Raritan Valley Community College  
Course Outline

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: Spanish American Civilization  SPAN-223

B. Date of Proposal: January 2007 (revised)

C. Sponsoring Department: Communication and Languages

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3

E. Weekly Contact Hours: 3  
Lecture: 3  
Laboratory:

F. Prerequisites: Intermediate Spanish II or placement test

G. Laboratory Fees:

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: Intermediate Spanish II or placement test
Readings and discussion, in Spanish, of the civilization of Spanish American countries. The course looks at pre-Columbian civilizations, the arrival of the Spanish, the colonial period, the Wars of Independence and the modern period. In discussing the modern period, a representative country from each of the following regions is examined in some detail: Río de la Plata, los Andes, México and Centroamérica and las Antillas.

III. Statement of Course Need

With so much of the Spanish-speaking world located in the Americas, it is important that students of Spanish know something about the region where the majority of Spanish speakers live. In addition, a growing number of Latino students are attending RVCC. Many of them are interested in learning more about their heritage and improving their language skills.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. This course serves as:
   • Elective
   • General Education course in Humanities.

B. This course transfers as an upper level Spanish course.

V. Outline of Course Content
• Pre-Columbian civilizations: Aztec, Maya, Inca, other
• Conquest and Colonization
• Independence and 19th century
• 20th and 21st centuries
• Arts

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

**Educational Goals**
- Communicate on intermediate-high level as defined by the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines (G.E. 2)
- Develop an understanding of the major themes in the history of Spanish America (G.E. 4, 6)
- Develop an awareness of the contributions of major Spanish American artists to art, architecture, music and literature (G.E. 1, 4, 6)
- Develop an in-depth understanding of one of the above through a research project (G.E. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6)

**Learning Outcomes**
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
- locate on a map the countries of Spanish America and their capitals
- discuss orally and in writing, in Spanish, major themes in the history of Spanish America
- describe the cultural contributions of major ethnic and religious groups to the development of Spanish America today
- list major Spanish American artists
- describe the works of three major Spanish American artists
- describe the cultural, social, economic and political situation in Spanish America today

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- lecture/discussion
- small-group work
- guest speakers
- student oral presentations
- student collaboration
- reading assigned texts

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

- research papers
- essays
- exams
- oral presentations
- class participation

**IX. Grade Determinants**

- prepared oral presentation
- written exams
- spontaneous oral work
- essays

**X. Texts and Materials**

Suggested possible texts:

**XI. Resources**

- video capacity in the classroom
- computer/internet capacity in the classroom