

LIT 367 NOBEL PRIZES IN SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE: A CRITICAL APPROACH

Professor: Natalia Cousté Ph.D
Office: Bldg 25 (CUI-UPO).
Email: n.couste@utoronto.ca
Office hours: Wednesday 13:20 - 14:20
or by appointment

Course Information:
Spring 2019
Mondays & Wednesdays: 10:30-11:50

Course Description

Annually since its foundation, the Nobel Prize in literature has awarded the contributions of men and women from many different languages and cultures. However, its history is one of controversy: major authors have been ignored by the Swedish Academy. The aim of this course is to analyze the life and the works of the Spanish and Latin American Literature Nobel Prize Winners and the Academy's reasons for its choices. The study will be carried out from a critical and comparative perspective within a historical and literary context. The Generation of 1927, Post-Spanish Civil War narrative or Magical Realism among other great literary tendencies will be included.

Prerequisites

None.

Course Goals and Methodology

Lectures will have both a theoretical component and a practical component. On one hand, a set of lectures from the professor and on the other hand, in-class debates and activities about the readings that will be carried out by students. For this reason it is very important to read the texts before classes begin (if you don't, you may feel *lost* and/or may be doing your classmates a disservice by not being sufficiently familiar with a text so as to effectively contribute to discussions). After each unit, students will take a quiz (multiple choice) about the corresponding texts, in which they must demonstrate their acquired understanding of the subject matter (approx. every two or three classes). If for some reason, you will be absent on the day of the quiz, you should make arrangements with the professor to write it before the official quiz day and not after.

At the end of the semester, students must turn in an essay about the following topic: "Nobel Academy Member for a Day". Essays must be turned in typewritten, double-space, Times New Roman, font size 12, with a length of 7–8 pages (including bibliography).

The professor will explain the rules and policies of the essay at the beginning of the course.

Spelling errors in submitted essays will not be permitted. Regarding the students' bibliography, all sources should be specified with total clarity. The use

of Wikipedia as a source will not be permitted. If there is any doubt about how to attribute or cite sources, please consult with the professor. We will follow the MLA Style.

Required Texts

All materials will be provided by the professor during the course (selections of texts, theory, videos, power points, websites etc.). However, **each student is responsible for getting his/her own copy of the following books (we recommend that you get the following editions before the start of the course):**

*Benavente, Jacinto, *Los intereses creados/The Bonds of Interest (A Dual-Language Book)*, Dover, NY, 2004.

Jiménez, Juan Ramón, *Platero y yo / Platero and I (ed. bilingüe español-inglés)*, Dover, NY, 2004.

*We will be looking at these texts at the start of the course, so please make sure you have the copies by then.

WEBS

Links and recommended sources on the official website: www.nobelprize.org

Additional Readings:

Aleixandre, Vicente. *A Longing for the Light*. Ed. Lewis Hyde. Copper Canyon Press, Washington: 1978.

Cobb, Carl. "Vicente Aleixandre and Solidarity of the Cosmos". In *Studies in 20th Century Literature*. Vol 2, 1, 1997.

De la Cruz, Sor Juana. *Answer by the poet to the most illustrious Sister Filotea de la Cruz* (1691). Translated by William Little (2008).

Domke, Joan. *Education, Fascism and the Catholic Church in Francos's Spain*. Loyola University, Chicago: 2011.

Dunn, Peter N. *Spanish Picaresque Fiction: A New Literary History*. Cornell UP, Ithaca: 1994.

Fallon, A.: "Culture in the Mirror. Sociocultural determinants of body image". In Crash, T.F. and Pruzinsky, T. (ed.) *Body images. Development, deviance and change*. Guilford: New York 1994, pp. 80-109.

Flores, Angel. *Magical Realism in Spanish American Fiction*. Duke UP, 1995.

Graham, Helen. *A Look Back. The Spanish Civil War. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford UP, New York:1995.

Magill, Frank. *The Nobel Prize Winners: Literature 1901-1926* (Volume 1) 1988.

Pérez-Samaniego, Víctor and Carmen Santamaría-García. *Education, Curriculum and Masculinity in Spain*. Universidad de Alcalá, Alcalá:1995.

Predmore, Michael. *The Structure of "Platero y Yo"*. In *MLA*, Vol 85, No 1 (Jan., 1970), pp 56-64.

General Course Policies

- Please keep your cell phones turned off during class.
- No food allowed in class.
- Use your computer for academic purposes only. Otherwise, your participation grade will be lowered.

Course Requirements and Grading

Oral participation will be very important for success in this course. The goal is that every student actively participates in every class meeting. Students' attendance will be checked daily.

The final grade is broken down as follows:

- *Participation 20%
- Final Essay 25%
- Oral Presentation 10%
- Mid-term Exam 20%
- Final Exam 25%

Late submissions of homework, activities, or essays will not be allowed. If for some reason, a student cannot turn in the written homework by the due date, s/he should turn it in before, but never after. Submitting homework by email is not allowed (except for obvious and justifiable reasons, i.e. medical problems).

***The participation grade will include:**

- The on-time submission of all written assignments and active involvement in class discussions (20%).

*Very important: students who do not turn in their homework on time will not receive a "10" (A+) in the participation grade.

Participation Marking Rubric

(10-9) Demonstrates excellent preparation. Contributes to discussion in an ongoing way: responds to other students' points, thinks through own points, questions others in a constructive way. Demonstrates consistent ongoing involvement. Turn in homework on time.

(9-8) Knows readings well, has thought through implications of them. Offers interpretations and analysis of material (more than just facts) to class. Demonstrates good involvement in class discussions. Turn in homework on time.

(8-7) Prepared questions. Knows content of readings, but does not show much evidence of trying to interpret or analyze them deeply.

(7-6) Offers straightforward information without elaboration, or does so very infrequently (perhaps once a class). Does not offer to contribute to discussion, but contributes to a moderate degree when called on. Demonstrates sporadic involvement. Turn in homework on time.

(6-5) Read at least one of the readings per week. Responds when called on but does not offer much. Demonstrates very infrequent involvement in discussion. Incomplete homework.

Important dates:

- **Midterm Exam:** March 20th.
- **Final Exam:** To Be Determined
- **Essay:** Students must turn in rough drafts to the professor.
 1. **March 27.** Last day to turn in rough drafts to the professor. Students are to notify the professor of the author they have selected before submitting their rough drafts.
 2. **April 3.** All rough drafts will be returned to the students. They will be assigned a grade but this grade will serve only so as to give you an idea of the professor's assessment of your essay at this stage.
 3. **April 10.** Last day to submit final essays. The professor will return them on the final exam day.

Exams will have the following structure:

The midterm exam and final exam will consist of multiple choice, questions about material presented in the lectures which is summarized in the

power points and questions to be developed by students based on readings from the lessons.

Grading Rubric

(10 - 9) Demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the most important information and there are no errors. Many details are provided. Organization is coherent.

(9 - 8) Display a good knowledge of the most important information and there may be a few minor errors. Many details are provided. Organization is coherent.

*Minor errors: your grade will be lowered 0.5 points (approx.)

For example: "Alfred Nobel was fascinated by literature, especially by English poems. His favorite writers were* Mary Shelley and Lord Byron (romantic poets)".

*Percy

(8 - 7) Good knowledge of the most important information but there are several minor errors and/or one major error. Some details are provided. Organization is coherent.

*Major error: your grade will be lowered 2.5 points (approx.)

For example: "Alfred Nobel trusted collectivity and government to change the world "" (*He trusted individuals)

(7 - 6) Display an acceptable knowledge of the most important information and there are several minor errors and/or two major errors. Some details are provided. Sometimes organization is confused.

(6 - 5) Offers some familiarization with the most important information but there are many minor errors and/or two major errors. Organization is confused.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality are required. Arriving late to class is disruptive to both the professor and your classmates. Please be punctual, as your professor will count your late arrival as half of an absence. ABSENCES: Attendance is mandatory at all classes. As we understand that you might fall ill or be unable to come to class (e.g. due to a religious holiday, a flight delay, a family wedding/ reunion, a graduation, a job interview, etc.) at some point during the semester, you are allowed up to 4 absences. You will be responsible for the material covered and any work missed. You will not need to justify your absences (up to 4) in any way **unless** you miss an exam, a presentation, a quiz, etc. In this case, you **must** present a doctor's note (signed, stamped and dated) to be able to reschedule the exam, etc. It will still count as an absence but you will be allowed to retake the exam, etc. We don't encourage you to use

all 4 days unless you really need them as your participation grade may suffer if you are not in class. If used unwisely and you get sick late in the semester, the following penalties will apply:

On your 5th absence, 1 point will be taken off of your final grade (Spanish grade of 1-10)

On your 6th absence, 3 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade

On your 7th absence, 5 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade

For classes that meet once a week, each absence counts as two. For classes that meet daily, the penalties outlined above apply if you go over 6 absences (7th absence=5th absence above).

Missed or Late Work

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be typed according to the guidelines given and must be submitted at the beginning of each class. No late assignments will be graded unless it is due to an excused absence (usually medical). Missed or late work will be automatically given a zero.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the Internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly, using footnotes and a bibliography, and not cutting and pasting information from various websites when writing assignments.

Learning accommodations

If you require special accommodations, you must stop by the International Center to speak to Rubén (the Faculty coordinator) to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is September 28th. Rubén will explain the options available to you.

Behavior Policy

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.

Course contents

***Very important: The following schedule is an ideal proposal.** The professor will always take into account students' learning speed and their opinions. Therefore, the schedule will be susceptible of change in benefit of students, except for the exam dates.

1. **The Nobel Prize: The Institution.**
2. **Nobel Prizes in Spanish Literature in Context.**
3. **Followers and detractors. Life and works.**
4. **The Spanish Theatre and Novel in Context.**
5. **Nobel Prizes in Latin American Literature.**
6. **Followers and detractors. Life and works.**
7. **The Latin American poetry, essay and the social context.**
8. **The Latin American novel and the social criticism.**

Class Schedule

January. 30 Introduction to the Nobel Prize.

Feb. 4 Alfred Nobel. His last will.

Feb. 6 Jacinto Benavente: Life and Work. Reading: *The Bond of Interests*.

Feb. 11 The Spanish Theatre in the beginning of the 19th century. *The Bond of Interests*

Feb. 13 Juan Ramón Jiménez: The Universal Andalusian. From Modernism to *God Desired and Desiring*. Readings: *Platero and I*.

Feb. 18 *Platero and I*.

Feb. 20 Vicente Aleixandre and the Generación del '27.

Feb. 25 The Spanish Surrealism. Readings: *Destruction or Love*, among others (selected poems).

Feb. 27 Camilo José Cela: Post-Spanish Civil War narrative. Film: *The Hive*

March 4 Gabriela Mistral: The First Latin American Nobel: "What the soul is to the body, so is the artist to his people". (selection of poems)

March 6 Pablo Neruda. From *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair*.

March 11 Octavio Paz. Sensuality and humanism. *Sun Stone* (selected poems).

March 13 Octavio Paz. *The Labyrinth of Solitude and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz or, The Traps of Faith* (selection).

March 18 Film: "I, the Worst of All".

March 20 Mid-Term Exam.

March 25 Octavio Paz. *The Labyrinth of Solitude*. "The Sons of La Malinche".

March 27 Magical Realism. **Due Date Draft Essay.**

April 1. Oral Presentations begin. Miguel Ángel Asturias and Gabriel García Márquez.

April 3 Magical Realism: Gabriel García Márquez, *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings*.

April 8 Magical Realism: Gabriel García Márquez, *The General in his Labyrinth* (selection of chapters).

April 10 Magical Realism: Gabriel García Márquez, *The General in his Labyrinth* (selection of chapters). **Due Date Essay**

April 15 Holly Week. No class

April 17 Holly Week No class

April 22 Mario Vargas Llosa: *Life and Work. The Feast of the Goat*, among others (selection).

April 24 Mario Vargas Llosa: *The Feast of the Goat*, among others (selection).

April 29. Video: Mario Vargas Llosa on *The Feast of the Goat*.

May 1 Labour day. No Class

May 6 Feria de Abril (Seville´s April Fair) No Class

May 8 Feria de Abril (Seville´s April Fair) No Class

May 13 Review for the Final Exam.

May 15 Final remarks

Monday, May 20 – Thursday, May 23 – Final Exam Period

Important Dates

Thursday, February 28 – Día de Andalucía
Sunday, April 14 – Sunday, April 21 - Semana Santa (Holy Week)
Wednesday, May 1 - Labour Day
Saturday, May 4 - Saturday, May 11 – Feria de Abril (Seville´s April Fair)
 Last day of class: Thursday, May 16
 Monday, May 20 – Thursday, May 23 – Final Exams

