**Spanish 211: Readings in Hispanic Literatures**

**Introduction to Literary Analysis and Literary Periods**

**AMHERST COLLEGE**

**Spring 2012**

**Professor Lucía M. Suárez**

**104 Barrett Hall**

**Office Hours: Monday 10:00 to 11:00 and by appointment**

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1. **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to the diverse literatures of the Spanish-speaking world over the course of six centuries, from the Middle Ages to the turn of the twentieth century. Students will learn the tools and critical vocabulary for advanced work reading the canon of Hispanic literatures from Spain, Latin America, and the Caribbean Basin, identifying aesthetic trends and historical periods such as the Renaissance, the Golden Age, the Romantic era, realism and modernism. The syllabus will include a wide variety of authors of different national, political, and artistic persuasions and an array of linguistic styles. A medium- to high-level knowledge of the Spanish language and reasonable proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish are required. This course counts for the major. Conducted entirely in Spanish.

1. **Objectives and Grading**

Students will learn the basics of literary analysis and become familiar with the main periods of Hispanic literary production by reading, discussing and writing about canonical works of Spanish and Latin American literature. Students will expand their vocabulary and continue to improve their reading, listening and written comprehension as well as oral and written expression in Spanish.

Students will be assigned daily readings of primary texts and secondary historical and contextual texts. In addition, students will view films on Amherst streaming video. Classroom time will be devoted to discussion and activities based on the readings, and the participation grade is based on the students’ involvement and engagement in these discussions and activities. Regular attendance is essential. A portion of the participation grade is dependent upon attendance at five Spanish Department extracurricular activities (see note). There will be weekly quizzes or short writing assignments that will test the students’ understanding of the course material, a midterm essay exam and oral presentations throughout the semester. For the final paper, students will select one text from a list of possibilities to read, investigate, and analyze individually, meeting with the professor as the project progresses, thus applying the skills of literary analysis they have attained over the semester to an additional text from one of the time periods studied in class.

*Note*: Attendance to at least three Spanish Tables and two departmental activities will be expected. The Spanish Table is held every Friday at Valentine’s Mezzanine. The purpose of this weekly gathering is to promote Spanish language practice and networking among students and faculty in an informal and fun environment. Other activities offered by the Department of Spanish will be announced throughout the semester. These might include movies, field trips and pizza parties, among others.

Your final paper will be written about a text from the Boom period. Selection of choices will be made available by the professor.

\*\*\*All students will participate in the **VI Coloquio de estudiantes de español de Amherst** College. This event takes place the last week of classes. Students must make a ten minute oral presentation of their final projects, accompanied by a power point. After the presentation, there is a five minute question and answer period for each student. It is obligatory that the students assist all of their classmates’ presentations.\*\*\*

Quizzes 25%

Attendance and class participation 15%

Attendance to five Spanish Dept. events 5%

Oral presentation in class 10%

Oral presentation in dept. Colloquium 10%

Outline for final paper 5%

Final Draft, 6 pages 10%

Final project 20%

1. **Student Responsibilities**

Students are expected to come prepared to all classes, having read, viewed, and studied the material in advance. Students will be asked to contribute vocabulary words/definitions, discussion topics and questions for quizzes and essays as part of their preparation and participation in the class. These assignments will help your understanding of the course material and prepare you for quizzes and writing assignments, announced and unannounced, that will test your understanding of the period and texts studied. You will be permitted to drop the lowest quiz or writing assignment grade. If you miss a quiz, you will need to write a two-page make-up essay covering the topic in the quiz.

Students must adhere to Amherst College’s Honor Code at all times. Students with disabilities or specific limitations that will affect their participation in the course should speak with the professor privately as soon as possible to make arrangements. Regular attendance is required and absences will adversely affect the participation grade. If students must miss a class, regardless of the reason, they should communicate with a *classmate* about what they missed and responsibly inform themselves of the homework for the next class.

This course is conducted entirely in Spanish: respectful dialogue *en español* is expected at all times!

1. **Course Readings and Films**
2. **Required Text (Available at Amherst Books and on reserve at Frost Library)**

*Momentos cumbres de las literaturas hispánicas: Introducción al análisis literario* de Rodney T. Rodríguez

Spanish-English or Spanish-Spanish Dictionary – Oxford, Larousse, Chicago

**Course Texts on Reserve (Frost Library,** See Reserves at library, on line, for complete, and growing, list**)**

**Course films available on VideoStream**

The Middle Ages: From Anonymity to Authority

Siglo de Oro Begins: Pícaros and Mystics

La Decadencia Política en el Siglo de Oro

Lazarillo de Tormes

La Celestina

Yo la peor de todas

Isabelle Allende: The Woman’s Voice in Latin American Literature

1. **Course Resources**
2. **The Writing Center**: An invaluable resource for help on your papers, before, during and after you write them, even when they’re in Spanish. Located at 101 Charles Pratt Hall.
3. **Spanish Writing Center**: Staffed by student writing fellows, the Spanish Writing Center can help with your writing in Spanish. You will be notified via email of its Spring semester hours.
4. **Grammar and Reference**: The Spanish Department Library, in Barrett 205, has a collection of Spanish dictionaries and grammar manuals. I recommend John Butt’s *A New Reference Grammar of Modern Spanish* to help you solve lingering grammatical and language issues. In addition, the *Diccionario de la Real Academia Española* (www.rae.es) and the *Oxford Spanish Dictionaries* (www.oxfordlanguagedictionaries.com/) are both online and free through the Amherst network. Bookmark them and use them often.