



KIIS Merida Mexico, Summer 2018

SPAN 376: Literature and Culture of Latin America (3 hours)

Professor: Dr. Ben Post

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Syllabus subject to change

Meeting Days and Time:

Centro Habla/TBA

Required Textbook:

Voces de Hispanoamérica, 5th edition. Edited by Raquel Chang-Rodríguez and Malva E. Filer. Independence: Heinle, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-13-0558-448-8, ISBN: 13-0558-448-1.

Course Description

This class is a survey of Latin American literature from pre-Conquest poetry to the 21st-century novel. The course pays special attention to 1) the connection between literature and other forms of culture and 2) the contributions of Native American civilizations, especially the Mayans, to the canon of Latin American literature. Short reading and writing assignments at the beginning of the class, as we learn the techniques of literary analysis and become accustomed to talking about literature in Spanish, eventually give way to readings of complete texts at the course's end. Taught entirely in Spanish.

Learning outcomes

1. Acquire the ability to analyze and discuss Spanish-language literature in Spanish.
2. Articulate connections between literature, history, and culture more broadly.
3. Apply techniques of literary analysis to cultural products not typically considered literary.
4. Acquire basic knowledge of the canon of Mexican and Latin American literature.

Course objectives

In this course, learners will

- Read a variety of texts from different genres, most written in Mexico or about Mexican themes.
- Discuss literature daily in small groups and as a class.
- Connect the literary texts we read with the historical and cultural sites we visit.
- Make connections between Latin American and Mexican literature and other canons of world literature.
- Visit a local bookstore and discuss what kinds of books are being sold.

Prerequisites

Completion of Spanish 202 or its equivalent.

Grading

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Participación y asistencia: 15%. Daily attendance and eager participation in class conversations in Spanish.

Pruebas: 10%. A short quiz each Friday about the texts we've read in the previous week.

Tareas 3-3-3: 20%. A short written assignment, due each day, that includes definitions of **3 words from the reading that are new to you**, a description of **3 major events or themes in the reading**, and **3 questions you have** for your classmates or professor.

Ensayos: 20%. You'll write two essays focused on literary analysis.

Novelas: 10%. You'll give one presentation in which you summarize and analyze a capítulo (episode) of a telenovela you've watched recently.

Examen final: 25%. This cumulative final exam will be given the last day of class.

Numerical grades will be converted to letter grades as follows:

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; E = 0-59.

Academic Honesty Policy

Honesty, trust, and personal integrity and responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. Except stated otherwise, all course work is your individual work, i.e. no copying from others or group work.

Tentative Course Schedule

Day 1: Poesía maya

Day 2: Poesía mexicana

Day 3: Popol Vuh y prueba 1

Day 4: Colón

Day 5: Cortés

Day 6: Bernal Díaz

Day 7: Las Casas

Day 8: Sor Juana y prueba 2

Day 9: Poetas del siglo XIX

Day 10: Azuela

Day 11: Rulfo

Day 12: Fuentes ("Chac Mool")

Day 13: Cortázar ("La noche boca arriba") y prueba 3

Day 14: Garro

Day 15: Berman

Day 16: Paz

Day 17: Poesía contemporánea yucateca

Day 18: Narrativa contemporánea yucateca y prueba 4

Day 19: Examen final