



INSTITUTO UNIVERSITARIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN  
EN ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS  
"BENJAMIN FRANKLIN"

<b>Course</b>	Masterpieces of Spanish Literature through Film
<b>Program</b>	Study Abroad
<b>Credits</b>	4.5 ECTS / 3 USA (semester credits)
<b>Class hours</b>	45
<b>Student work hours outside the classroom</b>	90
<b>Office hours</b>	By appointment
<b>Requirements</b>	High intermediate Spanish level
<b>Language of instruction</b>	Spanish
<b>Type of teaching</b>	In person

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is oriented to North American students who wish to have a general and complete knowledge of Spanish literature from the Middle Ages to Romanticism, with allusions to the present and, more specifically, of the Spanish works that have become part of the History of Universal Literature due to their literary quality. This course is structured from a practical point of view, always focused on literary texts within a historical and socio-cultural context. The structure of the course tries to integrate the different artistic manifestations in the historical evolution, so that the student can identify them in the literary texts of each period.

In short, it is about reinterpreting and integrating the texts of the past with the technology and interpretation of the present, with the aim of bringing the student closer to the most influential works of Spanish literature. The essential stylistic characteristics of each author will be studied, he will be placed within a specific period or movement, fragments of his most important works will be read, and a film of one of his works will be shown. Finally, the texts will be discussed from a literary point of view, using the purely cinematographic aspects as support and reference.

## COMPETENCES

The teaching approach of the course is learner-centered and competency-based. The course will aim to develop the following competencies:

### General Competences (GC):

**GC1:** Achieve a global knowledge of the history of Spanish Literature.

**GC2:** Read and understand literary texts in Spanish.

**GC3:** Comment and argue with clear ideas the texts read, orally or in writing.  
or in writing.

### Specific Competencies (SC):

**SC1:** Achieve a global knowledge of the history of Spanish Literature.

**SC2:** To understand the literary adaptations to the cinematographic plane.

## METHODOLOGY

On the assigned days, theoretical-practical lessons will be given based, mainly, on the information of the class material and the corresponding analysis. The main objective will be to achieve a significant learning of the contents, in such a way that it is very important to take into account the student's previous ideas, in order to use a flexible methodology, and to give an important relevance to the exercise of thinking.

The methodological strategy to be followed in the theoretical-practical classes will be the following:

- As a pre-class work, students should familiarize themselves with the reading material indicated for that day.
- At the beginning of the session we will make a brief theoretical introduction of the concepts that we are going to deal with, trying to relate them to the previous knowledge of each student.
- Then, we will explain in a more detailed way the basic concepts of the material previously read by the students, counting on their participation, and thus turning it into a dynamic and interactive explanation and a thinking exercise.
- Much of the content will be open to comparison with other literature.  
The films will be shown in their original version without subtitles, so a high level of Spanish is recommended for active participation in the class. The themes, authors and films that will be studied in the course will be the following:

Topic	Film
Renaissance Literature. Fernando de Rojas	«La Celestina»
Picaresque novel. Diego Hurtado de Mendoza	«El Lazarillo de Tormes»
Baroque Novel. Miguel de Cervantes	«Don Quijote»
Baroque Theater. Lope de Vega	«El perro del hortelano»
Romanticism. José Zorrilla	«Don Juan Tenorio»

## PREPARATION FOR CLASS

For the best performance of the course, the student should arrive each day prepared to class, having done the readings assigned in the program. Work at home is very important as it will allow the student to anticipate the contents.

In summary, before class each student should:

- Read the assigned topics before class.
- Reflect on questions that may lead to interesting discussions.
- Take notes during explanations and class discussions.

## EVALUATION

The course will be evaluated trying to combine different evaluation systems, so that all students can develop their abilities. The student's continuous work is the key to achieve this. Consequently, the global evaluation will be the sum of the following sections:

### Participation.

It must be active, that is to say, the student must not only ask his doubts, but must also make comments and actively participate in the exercises proposed in class both in group and individually. In addition, the student must read the texts assigned by the professor and do the exercises related to the text. The student is expected to demonstrate maturity and responsibility in the classroom so that gestures, passive attitude such as sleeping in class, and having inappropriate behaviors in the classroom may have a negative impact on the grade of this section.

The total percentage of this section is 20%.

### Assignments and additional work

Additional assignments and homework that are requested in class must be completed in their entirety. These assignments will be based on readings that should be done for a better understanding of the texts studied in class, as well as the film adaptations used as references. It is of utmost importance that each student completes these assignments for the success of this course.

The total percentage of this section is 15%.

**Activities outside of the classroom.** There will be a **MANDATORY** academic activity outside the classroom as a complement to the professor's theoretical exposition, which will be the following:

Visit to the Casa de Cervantes and Corral de Comedias de Alcalá de Henares (schedule to be determined).

The total percentage of this section is 10%.

**Exam:** The syllabus will cover from the first day of class until the day outlined in the syllabus. The total percentage of this section is 20%.

If the professor detects copying or plagiarism in the exam, the student will receive a grade of zero and will not have the option of any type of recovery.

The professor reserves the right to give "surprise exams" when he/she deems it appropriate. These exams will always be at the beginning of the class and will be very brief (five minutes more or less). They will be valued as an additional homework grade.

If the professor detects cheating or plagiarism in the exam, the student will receive a grade of zero and will not have the option of any type of recovery.

The teacher reserves the right to give "surprise exams" whenever he/she deems it appropriate. These exams will always be at the beginning of the class and will be very brief (five minutes more or less). They will be valued as an additional homework grade.

**Essay (final):** will be conducted at the end of the course and the following will be evaluated:

- Recognition of the work.
- Analysis corresponding to the work
- Previous influences
- Correct analysis of the adaptation
- Use of specific language
- Organization
- Editing

The total percentage of this section is 20%.

**Note: If the work is not handed in on the indicated date the student will receive one point less for each day late.**

- **Oral presentation on the final paper.** This presentation will be based on the final paper of the course. The total percentage of this section is 15%.
- **Plagiarism:** Research papers must expose students' own ideas. The work of other writers or experts used to support students' ideas must be properly cited. Inappropriate use of someone else's text or work is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is a violation of academic standards and may result in failure of the paper or even the subject for which the paper was written. In extreme cases it may result in expulsion from the program. Guidelines for writing the paper properly should be provided by the professor.

## GRADE EVALUATION

PARTICIPATION	20 %
HOMEWORK AND ADDITIONAL WORK	15 %
COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES	10 %
PARTIAL EXAM	20 %
FINAL ESSAY	20 %
FINAL PRESENTATION	15 %

## ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is MANDATORY. If the student is absent for more than the allowed limit (one class absence in the summer program and two absences in the fall and spring programs), the final grade will reflect a decrease of 10 points for each non-attendance that has not been excused by a doctor's certificate or by your Program Director. It is the individual responsibility of the student to make up any missed content about the subject taught in class the day the student was absent.

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with special needs should contact Antonio Fernández: [antonio.fernandezm@uah.es](mailto:antonio.fernandezm@uah.es) Instituto Franklin-UAH can accommodate these students who show through a medical note or a note from their academic advisor that require help in order to fulfill the program.

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN CLASS

The use of technology is essential today in education, but if is used inappropriately it can be harmful for students. It is necessary that students ask for permission from the teacher in order to use any technological devices. Faculty should make clear to students in what instances technology can be used.

## CLASS SHCEDULE

	CLASS SHCEDULE	ASSIGNMENTS
	<p>Presentation of the course</p> <p>Reflections on cinema and literature</p>	
	<p>Middle Ages and Renaissance. La Celestina Review of La Celestina, plot, style, characters.</p>	<p>Read about the Middle Ages and the Renaissance in Spain</p> <p>Search information about La Celestina</p> <p>Review of La Celestina, plot, style, characters.</p>
	<p>Film: La Celestina. Discussion</p>	
	<p>Analysis of La Celestina</p> <p>The Spain of the Golden Age: Novel and Theater.</p>	<p><i>Answers to questions about the play and the film.</i></p> <p><i>Reading about the Golden Age in Spanish literature.</i></p>
	<p>Picaresque novel. El Lazarillo de Tormes.</p>	<p>Search for information about El Lazarillo de Tormes.</p> <p>Lazarillo de Tormes. Review of the plot, style, characters in selected readings.</p>

	Film. El Lazarillo de Tormes. Discussion	
	Miguel de Cervantes' Works. The importance of Don Quixote.	Answers to questions about the play and the film.  Don Quixote of La Mancha. Universal influence.
	Biography about Cervantes-video  Don Quixote. Presentation of the work, plot, style, characters in selected readings.  Film: The Knight Don Quixote. Film Discussion	Review of Miguel de Cervantes' biography
	Readings of texts on the theater of Lope de Vega and El Nuevo Arte de Hacer Comedias.	Readings of texts on the theater of Lope de Vega and El Nuevo Arte de Hacer Comedias.
	Introduction to Baroque Theater: Lope de Vega.  The New Art of Comedy. The dog of the market gardener.  The dog of the market gardener. Plot, theme, style, characteristics	Search for information about Baroque theater, Lope de Vega and El perro del hortelano.  El perro del hortelano. Plot, theme, style, characteristics
	Film: El perro del Hortelano. Discussion. Comments and guidance for writing the final essay.	Answers to questions about the play and the film. Beginning of the writing of the final essay. Romanticism in Spanish literature. Don Juan Tenorio by José Zorrilla. Reading of indicated texts.
	Romanticism in Spanish literature. Don Juan Tenorio by José Zorrilla.  Delivery of text about the experience of the visit to the Cervantes House.	Don Juan Tenorio. Plot, theme, style, characteristics.  Final writing of the final essay.
	Film: Don Juan Tenorio. Film Discussion Delivery of the final essay.	Delivery of the final essay.

## Final presentations

The dates of the cultural activities may be subject to change. The Institutions to which the visit is programmed reserve the right to change them according to their scheduling needs or possible administrative eventualities.

## BIBLIOGRAHY

Las épocas de la literatura española (Ariel Letras) 2012  
de Felipe B. Pedraza Jiménez y Milagros Rodríguez Cáceres

Grandes Páginas de la Literatura Española  
Víctor García de la Concha. 2023

Manual de Historia de la Literatura Española  
Lina Rodríguez Cacho. 2005

El Lazarillo de Tormes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2G3Km2Onqc>

La Celestina <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKtfEktjJp8>

D. Quijote <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ1geIOE5T8>

## WE SPEAK ONLY IN SPANISH

In the class we will only speak in Spanish. The use of English in the class would prevent the total immersion of the student in the Spanish learning process. In addition, it is important to emphasize that in order to understand and enjoy the class we ask you to make an additional effort to adapt the terminology with the sole purpose of familiarizing yourself with the characteristic languages of the subject. For a better understanding of the class we recommend a high level of Spanish.

**This syllabus is subject to change**