Course Syllabus

Advanced Readings on Contemporary Ecuador

SPAN-3000 (3 Credits / 45 class hours)

SIT Study Abroad Program:

Ecuador: Development, Politics, and Languages

PLEASE NOTE: This is a PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS.
This course will be offered at various levels.

Course Description
The importance of Spanish, both as one of the local languages of the program and as a language of rising global significance, cannot be overstated. Students will use Spanish in multiple sites, both at home and abroad and in both their personal and professional lives. In this advanced Spanish course, students refine their language skills while furthering their cultural knowledge by engaging with a series of readings on contemporary Ecuador. The course also deepens students’ contacts with intellectual work produced in Spanish and in Ecuador and includes visits to several intellectual sites in Quito.

Students take an ungraded placement exam to determine the appropriate class placement. The course emphasizes readings and discussions while also challenging students to write at increasingly sophisticated levels. The outgoing exam includes both a written and an oral component, and students will write a final paper as well. Students are given substantive feedback at the end of the course, which notes both areas of improvement and areas to continue working on.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will demonstrate improvements across the following skill areas:

- **Speaking.** Demonstrate the ability to converse at a level increasingly closer to a well-educated native speaker, using more extensive and localized vocabulary, expressing complex issues, being able to discuss, explain, and articulate abstract ideas/concepts (their own and others') related to the readings.

- **Writing.** Demonstrate increasing fluency and accuracy, more sophisticated phrasing and vocabulary, as well as the ability to write in different rhetorical modes and styles.

- **Reading.** Demonstrate increasing understanding of complex texts and develop a practice of reading for pleasure.
- **Cultural learning.** Demonstrate a vocabulary that is marked by local terms and culturally appropriate indicators and references.
- **Contextual knowledge.** Increase their understanding of local realities in different Ecuadorian settings through readings, discussions, and written work on timely issues.

**Language of Instruction**
This course is taught entirely in Spanish.

**Suggested Modules and Sample Topics**
I. Introduction to the course. Strategies for improved reading comprehension. Reading for both learning and pleasure.
II. Who’s who, in Ecuadorian intellectual culture. Who to read, who to know.
III. Contemporary writing about social problems and solutions. Readings from political science, social science, higher education.
IV. Workshops on advanced written expression.

**Sample Activities**
- **Targeted readings** that emphasize sociopolitical aspects of contemporary Ecuador not covered in other program courses.
- **Written exercises** range from reading responses to activities that extend the themes of the readings into the creation of vignettes, radio scripts, profiles of community members, op-ed pieces, and even mock political propaganda pieces.
- **Reading journals** allow students to pursue readings of individual interest to form a Spanish-reading practice, expand their comprehension skills, and learn more about Ecuador.
- **Possible visits** include the Ecuadorian Institute of Intellectual Property and the National Library in Quito.

**Sample Readings**
The program has an ample library of works on grammar and in diverse areas such as history, literature, sociology, and economics, among others. All work will be directly about Ecuadorian realities. Students may also be asked to read the local newspaper and other local texts.

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments (reading responses, essays/projects, oral presentations)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Final exam (written and oral)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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**Grading Scale**
- 94-100%  A  Excellent
- 90-93%   A-
- 87-89%   B+
- 84-86%   B  Above Average
- 80-83%   B-
- 77-79%   C+
- 74-76%   C  Average
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<td>64-66%</td>
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<td>below 64</td>
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