CIEE Seville, Spain

Course title: Latin American and Spanish Literature of the Margins
Course code: LITT 3105 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 explores the literary manifestations of the margins (geo-political, ethnic, socio-economic, gender, sexual orientation, cultural, literary, etc) in Spanish and Latin American cultures and the construction of identities (national, regional, ethnic, sexual) that have evolved as a result of this phenomenon. To this end, the class will examine these themes in detail, using theoretical essays, literary texts (short stories, poetry and essays) and films pertaining to a wide range of styles and periods.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Discern how the concept of margin, the reflection on it and the criteria that determine it concur in a number of texts embedded into their respective historical and social contexts.
- Differentiate the characteristics of the literary moment, the authors and the identification of the margin in said texts.
- Research independently on texts or literary productions that can be framed within the idea of margin and center.
- Discover through the close reading of both literary and other cultural texts or cultural productions from authors in Spanish, the themes of citizenship and diaspora, nationalism and globalization, multiculturalism and exclusion, gender, sexual orientation, etc.

Course Prerequisites

To get the most out of this course, it is recommended that the student read the texts listed on this syllabus prior to the beginning of the course, although this is not obligatory. 4 semesters of college-level Spanish (or equivalent). Students need to have a GPA of at least 2.5.

Methods of Instruction

The course is both theoretical and practical in nature. The class will begin with an introduction to the concept of marginalization and its relation to literature. After that, the course will analyze different manifestations through specific authors. The session will begin with a brief explanation of the historical-literary context to these authors pertain and will continue with a detailed analysis of the chosen texts. This study will be conducted not only by the professor but also by the student. In this way, the course will be interactive and draw upon the students’ opinions as a means of arriving at determined conclusions. Consequently, the class will be divided into groups and will analyze, along with the professor, the relevant texts.

Out of Class Activities

Throughout the course of the semester, there will be out of class activities such as films, conferences, visits to the cinema and theatre, etc. whenever possible in order for students to get the most out of the course. The professor will inform the students of such events with sufficient notice. Attendance in some cases may be mandatory. Attendance will have an effect on the student’s final grade.

Required Activity

Depending on the availability of the speakers, one of these two workshops will be held:

1. [Insert Workshop 1 Details]
2. [Insert Workshop 2 Details]
Language Resource Center

Students may visit the Writing Center to receive assistance with the composition of the written assignment and final essay.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Exam 20%
2. Final Exam 20%
3. Classwork 15%
4. Final Project 15%
5. Participation 30%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam

Final Exam

Classwork

At the end of each subject students will individually submit a mini opinion piece (500-600 words) about each of the class readings. Sometimes, these can be replaced by a secondary source that the teacher considers appropriate. Font: Times New Roman 12, 1.5 spaced. The instructions will be given at the beginning of the course.

Final Project

It will consist of revised portfolio of classwork (the rules will be explained carefully at the beginning of the course). The objective being a continuous evaluation of the subject. The number of pages will depend on the pages written in the mini opinion articles of the course to which an introduction, a final conclusion and a bibliography will have to be added. 12 Times new roman, 1.5 spaced.

The students will be able to deliver a draft to the teacher. The date will be said at the beginning of the classes.

Participation

Discussion forums about the authors and the readings of the program related to current issues will be created. It is expected that students express their opinion on the topics raised by the teacher including articles, videos and comment on the views of their classmates. To obtain a 100 in this section it is necessary to have participated in all the forums. As an example, some of the forums in previous years have been

- Civilization and barbarism.
- Prisons and human rights in literature and cinema.
- Rubén Darío and "A Rossoevelt": imperialism and its consequences.
- Emigration: a problem without borders.
- Xenophobia: its causes and possible solutions

The evaluation of this course will be ongoing and will place a special interest in the timely completion of written assignments, as well as participation in class discussions. There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Finally, students will submit a final paper. Students will have the option to submit a rough draft to the professor. This paper will be explained the first day of class.

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 honesty. Use of online translators for work in Spanish will result in an automatic failure.

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*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: 1.1 Course Introduction

- Introduction to the concept of marginalization and its relation to literature. Civilization and barbarism.
- Past margins in Literature. ¿La Jácara? ¿Cervantes?

Class: 1.2 Reading: Tzvetan Todorov

Test. Fear of the barbarians (selection)

- Classwork: Quiz - Tzvetan Todorov. Test. Fear of the barbarians
- Classwork: Discussion - La Misión, 1986

**Week 2**

Class: 2.1 José Martí

Reading: Essay. "Nuestra América" (fragments)

Class: 2.2 José Martí

Reading: "El presidio político" en Cuba (selection of chapters)

**Week 3**

Class: 3.1 José Martí continued.

Reading: Essay "Mi Raza"

Class: 3.2 José Martí

Reading: Ismaelillo. Versos libres. Versos sencillos (fragments)-Classwork: Quiz - José Martí. Nuestra América. 1º de enero de 1891 / Mi Raza

**Week 4**

Class: 4.1 Rubén Darío

Reading: Poetry. Songs of life and hope ("A Roosevelt")

Class: 4.2 Rubén Darío

- Reading: Canción de otoño en primavera
- Classwork: Paper- "A Colón". Rubén Darío

**Week 5**

Class: 5.1 Rosalía de Castro

Reading: Poetry. Cantares Gallegos ("Castellanos de Castilla")
Week 6
Class: 6.1 Review

Class: 6.2 Midterm Exam

Week 7
Class: 7.1 Nicolás Guillén
Reading: Poetry. “Motivos del Son” (“Mulata”) and “Sóngoro cosongo” (“La canción del Bongo”)

Class: 7.2 Nicolás Guillén
Reading: West Indies, Ltd
- Classwork: Quiz- Nicolás Guillén, “Sensemayá. Canto para matar a una culebra”

Week 8
Class: 8.1 Federico García Lorca.
Reading: Poetry. Romancero gitano (“Romance de la Guardia Civil española”)

Class: 8.2 Federico García Lorca
- Reading: La Casa de Bernarda Alba
- Classwork: Discussion- “Los gitanos en Lorca. Los gitanos en España”

Week 9
Class: 9.1 Rosa Montero
Reading: Te trataré como a una reina

Class: 9.2 Rosa Montero
- Reading: Te trataré como a una reina
- Classwork: Reading- “Te trataré como a una reina” (Francisca López, Bates College)

Week 10
Class: 10.1 Latinoamerica
Readings: Gloria Anzaldúa. La Frontera. Essay and poetry (“Movimientos de rebeldía culturas que traicionan”, “Compañera cuando amábamos”)

Class: 10.2 Gloria Anzaldúa
- Readings: Esta puente, mi espalda. Voces de mujeres tercermundistas en los Estados Unidos (selection of chapters)

Week 11
Class: 11.1 Latinamerica: Gloria Anzaldúa
Readings: Esta puente, mi espalda. Voces de mujeres tercermundistas en los Estados Unidos (selection of chapters)

Class: 11.2 Classwork: “Interview: Gloria Anzaldúa”. Karin Ikas

Week 12
**Course Materials**

**Readings**

**Primary Sources**


MONTERO, R., *Te trataré como a una reina*, Seix Barral Bárcelona.


**For general consultation (the concept of marginality and relation to literature)**


VILLANUEVA, DARÍO (compilador), Itamar Even-Zohar [et al]. *Avances en teoría de la literatura: (estética de la recepción, pragmática, teoría empírica y teoría de los polisistemas)*. Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Servicio de Publicaciones e Intercambio Científic, 1994


**Specific to each author**

The professor is at the student’s disposition for any questions or consultation concerning the bibliography of each of the syllabus’ authors.