 Alexander dolls
      4.1.5.2 Dedicated to the Dominican Republic

5. History of Different Mentalities. Mental or Spiritual Folklore
5.1 Life cycle and the Rites of Passage.
   5.1.1 Places and objects
   5.1.2 Events and relations with the ambiance in general
5.2 Magic and witchcraft: voodoo and popular religious forms.
   5.2.1 Difference among magic, sorcery, and witchcraft
   5.2.2 Magic and sorcery vs. religion
   5.2.3 Dominican voodoo
   5.2.4 Popular religious forms
      5.2.4.1 Esoteric cults
      5.2.4.2 Spells and prayers
      5.2.4.3 Images and objects of popular religious beliefs
5.3 Myth and Legend.
   5.3.1 Differences between myth and legend
   5.3.2 Origins and classification of:
      5.3.2.1 myth
      5.3.2.2 legends
      5.3.2.3 Dominican myths and legends

5.4 Magic and sorcery vs. popular medicine.

5.5 Dominican folk calendar.
   5.5.1 Religious holidays:
      5.5.1.1 Classification
      5.5.1.2 Patron saint festivals

5.6 Cabalas in Dominican folklore.
   5.6.1 Related to cockfighting
   5.6.2 Related to taboo topics such as menstrual period and growth, marriage, virginity, and innocence
   5.6.3 Related to agriculture and harvests
   5.6.4 Related to trips
   5.6.5 Related to Easter and religion
   5.6.6 Related to a new year

WEEK IV

6. Dominican popular celebrations

6.1 National holidays:

6.2 Other special festivities:
   6.2.1 Easter
   6.2.2 The Carnival
   6.2.3 Christmas and New Year, Christmas and fate
   6.2.4 Dominican Carnival
6.2.5 Carnival and Identity
6.2.6 Carnival and Religion
6.2.7 Carnival and History
6.2.8 Carnival and Story
6.2.9 Carnival and customs
6.2.10 Carnival and Religion
6.2.11 Carnival and Geography
6.2.12 Carnival and Ethic
6.2.13 Carnival and Social denounces

**Bibliography**


Lizardo B., Fradique (1996) *Instrumentos Folklóricos Dominicanos; Membranófonos e Idiófonos*. Tomo I. UNESCO.


**OTHER RESOURCES:**

**CINEFORUM**
- El Gagá de semillá
- Los congos de Villa Mella
• El Banco de palo
• Sarandunga de Baní.

MUSICFORUM
• El Brujo, Cuco valoy
• ¡Qué Viva Papá Liborio! Varios
• El negro que bota miel por los poros, Jhonny Ventura
• El Negro, Wilfrido Vargas