

United College
Language Improvement Project 2021-22
Programme Proposal

Programme Title: A Latin America To Be Told And Spoken

Programme Nature: Culture and Language

Number of sessions and total number of hours:

The programme will comprise in total 12 hours, in which there will be **6** sessions, 2 hours each.

Name of Instructor:

The programme will be conducted by **Chicaca Culture**. It is a group formed by 4 enthusiasts who are dedicated to promoting Spanish and Latin American culture in Hong Kong. They have recently produced a RTHK radio program, which explores the stories of HK-based Latinos, as well as a 3-days Latin American Cultural Festival.

Background and Qualification of Instructor:

Chicaca Culture consists of 4 members, who will all be instructing the course:

1. Sze Man Yu: Former cultural officer in the Consulate of Spain in Hong Kong. Currently a Spanish teacher and interpreter of 4 languages
2. Polly Yeung: Cross-genre content creator, producer and scriptwriter for film, animation and documentary. Visiting lecturer for Digital Media (Storytelling) in Hong Kong Polytechnic University.
3. Winky Yeung: Freelance writer with travel articles published in Apple Daily, HK01, Ming Pao and also her own Facebook page. Tango dancer.
4. Wai Ping Hung: Former travel journalist at Ming Pao and Apple Daily. Currently a freelance journalist, editor and producer.

Course description:

This course is designed to teach beginner level's Spanish with a series of experiential activities. Students will be able to get a taste of Latin America's language and cultural richness through 6 distinctively themed sessions.

Lesson	Theme and Content	Language focus
1	<p>Handicrafts. Latin America is known for its colors and handicrafts . Piñata is one of the most famous handicrafts, which is a paper container filled with treats. Commonly associated with Mexico, and is widely used in ceremonies and parties throughout Latin America. The art of making modern piñata is called "<i>cartonería</i>", which refers to the making of items from paper. Another famous handicraft alebrijes originated in Mexico City in the 20th century, which are brightly colored Mexican folk art sculptures of fantastical creatures. In this lesson, we will discuss the history and culture behind the handicrafts. We will also bring over piñata for students to experience the joy of breaking it.</p> <p><u>Suggested guest speaker:</u></p> <p>A Venezuelan artisan based in Hong Kong: introduce the culture and variation of piñata.</p>	<p>Pronunciation of letters, gender of nouns, numbers and colours.</p>
2	<p>Dance. Tango is one of the most famous and influential dances in the world. Originating in Buenos Aires in the 18th century, tango was a blend of styles produced by the mix of cultures: working class European immigrants, indigenous Argentinians and former slaves. By the end of the 19th century, tango had become so popular it began to spread across the world. Now, tango continues to shape Argentinian culture and society. Over the past decade, it even gained great popularity in Asia. In this lesson</p>	<p>Basic verbs of movement, present tense, basic self-introduction and conversational phrases.</p>

	<p>n, we will provide a trial workshop to let participants experience the essence of tango: connections and nonverbal communication between partners. We will also use tango as a tool to look into the immigration history and the social traditions in South America.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Music. Latin music is in fact a big melting pot. The indigenous inhabitants, European conquerors and African slaves have collectively bred the Latin music that we know today. Throughout history the Latin music has been nurtured and shaped by foreign sounds, regional traditions, class divisions, and even national identities. As a result, we have a great variety in music genres and styles in Latin America: the sexy Salsa, the romantic Bolero, the sensual Bachata, the upbeat Rumba, the passionate Tango, the sweet Bossa Nova and the great hit of Reggaeton..... In this lesson we will explain why Latin music is a phenomena that reflects the complex history of Latin America. We will also discuss the evolution of Latin music, from the pre-Columbian civilizations, to the colonial and slavery period, and lastly to the present day's "Latin invasion" to the US music industry.</p> <p><u>Suggested guest speaker:</u></p> <p>A Latin American musician based in Hong Kong: shares the culture of his hometown music, and how he adapted to the music industry in Hong Kong.</p>	<p>Present tense, adjectives, study the vocabularies and expression in the lyrics.</p>

4	<p>Movies. Film industry in Latin America is diverse and vivid. In this lesson, we will introduce 4 documentaries and films, in order to discover the development and characteristics of Latin American film industry. Including <i>EXILES</i>: An documentary featuring Mexican women and motherhood, discussing gender inequality in Mexico. Instructor Polly Yeung, who went to Mexico several times to produce documentaries, will share her own unforgettable experience of filming from the mysterious desert to the magnificent Aztec pyramid.</p> <p><u>Suggested guest speaker:</u></p> <p>A Mexican filmmaker based in Hong Kong: shares his experience of the film industry in both Latin America and Hong Kong.</p>	Practice listening.
5	<p>Food & Drinks. Gastronomy can say a lot about a country and its people. They can tell us about a country's historical background and the social implications that they have on its people. Each country, according to its unique geographical location, agricultural pattern and local dining culture, developed a particularly popular dish and drink. In this lesson, we will learn about the national dishes and national drinks in some Latin American countries, how their cuisines got influence from Native American, African, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, even Chinese and Japanese. For example, Peru has <i>Ceviche</i> (marinated raw fish) because of its abundant</p>	How to order food and drink, talk with the waiters and ask for the bill.

	<p>seafood along the coast and great influence of Japanese' s sashimi culture; Peru also has <i>Chicha Morada</i> (a corn drink) due to its widespread consumption of corns; Argentina has <i>Fugazzeta</i> (stuffed pizza) due to all the Italian immigrants that it received, etc.</p>	
6	<p>Travel. Colombia is notorious for drug dealers. In what we have seen in numerous movies and documentaries, are they showing the real Colombia? In this lesson, travel writer Winky Yeung who travelled to Colombia will share her own experience. <i>Bogotá</i>: the capital of Colombia and there are not only drug dealers. <i>Caño Cristales</i>: regarded as the most beautiful river in the world, the natural scenery in Colombia will surprise you. <i>Eje Cafetero</i>: the coffee region of Colombia, giving you tips on how to distinguish the best coffee. <i>Medellín</i>: was once known as one of the most dangerous neighbourhoods in the world, making it a dark tourism destination. Throughout the lesson, we will discuss the society and culture of Colombia, and give students a glance at this country as a future travel destination.</p>	<p>Weather, location, description, how to do small-talk in Spanish, emergency phrases.</p>

Schedule:

1	12 Oct (Tue, 19:30-21:30)
2	16 Oct (Sat, 11:00-13:00)
3	19 Oct (Tue, 19:30-21:30)
4	26 Oct (Tue, 19:30-21:30)
5	2 Nov (Tue, 19:30-21:30)
6	6 Nov (Sat, 11:00-13:00)

Course objectives:

In this course we aim to provide the participants a chance to:

1. Acquire a more in-depth understanding of Latin America's social-historical culture, to recognize the cultural diversity of the Hispanic world;
2. Gain awareness of and learn to respect cultural difference between Latin American countries and Hong Kong;
3. Compare and contrast cultural practices and perspectives as they relate to diverse Hispanic cultures and their own native cultures;
4. Identify and discuss the importance of appreciating and preserving cultural heritage of Latin America;
5. Experience and enjoy some of their art forms such as tango dancing and Latino music;
6. Have a glance of different ways of living in Latin America through films and documentaries;
7. Learn basic and essential Spanish words and phrases to communicate with Hispanic speakers;
8. Discover the linguistic difference between Spanish, English and Chinese;
9. Conduct analysis and research on cultural topics and present their fi

ndings in oral form, they can also improve collaborative skill through giving group presentations.

Evaluation :

Students will be asked to form groups and give a “Pecha Kucha” 20x20 presentation at the end of the last lesson. They need to conduct their own research on the Latin American culture that has not been mentioned during the classes, summarize the findings and prepare PowerPoint slides to present.

We would like to develop participants’ interest in Latin American culture and encourage them to use the knowledge and appreciating skill that we taught, to start to explore such cultural richness through their own lenses.