**SPA 298: Special Topics – Day of the Dead**

**World Languages and Cultures**

**Reinhardt University**

**Full Session, Fall 2023, MWF 11-11:50, MS Teams**

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**Contact Information:**

* Email**:** Contact me (Dr. Summey) at [JFS@Reinhardt.edu](mailto:JFS@Reinhardt.edu) during regular business hours for general, non-urgent questions. You can expect a response within 1-2 business days. Please keep the messages concise and use your RU student email. Also email me if you need to arrange a meeting outside of the times and days posted below (Drop by hours & Online meetings).
* Phone: for urgent, time-sensitive matters, call or send me a text message at 770 335 8174 between 9-5pm on scheduled workdays. I will respond as soon as possible. Please note: on Tuesdays and Thursdays I’m either teaching or in meetings from 9-5pm and I may not be able to respond right away.
* Drop by hours: Drop by my office in Dobbs 125 for any reason Thursdays between 3:15-4:45 and 15 mins before and after classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays (10:45/12:15/1:45/3:15).
* Online meetings: I’m available on Fridays from 12pm to 4pm for online meetings or phone calls. Please email me to schedule ahead of time.

**Course Material:**

* **Required Textbooks**: Both books are available in either digital or print formats and at various prices. Feel free to purchase whichever you prefer. You could also borrow them through interlibrary loan.
  + Brandes, S. 2006. *Skulls to the Living, Bread to the Dead: The Day of the Dead in Mexico and Beyond.*Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. ISBN: 9781405152488
  + Marchi, R. 2022. *Day of the Dead in the USA: The Migration and Transformation of a Cultural Phenomenon,*2nd ed. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. ISBN: 9781978821637
* **Required online account**:
  + **Conversifi**: you’ll need a Conversifi account for speaking activities. The cost is $38 for one semester, but there are other options to lower the cost. We will go over the details and how to register for an account in the first week of class.

**Technology Requirements:** you’ll need access to reliable internet and a device with a camera and a microphone for audio and video submissions. Don’t’ forget a charger.

**World Languages and Cultures Program Learning Outcomes:**

The emphasis in World Languages and Cultures courses will be on furthering the use of language for communication and will include speaking, listening, writing, and reading tasks in addition to continually developing the awareness of cultural perspectives through the study of selected topics.

**Course Learning Outcomes**:

**SPA 298**(3cr): This course will examine the background and trajectory of the Day of the Dead, one of the most iconic Hispanic celebrations. The course will be conducted in Spanish and English, and the readings will be in Spanish and English. Most assignments will be presented in Spanish. The course goals are to improve the student’s ability to use Spanish to talk about and understand the background and trajectory of this specific event by examining the cultural practices, perspectives, and products surrounding Day of the Dead.

Prerequisite SPA 102 or permission of instructor

**Reinhardt University General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Effective expression of ideas through writing, speaking and presentations using visual media.
2. Independent thought and imagination; preparation for lifelong learning by demonstrating where to access credible sources and information to further their learning.
3. Knowledge of the diversity of societies and cultures; the ability to view themselves and the world from cultural and historical perspectives other than their own.
4. Integrity, critical thinking, and respect for opinions other than their own.

**Grading**

The course grade will be determined by the average of assignments (60%), and exams (40%).

Assignments (60%) will be posted on Canvas under Modules and/or announced in class. Please check your RU email and Canvas regularly for possible updates. Assignments are usually due by Sunday at 11:59pm unless a change is noted.

Exams will allow you to showcase your mad scholarly skills through analytical writing in Spanish. There will be two scheduled exams in this course: a midterm (20%) covering material up to the midpoint of the semester and a comprehensive final (20%) which is cumulative – what you learn later in the semester builds off what you learned first.

**Grading scale:** A (90+), B (80+), C (70+), D (60+), F (below 60 or not taking the final exam)

**Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is a key to learning this type of material. Please know that attendance will be taken and shared with university personnel as needed. For excused (university sanctioned) absences, email me personally with the date(s) and reason for your absences. For unexcused absences, email me the date of your absence and if possible, a general reason for your absence (illness, car trouble, driving conditions, spring fever...). In either case (excused/not excused), I should hear from you personally within a week of your absence. Why? Because you matter. No ghosting, por favor.

**Expectations: Behavior/Academic Honesty/AI policy:** Students will abide by the Reinhardt Honor Code and be familiar with the Reinhardt policy on academic dishonesty stated in the University Catalog and the Student Handbook: [Student Handbook - Reinhardt University](https://www.reinhardt.edu/student-life/student-services-resources/student-handbook/) . Civility and respect for others is non-negotiable. In this course - unless specifically instructed to do so- using translation apps, AI, ChatGPT, or other sources outside of your own noggin (such as your friend who’s a native or advanced Spanish speaker) to complete any coursework and/or exams is considered academic dishonesty. Why? Because the student is intentionally misrepresenting their actual language skill. Grrrrr…

**Tutoring** is free at the Center for Student Success (CSS), located in room 313 of the library. For more information, hours, and/or to schedule an appointment with a tutor, go to <http://www.reinhardt.edu/academic-resources/center-for-student-success/>.

**Accommodations: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA**) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities.  This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Reinhardt University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Therefore, if you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the **Academic Support Office (ASO).** ASO is in the basement of Lawson Building. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper ASO letters.

**Emergency/Health/Covid 19 Protocols:** All students, faculty and staff are expected to abide by the most recent policies stated on the Reinhardt University website: <https://www.reinhardt.edu/student-life/student-services-resources/COVID-19-Updates>