Course title: Women Writers in 20th Century Spain
Course code: LITT 3103 CSCS
Programs offering course: Advanced Liberal Arts, Business and Society, Communications, New Media and Journalism Spanish, Liberal Arts
Language of instruction: Spanish
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

Course Description

This course will study the narrative of a group of Spanish women writers from the 20th and 21st century. We will analyze their literary relevance as well as the important part played by these writers in portraying a cultural reality: the evolution of women’s role in Spanish society.

The course begins by analyzing the situation of women in society and the need to express themselves through literature. We will explore the concept of feminism in relation to women’s social reality in the past and present. We then continue the course focusing on the women from Spain; their presence in Spanish history, society, culture and above all their importance in Spanish literature as writers.

We will begin by reading present day Spanish writers and then continue with their predecessors, those Spanish women writers that inspired them.

To the first group, inscribed in the 21st century, belong: Espido Freire, Almudena Grandes, Ana Maria Moix, Carmen Riera and Ana Rossetti; to the second, in the 20th century: Rosa Chacel, Carmen Laforet, María Teresa León, and Ana María Matute.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Analyze and understand a wide and varied panorama of 20th and 21st century literature written by Spanish women.
- Articulate critical essays about the texts read and discussed the course.
- Categorize certain thematic, stylistic and argumentative aspects in order to examine the historical, social and political situations relevant to the works covered.
- Appraise the role of women in Spain in the last century and in present-day Spain.
- Examine the contrasts or similarities found between the assigned texts and students’ own experience while living in Spain, interacting with Spanish culture and society on a daily basis.

Course Prerequisites

All readings will be in Spanish. The texts are university-level. It is important that students have a high/advanced knowledge of Spanish language. 4 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent). Students need to have a GPA of at least 2.5.

Methods of Instruction

The class will be structured around lectures, class discussion, text analysis and independent projects. The texts will be used to make an introduction to the period of time in which they are written, and the most significant aspects of each work will be studied. The focus will be on the reading material, class discussion and critical analysis of different literary pieces, which is the most important aspect of the course.

The aim of the course is to familiarize the student with women writers and works from 20th and 21st century Spain. We will also focus on providing the student with tools to gain the ability to articulate critical essays about the texts read for the course and changes on the woman’s role in Spanish society.

Out of classroom activities:
Other forms of femininity in Sevilla:

1. Visit to Madre de Dios Convent (1496). Active nuns, contemplative nuns. After the visit we will eat typical pastries made in the convent and speak with the nuns.
2. Visit to San Nicolás Church. Sevilla’s passion for the mother figure. “La Virgen de la Candelaria”.
3. Visit to Rafael Ortiz gallery. Contemporary feminine art.

Linguistic Resource Center

Students are encouraged to use the Linguistic Resource Center for help with class activities as well as for the final essay.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Mid Term Exam 25%
2. Final Exam 25%
3. Four Written Assignments 15%
4. Oral Presentation 10%
5. Participation 25%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Mid Term Exam

Final Exam

There will be two exams consisting of several questions concerning the works covered in class and issues brought up in class debates. There is a writing element that will consist of analysing the ideas, themes and various structures. The midterm and the final have the same structure; written compositions.

Four Written Assignments

Students will submit written assignments according to instructions given on the first day of class. Each written assignment will be in Spanish and will have a minimum extension of three pages, except for the final assignment which will have a minimum extension of five pages. There will be a total of four written assignments during the semester. Each assignment should have a minimum of three hours dedicated to it.

Oral Presentation

Each student will be responsible for a brief presentation in class (10-12 minutes) concerning one of the various authors studied in class.

Participation

Students should participate actively in class. A great amount of importance will be placed on the discussions of readings and topics that the student has read and prepared prior to class, with direction from the professor. Besides their reading material, some of these topics will require the student to bring researched articles and videos for class discussions.

Attendance

Students are not allowed to miss class for unjustified reasons. For each unexcused absence, the participation portion of the grade will be lowered. Hence, it will be very difficult to receive a 100 in the class. Please keep this in mind. If a student misses class twice without a valid excuse (a note from a physician in the event of an illness), then the professor will automatically lower the final grade by 5 points (on a 100-point scale) for each class missed thereafter. Students with 6 or more absences will fail the course.

Students should arrive to class on time. Arriving more than 15 minutes late for a class will count as an unexcused absence. Please note that an excused absence is one that is accompanied by a doctor’s note: signed stamped and dated. Travelling and/or travel delays are not considered valid reasons for missing class.

*Notes from a physician will only be valid and admitted by the Program Manager if the doctor confirms that the visit could not have been arranged at another time, or that the student was too ill to attend class that day.

Academic Honesty
Students are expected to act in accordance with their university and CIEE’s standards of conduct concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Use of online translators for work in Spanish will result in an automatic failure.

*N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.*

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**
- **Class:** Course Introduction.
  - Women Writers and Feminist Literature.
  - Feminism (past and present).
  - First reading: *La Niña Extranjera*. Ana Rossetti.
  - Second reading: *Nuestra Familia*. Espido Freire.

**Week 2**
- **Class:** What is literature?
  - Introduction to literary criticism.
  - First reading: *Amor de Madre*. Almudena Grandes.
  - Second Reading: *El reportaje*. Carmen Riera.

**Week 3**
- **Class:** Literature and Commitment
  - Poetry.
  - Reading: *El mapa de la espera*. Ana Rossetti.
  - Due: first written assignment.

**Week 4**
- **Class:** Projects presentation
  - Analysis and questions on projects and presentations.

**Week 5**
- **Class:** Spanish women in the 2nd Republic (1931-1936).
  - Spanish women in the civil war (1936-1939).
  - First reading: *Sistema pedagógico*. María Teresa León.
  - Second Reading: *Letreros en las vallas*. María Teresa Leon.

**Week 6**
- **Class:** Review of readings and class content.
  - Due: second written assignment.
  - MID TERM EXAM.

**Week 7**
- **Class:** Spanish women in the dictatorship.
  - Reading: *Pecado de Omisión*. Ana María Matute.

**Week 8**
- **Class:** Post-War Realism
Week 9
Class: The 50’s decade
- Spanish “Alienation”.
Reading: *Nada*. Carmen Laforet.

Due: third written assignment.

Week 10
Class: The 60’s decade
- Experimental novel.
First reading: *Las Virtudes Peligrosas*. Ana María Moix.
Second reading: *Fueron Testigos*. Rosa Chacel

Week 11
- Reading: *Correo Urgente*. Ana María Moix.
- Oral presentations in class

Week 12
Class: Review
- Due: first written assignment handed in.
- FINAL EXAMS.

Course Materials

Readings
- Grandes, Almudena. Modelos de mujer. Editorial Tusquets
- Laforet, Carmen. *Nada*. Editorial Destino
- Laforet, Carmen. *Carta a don Juan*. Editorial Menos Cuarto
- Navajo, Ymelda, ed. *Doce relatos de mujeres*
- VV.AA. *Relatos de mujeres (1)*. Editorial Popular
- VV.AA. *Relatos de mujeres (3)*. Editorial Popular

Other Readings

It is recommended that students purchase a good Spanish language dictionary, for example: *Diccionario para la enseñanza de la lengua española para extranjeros*. Manuel Alvar. Editorial Vox.

Online Resources