



COURSE: SPAN 422: Contemporary Spanish Literature

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this course is to offer students a synthesis of the most important literary developments in Spain throughout the twentieth century. To this end, we will analyze texts by authors representing important moments in Spanish literature, while at the same time connecting the works with their socio-political context.

STRUCTURE

Classes will consist mainly in the study and analysis of previously selected texts. Students will be oriented previously in literary and historical circumstances pertinent to the comprehension of each work. We will work with twentieth century poetry, theater and narrative, viewing the entirety of some works and excerpts of others.

To facilitate the process of handing in assignments and the transfer of supplementary materials, we will use the Google Classroom platform, where due dates, grades and assignments will appear.

Daily individual preparation is essential in this course, and it is indispensable for students to keep up with the readings assigned. Students must read the text corresponding to each class, in order to participate in discussion and analysis. They will receive a list of *key questions* to aid them as they approach the readings and facilitate comprehension of the material.

Students must take **midterm exam** and a **final exam** containing material studied from the midterm to the end of the course.

Students will also complete a **final paper** 8-10 pages in length. For this paper, they must research a work not included in the syllabus; the instructor will provide a list of level-appropriate works and orientation in reading them. After choosing the author and reading the work, each student will elaborate and hand in a research proposal and consult the bibliography with the instructor. Papers must be typed in Word format, 12-point Arial font, double-spaced and following MLA format. Not handing in this assignment on the date specified in this syllabus will result in a 5-10 point reduction in the grade. In cases of plagiarism, the grade will be a 0.

In addition to this essay, students must prepare an **oral presentation** on texts and topics specified in the program. The presentation is individual and may last up to

15 minutes. Students may use Powerpoint and other resources, pending the instructor's approval.

There may be other activities such as the viewing of a movie or a play, if the current offering includes a work coinciding with the topics covered in the course.

MANDATORY READINGS

- Miguel de Unamuno: San Manuel Bueno, mártir. Madrid: Cátedra, 1985.
- Federico García Lorca: Bodas de sangre. Madrid: Cátedra, 1990.
- Ramón J. Sender: Réquiem por un campesino español. Barcelona: Ediciones Destino, 2004.
- Alberto Méndez: Los girasoles ciegos. Barcelona: Anagrama, 2004.
- Selection of poetry and short fiction (printed material)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alborg J. L. Historia de la literatura española. Vols. II-IV. Gredos, 1980
- Arango, Manuel A. Símbolo y simbología en la obra de F. García Lorca. Madrid: Fundamentos, 1995.
- Berlanga Reyes, A. Introducción a la literatura española a través de los textos. III-IV. Istmo.
- De Noran Eugenio, G. La novela española contemporánea. Madrid: Gredos. 1979.
- del Río, Ángel. Historia de la literatura española. Vol. II. Ed. Bruguera, 1985
- Díaz Plaja, G. Modernismo frente a 98. Madrid: Espasa- Calpe. 1979.
- García Posada. Los poetas de la Generación del 27. Madrid: Grupo Anaya, 1992.
- Gracia, J y Ródenas, D. Historia de la literatura española 7. Derrota y restitución de la modernidad 1939-2010. Madrid: Crítica, 2011.
- Noran Eugenio G. De. La novela española contemporánea. Madrid: Gredos, 1979.
- Ruiz Ramón, Francisco. Historia del teatro español. Siglo XX, Madrid: Cátedra, 1984.
- Shaw, Donald. La Generación del 98. Madrid: Cátedra, 1982.
- Urrutia, Jorge. A. Machado y J. R. Jiménez Cuaderno de Estudio 21. Madrid: Cincel, 1980

- Varios. Historia de la literatura española. Vols. IV-VI. Ed. Ariel, 1982.

Webpages: <http://cvc.cervantes.es/>
<http://www.rinconcastellano.com>

EVALUATION

Participation	20%
Mid-term exam	25%
Oral presentation	10%
Final paper	20%
Final exam	25%

The **participation** grade evaluates continual participation in class and will be calculated taking into account that participation implies not only speaking, but contributing to discussions, preparing the material beforehand in order to participate in analysis and discussion.

Unexcused absences imply a 5-point reduction to the participation grade for the month in question.

Unannounced reading quizzes will be administered so students may demonstrate that they have read the assigned texts. Results on these evaluations will affect the participation grade. The participation grade will also suffer if students do not attend the plays that we go to as a group.

A **midterm exam** will be administered on the material covered up to the specified date.

A **final exam** will be administered, including all material covered from the midterm to the end of the course. CC-CS Administration will announce the date of this exam with sufficient notice.

As explained above, each student must complete a **final paper and an oral presentation** (form specified above).

1. TOPICS COVERED

I. Introduction to 20th century literature: Modernism and the Generation of 98.

- a. Antonio Machado's poetry.
- b. Miguel de Unamuno: San Manuel Bueno, mártir.

II. Novecentismo y Juan Ramón Jiménez.

III. The vanguard in Spain.

IV. Poets of 27: Cernuda, Alberti and García Lorca.

V. Lorca's theater: *Bodas de Sangre*.

VI. Postwar literature: alienation and searching.

- a. The postwar novel.
- b. Rooted and unrooted poetry.

VII. Literature in exile: Ramón J. Sender: *Réquiem por un campesino español*.

VIII. The mid-century generation: Ana María Matute and Carmen Martín Gaité.

IX. Literature of the transition and the late twentieth century: Alberto Méndez: *Los girasoles ciegos*.

1. SPECIFIC PLANS

Dates	Topic/ Activity planned
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to 20th century literature• Modernism and the Generation of 98• Antonio Machado's poetry
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literature on existential and religious issues. M. de Unamuno: <i>San Manuel Bueno, mártir</i>
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Juan Ramón Jiménez• Introduction to the vanguard and its influence
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poets of 27: tradition and renewal• Poets: Luis Cernuda, Rafael Alberti and García Lorca
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MIDTERM XAM
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federico García Lorca's theater• <i>Bodas de Sangre</i>• Oral presentations• Orientacion and proposal for research project.•
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Postwar literature: Alienation and searching

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramón J. Sender: <i>Réquiem por un campesino español</i>
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social realism • The mid-century generation: Ana María Matute and Carmen Martín Gaité
Week 9 y 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature of recent decades: general panorama of representative authors • Alberto Méndez: <i>Los girasoles ciegos</i> • Hand in research paper
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for final exam

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to changes by the instructor if the needs of the course so require.