Course Description

Banditos, sombrero’s, mañana (“tomorrow”), cocaine, guerrilleros, etc. Much of the world still tends to view Latin Americans in terms of stereotypes. The popular image of the mustachioed bandito wearing a large sombrero and draped with cartridge belts has been replaced by the figure of the modern-day guerilla. But the same essential image, of lawlessness and violence, persists.

The reality of Latin America’s multiplicity of cultures is, in a word, complexity. The Latin realm is made up of a variety of cultural imprints. The Europeans, Africans, and Native American Indians have all contributed substantially to these cultures. This course is designed to give students a greater understanding and appreciation for the culture of Latin America in all its immense diversity.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to leave the student with an understanding of the diverse cultures that are found in Latin America. The class should provide the student a foundation of information - geographic, cultural, economic, political, historic, etc. - that allows for a better understanding of the current and future problems within these countries and regions.