University of Southern California
Dornsife College of the Arts and Sciences

SPAN 301: Introduction to Hispanic Literature and Film — Fall 2017

Leyendo (en) el mundo hispánico

Instructor: Ronald Mendoza-de Jesús
Email: ronaldme@usc.edu
Class Schedule: MW 12:00-1:50 pm
Location: THH 215
Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:50 am & 3:00-5:00 pm
Location of Office Hours: TTH 156R

I. Course Description:

This course introduces students to the critical interpretation of texts from Spain and Latin America, covering a variety of historical periods, aesthetic movements, and artistic styles. Students will read texts from various literary genres, including poetry, fiction and drama, as well as texts from other media—especially film—to reflect on the historical and political significance of literary and artistic production and to deeppen their understanding of the differences between literary genres and artistic media. We will emphasize mastery of written Spanish as well as acquisition of the vocabulary and concepts needed for interpreting and discussing a variety of cultural narratives in Spanish.

II. Learning Objectives

This course satisfies the requirements for the major and minor in Spanish. At the end of the semester, students will have:

- learn to read and interpret effectively literary texts and cinematographic images by becoming acquainted with the interpretive methods of the humanities (in particular, close reading)

- gained experience writing in different rhetorical registers, from informal blog entries to academic papers
- acquired a better understanding of Hispanic cultures and histories, becoming more aware of and sensitive to the historical specificities of foreign cultures.
- become more familiar with the conventions that inform the dissemination of research in the contemporary humanities
- composed pieces that use writing as a tool in different cognitive contexts, ranging from synthetizing and summarizing information, to articulating critical questions, to communicating their views or findings
- developed flexible composing and revising strategies and acquire an appreciation for the importance of revision in the writing process
- take advantage of the cultural offerings of the city of Los Angeles and become more acquainted with how Latin American and Spanish culture has shaped the cultural and social fabric of the Americas.

III. Course Requirements

A. Written Assignments:

1. *blog* (10 entries: 150 words long in Spanish)
2. *blog rewrite*
3. *midterm exam*
4. *dramatic presentation*
5. *final exam*

1. The major composition assignment required in this course consists of a *blog*. Students are asked to write *weekly* entries on their blogs during the first ten weeks of class, for a total of **10** entries throughout the semester. Blog entries should range between 150 words long and must be written in **Spanish**. Blog entries should be posted by **Sunday** evening of the week in which they are due. **Late submissions will not be graded**.

   Blog entries should fall into one of the following four categories:

   a. a close reading or a sustained analysis of some of the sources discussed in class during the week in question
   b. an analysis of material that is directly or indirectly related to the material assigned in class for that week.
   c. a topic of the students' choice, agreed upon in consultation with the instructor.

   Of the 10 blog entries that students will write during the semester, 7 must be close readings of material covered in class (category a). The other 3 can fall into the other three categories. This assignment gives students the chance to practice writing in Spanish on a regular basis, and it allows the instructor to give constant feedback to students to help them solidify their command of the linguistic and communicative skills required to compose effectively in a second language.

2. Once students have received their graded blog entries, they will have the opportunity to *rewrite* them and submit them again for further grading. This exercise is meant to expose students to the on-going, continuous nature of composition, instilling in them the importance of revision and rewriting within all writerly and communicative processes.

3. For the *midterm take home exam*, students will receive the exam questions one week before it is due.

4. For the *dramatic presentation*, each student is required to prepare (individually or in groups) an in-class presentation based on a scene from one of the two plays that we will read in class. The presentation can take the form of a dramatic restaging, a video, a modern adaptation of the work, a musical performance, or other interpretation. Although some students may decide to present in groups, each student is responsible for submitting a one-page paper that describes some of the ideas that went into their presentation. More specifically, the paper should outline: a. what is it that they wanted to communicate in their adaptations of the original text, and b. your individual role in the production of the presentation. This paper must be submitted on the day in which the student's presentation is scheduled to take place.

5. The last assignment will be a *take-home exam*, to be distributed two weeks before its due date.

Written assignments will be due on the date indicated on this syllabus, by midnight. Students can either bring a hard copy of their paper to class or email them to me on the day that the assignment is due. *No extensions will be granted.*

Students are required to use Times New Roman or a similar font, size twelve, and to double-space all their written assignments. When writing their papers, students must follow the guidelines established by the Modern Language Association (MLA), which will be discussed in class. Hard copies of all written assignments must be stapled.

B. **Participation:** Students are expected to come to each class prepared to engage in discussion. This requires not only that students read the assigned material, but that they read it actively, posing questions to the text, identifying problems, recognizing patterns, ambiguities, bizarre word usage, strange metaphors, etc.

Students are also expected to meet with the instructor to talk about the written assignments, to discuss the selection of paper topics as well as any other issue pertaining to the course. Students are **required** to meet with the instructor at least *two times* over the course of the semester:

1. to discuss their *blog entries* and prepare their *blog rewrites*
2. to discuss their ideas for the *dramatic presentation*

Failure to meet this requirement will be reflected in the participation portion of your grade.

Note on Attendance Policy: Active participation requires the student's presence in class. Every student will be allowed three absences—excused or unexcused. Beyond that point, each absence will bring the student's final grade down by a third of a letter grade (from A to A-, from A- to B+, etc.). Also, every three times a student comes late to class an absence will be added to his or her record.
Note regarding electronic devices: No laptops or any other electronic devices will be allowed in the classroom. Students are also asked to turn off their cell phones upon entering the classroom.

IV. Course Evaluation

Blog entries:	20%
Blog rewrites:	10%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Dramatic Presentation:	20% (10% presentation, 10%
Final Exam:	20%
Participation:	10% (5% in class participation, 5% office hours meetings)

Grading Scale:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	less than 60

Note on Academic Integrity: **Any instance of plagiarism will be subject to the disciplinary process outlined by USC's Student Judicial and Community Standards.** Plagiarism is not restricted to copying word by word the writings and thoughts of others. It also includes citing improperly, as well as paraphrasing ideas taken from any source other than your own thoughts without recognizing the author of those ideas. Students should be familiar with the process outlined by USC's Student Judicial and Community Standards, which can be accessed in the link below:
http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/pages/students/academic_integrity.html

Students should also consult the *Trojan Integrity: A Guide to Avoid Plagiarism*, which can be accessed in the following website:
http://dornsife.usc.edu/assets/sites/903/docs/Trojan_Integrity_-_Guide_to_Avoiding_Plagiarism.pdf

Note on Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Services and Programs, to obtain a letter of verification for approved accommodations. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in 3601 Watt Way, GFS 120 and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. Their website is:
http://dsp.usc.edu/contact/

V. Materials:

All course materials will be available in Blackboard, with the exception of the following two books, which students will have to purchase for themselves:

A. Dorfman, *La muerte y la doncella*
F. García Lorca, *El público*
M. Gómez Glez, *La edad ganada*

VI. Schedule of Classes, Readings, and Assignments:

I. Poetry

First Week

Monday, August 21:
Discussion of Syllabus

Wednesday, August 23:
Introduction to Reading Poetry
O. Paz, "Poesía y Poema" in *El arco y la lira*
Blog Entry #1

Second Week

Monday, August 28:
F. de Quevedo, "Amor constante, más allá de la muerte"
L. de Góngora, "Descaminado, enfermo, peregrino"
S. Teresa de Jesús, "Vivo sin vivir en mí"
S. Juana I. de la Cruz, "Redondillas (Hombres necios)"

Wednesday, August 30:
J. Martí, "Hierro"
F. García Lorca, "Grito hacia Roma desde la torre del Chrysler Building"
R. Darío, "El cisne"
A. Storni, "El cisne enfermo" **Blog Entry #2**

Third Week

Monday, September 4: **Labor Day, Classes Cancelled**

Wednesday, September 6:

V. Huidobro, "Arte poética"
L. Palés Matos, "Ñam, Ñam"
J. de Burgos, "Poema para mi muerte"
J. L. Borges, "A quién está leyéndome"
Blog Entry #3

Fourth Week

Monday, September 11:

A. Pizarnik, "Ojos primitivos"
M. Ramos Otero, "7" in *Invitación al polvo*
A. Luque, "La *deconstrucción* o el amor"
R. M. Rodríguez, "Zona de confianza"

II: THEATER

Wednesday, September 13:

Introduction to Reading Theater and Performance
U. Eco, "El signo teatral"
B. Brecht, Selections from "A Short Organum for the Theatre"
Blog Entry #4

Fifth Week

Monday, September 18:

F. García Lorca, *El Público*

Wednesday, September 20:

F. García Lorca, *El Público* **Blog Entry #5** *Midterm paper prompt distributed this week*

Sixth Week

Monday, September 25:

F. García Lorca, *El Público*
Presentations

Wednesday, September 27:

F. García Lorca, *El Público*
Presentations
Blog Entry #6
Midterm Paper due this week

Seventh Week

Monday, October 2:
A. Dorfman, *La muerte y la doncella*

Wednesday, October 4:
A. Dorfman, *La muerte y la doncella*
Blog Entry #7

Eight Week

Monday, October 9:
A. Dorfman, *La muerte y la doncella*
Presentation

Wednesday, October 11:
A. Dorfman, *La muerte y la doncella*
Presentations
Blog Entry #8

III. Cinema

Ninth Week

Monday, October 16:
Introduction to Reading Film

Wednesday, October 18:
T. Gutiérrez Alea, *Memorias del subdesarrollo*
Blog Entry #9

Tenth Week

Monday, October 23:
A. Cuarón, *Y tu mamá también*

Wednesday, October 25:
P. Almodóvar, *Volver* **Blog Entry #10**

IV. Narrative Prose: The Short Story

Eleventh Week

Monday, October 30:
L. Lugones, "Viola Acherontia"

Wednesday, November 1:
J. Rulfo, "No oyes ladrar los perros"

Twelfth Week

Monday, November 6:
R. Ferré, "La muñeca menor"

Wednesday, November 8: **Classes Cancelled: Instructor Out of Town**

V. NARRATIVE PROSE: THE NOVEL

Thirteen Week

Monday, November 13
Introduction to Reading the Novel

Wednesday, November 15
M. Gómez Glez, *La edad ganada*

Fourteenth Week

Monday, November 20
M. Gómez Glez, *La edad ganada*

Wednesday, November 22
Thanksgiving, Classes Cancelled

Fifteenth Week

Monday, November 27
M. Gómez Glez, *La edad ganada*

Wednesday, November 29
M. Gómez Glez, *La edad ganada*
Blog Rewrites Due
Final Take Home Exam to be distributed in class

Final exam due: December 13, 2017