



UNIVERSIDAD DE LA HABANA
Facultad de Lenguas Extranjeras
Departamento de Español

Colina Universitaria, San Lázaro y L, Vedado,
Ciudad de La Habana 10400, Cuba.
Edificio Varona

Translated by The Center for Cross-Cultural Study

Course: Cuban Literature

Professor: TBD

Literature is nothing more than the expression and way of life of a people, in which both their spiritual character, like the special conditions of nature that influence it, and those of the artificial objects on which the spirit exercises its organs, and even the dress that is used, are reflected and embedded.

-José Martí

Methodological Basis

This course provides an overview of Cuban literature from its origins to the twentieth century. A set of works, authors and trends representative of the literary development of the island will be analyzed. It aims to provide a general knowledge about Cuban literary culture and the role it plays in the development of our national identity.

The course will allow students to perfect the Spanish language and learn more about the expression and way of life of the Cuban people, through the study of relevant authors and works that reflect the evolution of our historical-social reality.

The classes are taught exclusively in Spanish and in this language all classroom interactions are conducted.

To enroll, the course requires a level of language equivalent to at least B2; preferably C1.

Objectives

1. To become familiar with the process of development of Cuban literature from its origins to the present.
2. To value the importance of Cuban literature in shaping our national identity.
3. Develop a system of communicative skills through critical analysis of literary works; with the purpose of perfecting the Spanish language, to be able to reason in an independent way and express personal opinions.
4. To improve communicative competence through the analysis of literary works belonging to different contexts and times, through the use of the most appropriate linguistic means.
5. Recognize the reading and analysis of literary texts as an act of communication that constitutes one of the most important social practices of language.

6. To present opinions, either orally or in writing, through the most discursive strategy appropriate.
7. Recognize the aesthetic values of the works under study.
8. Research the different issues of the course and utilize them in a creative and efficient way.
9. Identify works and literary trends that represent the different periods of the Cuban literature.
10. To state your own reasoning, logical and dialectical, on each one of the problems that are presented in Cuban literature.

Organizational and Evaluation Guidelines

The course consists of 60 hours of class. Each group must not exceed 15 students and always have a multicultural character. The classes are taught in the classrooms of the Department of Spanish, Faculty of Foreign Languages, located on the campus of the University of Havana. Two hours a week are given to student consultations, at previously agreed hours. Each topic is evaluated verbally and in writing. In addition, a final paper is delivered at the end of the semester.

The evaluation of the students is systematic. In the final grade, out of a total of 5 points, the following aspects are taken into account:

Attendance: Attendance and punctuality will be mandatory. To receive certification in the course, students must have 80% attendance. Each absence or lateness must be duly justified before the teacher, in the case of absences in a period that does not exceed 72 hours of having occurred.

Active participation in class: Intervention and interest in the problems, dialogues and debates that are established in the classroom.

Tasks: During the semester, students orient themselves around activities such as supplementary reading, preparation for seminars and practical classes, exercises, etc. Each of these tasks receives a grade, according to parameters previously explained to the students. The unjustified non-delivery of a task amounts to the category of disapproved in that particular activity.

Seminars: Each one of the seminars has an evaluative character. In order to qualify, the results of the research carried out, the quality of oral expression, listening comprehension of the expositions, and written expression are taken into account.

Practical classes: Each practical class has an evaluative character. In order to qualify, the results of the previous preparation, the quality of the answers, oral expression, listening comprehension of the expositions and written expression, with emphasis on the production of certain types of texts, are taken into consideration.

Preparation and presentation of a final written paper: A final written paper will be delivered at the conclusion of the course, which will consist of an essay on a topic related to Cuban literature. The reflections and conclusions obtained from the investigative work will be presented orally in the classroom.

Observation: Before each evaluation, the students receive guidance on how the activity will be carried out and, after being graded, the difficulties presented are explained individually and collectively.

Themes

Theme I: First manifestations of literature in Cuba

History of Cuban literature. Transculturation process. First literary manifestations of the Colony. Public speaking. Poetic compositions: *Espejo de paciencia*. Theatrical Manifestations.

Theme II: Cuban literature in the process of national identity formation

Stage of literary institutionalization. The work of the three Manueles. Beginning and development of romanticism in Cuba, first and second promotion. José María Heredia, initiator of romanticism in Cuba. Influence and work of Domingo del Monte. Narrative prose, customs literature, the anti-slavery novel. Modernism in Cuba. The figure of Julián del Casal. José Martí, general considerations of his literary work and significance of his figure in the field of Cuban writing. Analysis of representative works.

Theme III: Cuban literature of the first half of the 20th century

The story and the novel: from realism to naturalism. Jesus Castellanos, Carlos Loveira, Alfonso Hernández Catá, Miguel de Carrión. The Retail group: main members, postulates and publications related to their performance. Analysis of representative works. Modern poetry in Cuba. Pure poetry, black poetry and social poetry. Nicolás Guillén, Manuel Navarro Luna, José Zacarías Tallet, Mariano Brull, Emilio Ballagas. The Origins group. Members, poetics of the group, importance of Origins. José Lezama Lima. Analysis of representative works.

Theme IV: Cuban Literature of the Revolution

The revolutionary transformations and their influence in the literary field. The narrative of Alejo Carpentier. The universal and the American in his work: about the marvelous real. Study of representative works. The narrative of Joseph Lezama Lima. Importance and impact of Paradiso for Cuban writing. First and second promotion of conversational poetry, Roberto Fernández Retamar and Raúl Hernández Novás. The narrative of the new man. Senel Paz. The most recent narrative is neoconstitutionalism: the latest in poetry and feminine writing.

General Bibliography

- Henríquez Ureña, Max. Panorama histórico de la Literatura cubana. Tomos I y II. La Habana, Editorial Arte y Literatura, 1978.
- Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística de la Academia de Ciencias de Cuba. Diccionario de la Literatura Cubana. Tomos I y II. La Habana, Editorial Letras Cubanas, 1980.
- Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística de la Academia de Ciencias de Cuba. Perfil histórico de las letras cubanas desde los orígenes hasta 1898. La Habana, Editorial Letras Cubanas, 1983.
- Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística "José Antonio Portuondo Valdor", CITMA. Historia de la Literatura Cubana. Tomos I, II y III. La Habana, Editorial Letras Cubanas, 2005.