
Curland, David, Robert Davis, Francisco Lomelí, and Luis Leal. *Hispanidades: Latinoamérica y los EE.UU.*

New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005. Pp. 152 pp. Includes two DVDs. ISBN: -13: 978-0-07-327121-7, ISBN: -10: 0-07-327121-7. For ordering information and assistance from a sales representative, contact McGraw-Hill World Languages at (800) 338-3987 or www.mhhe.com/worldlanguages.

Thanks to the availability of custom publishing, teachers of specialized courses with smaller audiences now have access to quality instructional materials. A good example is the text titled *Hispanidades: Latinoamérica y los EE.UU.* The second text in the *Hispanidades* series (the first is *Hispanidades: España. La Primera Hispanidad*, ISBN: 0-07-327115-2), *Latinoamérica y los EE.UU.*, like its counterpart, is based on the film series *El Espejo Enterrado*, written and presented by Carlos Fuentes, Mexico's renowned novelist and social commentator, who provides a personal interpretation of what is presented on screen. Chapter themes draw heavily from *El Espejo Enterrado* and are supplemented by related literary readings and short essays. Ample opportunities to fine-tune Spanish grammar and expand vocabulary are provided.

Whereas the first book in the two-part series focuses on the history and culture of Spain, the second book's main goal is to provide students with the necessary background for understanding Hispanic culture of the many different Spanish-speaking countries of the Americas, as well as the culture of the rapidly growing Latino population of the United States (*Latino* is a term that refers to people born in the United States of Hispanic heritage). The authors state: "While we make no attempt in these texts to present a complete history of Hispanic civilization and the variety of geographical regions it represents, the authors do believe that students who follow the *Hispanidades* course will emerge with an essential framework for continued study of the Spanish language, Hispanic culture and its rich literary heritage" (2).

Hispanidades: Latinoamérica y los EE.UU. consists of eight chapters, supplemental materials (*Una conversación sobre Juan Rulfo y Pedro Páramo*), two

appendices, and a Spanish-English glossary. The themes for the eight chapters in order of presentation are: *El mestizaje*; *Los conquistadores*; *La independencia: Bolívar y San Martín*; *Benito Juárez y la invasión francesa: Maximiliano*; *La Revolución Mexicana*; *Obra inacabada en Latinoamérica — Relaciones con los EE.UU.*; *La frontera: La inmigración y los EE.UU.*; and *La presencia hispánica en los EE.UU.* Appendix A contains the answers to a self-test; Appendix B is a glossary of terms used in Chicano literature.

Each chapter is composed of the following six sections: *Orientación cronológica*; *Introducción*; *Guión*; *Gramática en breve/Ortografía*; *Literatura*; and *Notas de lengua*. *Orientación cronológica* is a timeline of historical events relevant to the chapter topics. *Introducción* is an overall introduction to the topic, specifically its connections with Spanish history and culture, and includes numerous points highlighted by Carlos Fuentes in *El Espejo Enterrado*. *Guión* is a verbatim transcription of the film segments highlighted in the chapter. As the language and concepts used by Fuentes in his commentaries are often complex, the transcription is an essential tool for assisting students in the learning process. It is highly recommended that students read the transcription before, during, and after viewing the film for the first time. A second viewing of the film without the transcription is strongly recommended so that students can appreciate the film's true beauty. As the transcription does not address every section of the film, the text indicates these non-transcribed sections with a series of asterisks, including an indication within brackets of time elapsed. *Gramática en breve* reviews specific problem areas that tend to reappear at advanced levels (e.g., *el pretérito*; *el imperfecto*; *el participio pasado*; *el verbo gustar y otros semejantes*; *el presente del subjuntivo*; *el imperfecto de subjuntivo*; and *mandatos formales y familiares*). Examples for the grammar review sections are drawn from each chapter's content. *Ortografía* covers basic topics of spelling and accentuation (e.g., *las letras c, s, y z*; *las letras c, k, y q*; *las vocales*; *las letras b y v*; *las letras ll y y*; *las letras r y rr*; and *las letras h, g, y j*). *Literatura* includes carefully selected extracts, chosen for their relevance to the chapter topic as well for their aesthetic value. The literary selections are supported by author commentary and analysis for general literary study. The authors state: "Students will find that the tools provided for understanding the specific selections included can become their personal toolkit to illuminate ongoing literary study" (2). Literary selections are from Venezuela, Mexico, Chile, Cuba, the United States, and Puerto Rico. *Notas de lengua* are short essays that provide students with a sociolinguistic perspective related to chapter topics, particularly on the types of variation (regional and social) that shape the Spanish of the Americas and the Latino dialects of the United States. Sociolinguistic topics, in chapter order, are: *El español de las Américas: Influencias indígenas*; *Orígenes de algunos problemas de ortografía*; *El español de Suramérica*; *El español de México*; *Los dialectos sociales*; *Los dialectos del español en EE.UU.*; *El cambio de códigos*; and *¿Es el spanglish una lengua?*

Despite some minor typographical errors, as is common with custom publishing, *Hispanidades: Latinoamérica y los EE.UU.* is a noteworthy text. It is ideally suited for those intermediate to advanced courses that ask students to build upon their existing linguistic skills in order to become reflective and informed thinkers about a sampling of the myriad of historical, cultural, and sociolinguistic issues

surrounding Hispanic populations outside the United States and the impact these issues have upon the Latino populations in the United States.

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