



Instituto Universitario
de Investigación en
Estudios Norteamericanos
"Benjamin Franklin"

MASTERPIECES OF SPANISH LITERATURE THROUGH FILMS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is aimed at students who wish to have a general and complete knowledge of the Spanish literature from The Middle Ages to the present and, more specifically, of the Spanish masterpieces that, for their literary quality, have passed into the history of Universal Literature. It is structured from a practical point of view, focusing on literary texts within a historical and sociocultural context.

The course is structured so as to include the most important artistic movements in the historical timeline, so that the student can identify them in the literary texts of each period.

The ultimate goal is to teach the student about the most influential works of Spanish literature. For each author we will analyze his essential style characteristics and place within a specific period or movement. We will read fragments of their most important works and watch the film based on one of the works of each author. Finally, we will discuss everything from the literary point of view, without focusing on purely film-related aspects.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is student-centered and competency-based. This means that the students will be told what they will be taught, how they will be taught, what they must learn, what types of activities will be carried out, what resources will be used and how their learning will be assessed. The course will aim to develop the following competences:

Competence 1.	To read and comprehend Spanish literary works.
Competence 2.	To discuss and argue the texts read using complex ideas, orally or in writing.
Competence 3.	Analyze the most relevant stylistic features of the works of the most significant Spanish writers so that the student is able to identify them within the movement, the style and the period in which they were written.

Competence 4.	To be able to express opinions in a critical way.
Competence 5.	To know the main Spanish literary works from The Middle Ages to the present, as well as their characteristics and their most influential authors.
Competence 6.	To present and defend knowledge both orally and in writing.
Competence 7.	To acquire a global and linear knowledge of the history of Spanish literature.

METHODOLOGY

This course will be taught using a theoretical-practical approach. The Professor will mostly rely on information from the textbook, which will be complemented with explanations and additional information provided by the Professor. The ultimate goal is to achieve meaningful learning of the content. Thus, in order to use a flexible methodology it will be very important to rely on students' ideas too. Students' diverse profile is expected, so, when necessary, individual adaptations will also be made.

The following methodological strategies will be used:

- Students must read, before the actual class, the class material indicated for that day, so that they can follow the theoretical explanations without too much difficulty.
- At the beginning of the session the Professor will deliver a brief theoretical introduction of the concepts that will be discussed, trying to relate them to the previous knowledge of each student.
- Next, the basic concepts of the material previously read by the students will be explained in more detail, relying on their participation in order to make the explanation more dynamic and interactive.
- Once this information has been assimilated, the students will have to put it into practice using texts selected and included as mandatory material by the Professor. These texts have been selected by the Professor; however, suggestions from the students are welcome. Changes can also be made based on the specific needs of the group.
- Finally, conclusions will be drawn and a comparison will be made considering other authors and international literature.

We will watch the specific films for each topic on the assigned dates and then we will discuss the characteristics of the period, the author and book on which the film was based.

After the analysis of each topic students will be required to submit a report (see requirements below) discussing the characteristics of the period they have seen in the film.

We will watch the films in the original version without subtitling, so a high level of Spanish is recommended for active participation in the class. The topics, authors and films that will be studied in the course will be the following:

TOPIC	MOVIE
Medieval literature. Fernando de Rojas	«La Celestina»
Literature of the Renaissance	«Lázaro de Tormes»
Baroque Novel. Miguel de Cervantes	«Don Quijote»
Baroque Theater. Lope de Vega	«El perro del hortelano»
Realistic Novel. Leopoldo Alas Clarín	«La Regenta»
Postwar novel. Camilo José Cela	«La Colmena»

PREPARING FOR CLASS

Students must prepare and complete the tasks before each class as indicated in the schedule so that the class runs smoothly.

Homework is very important because it will allow the students to anticipate the class. Students will basically have to read the information in the textbook and do the comprehension exercises. In fact, this method will be used to help students get used to a certain terminology, some authors, characters and most influential names of the periods discussed before actually going to class.

EVALUATION

The evaluation procedures that will be used will attempt to combine different elements in order to make sure that all the students can develop their skills. Ongoing student work will be the main criterion of the evaluation. Consequently, the overall assessment will be based on the following aspects:

Class participation: It must be active; that is to say, the student should not only ask questions but also make comments and express opinions and different and intelligent points of view related to the subject taught.

The questions that will be assessed as class participation are those questions that stir debate or demonstrate an interest and curiosity on the part of the student with the purpose of learning, expounding on the information, criticizing or questioning the subject of study. Questions asked to solve linguistic queries will not be assessed.

The class should be a stimulus for the students considering the Professor's role as a guide and the student's role as a learning subject. In addition, they must read the texts assigned by the Professor and complete the specific exercises on them.

These aspects will cover the development of competences 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6.

This aspect is worth **10%** of the final grade.

Thematic Reports: The purpose of these reports (six in total) is to analyze the most important aspects of the period, author or work studied in each of the sections within the film we chose and watched during the practical sessions. Using the research carried out for these reports the students will watch the film in a critical way, which will allow them to develop competences 4 and 6 of this syllabus.

Each of the reports must be written in Times New Roman 12, single-space, 1 page. The following criteria will be assessed for each report:

- **Characteristics of the work and of the literary period**
- **Examples from the film confirming these characteristics**
- **Examples from the film that deviate from the characteristics studied**
- **Brief personal commentary arguing -in a coherent way- the final impression the student had about the film.**

Each report must be submitted the following school day after watching the corresponding film as indicated in the class schedule. It can be submitted in print or by email to the Professor. Any delay in the submission of the report for reasons that are beyond the Professor's control will reduce the student's score by 50%. 10% will also be subtracted for each day of delay after the deadline.

It is the responsibility of the student to organize the submission of the report on time, taking into account **possible technical problems** (printing or submitting the report), which will not exempt the student from the penalty.

For any attempt of copying or of plagiarism in any of the activities described, the student will fail the course (grade 0) and he/she will not have the right to any kind of remedial exams.

This aspect is worth **30%** of the final grade (**5% each one**).

Complementary activities:

Two activities –a visit to Cervantes' house and to *Corral de Comedias* (popular outdoor theatre set up in the inner patio of a block) in Alcalá de Henares– will complement the theoretical content taught by the Professor.

Before actually carrying out these activities, the class will be divided into small groups who must work together to complete a study guide provided by the Professor the day before the visit. These groups will be required to analyze certain aspects related to the monuments and cultural centers that will be visited in the corresponding cities so that they pay special attention to certain perspectives.

All visits to museums, monuments or different cultural centers will take place –except for occasional exceptions– during non-lecture hours, but also as a class for general assessment purposes in relation to absences. All the skills will be developed.

This aspect is worth **10%** of the final grade.

Exams:

- **First Exam (midterm):** In the middle of the course. It will cover the content taught in class up to that date. The exam will consist of two parts: a practical part in which the student will have to answer questions related to a specific text, and a theoretical part with questions to expound on. For example, to discuss the characteristics of a particular style including examples of authors and their most representative masterpieces. This aspect is worth **25%** of the final grade.
- **Second Exam (final):** At the end of the course and it will not be cumulative. This exam will have the same structure as the midterm exam. All the competences will be assessed. This aspect is worth **25%** of the final grade.

For any attempt of copying or of plagiarism in any of the activities described, the student will fail the course (grade 0) and he/she will not have the right to any kind of remedial exams.

Breakdown of the evaluation criteria:

Attendance and class participation	10%
Thematic reports	30%
Attendance and participation in other activities	10%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is **MANDATORY**. If the student is absent for more than the allowed limit (**one class absence in the June program**) 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.

CLASS SCHEDULE	
IN CLASS ACTIVITIES	ASSIGNMENTS
Overview of the course	
Medieval literature	Read the corresponding chapter in the dossier Chapter I
«La Celestina»	

Literature of the Renaissance	Read the corresponding chapter in the dossier Chapter II Submit the report on «La Celestina»
«Lázaro de Tormes»	
Baroque Novel	Read the corresponding chapter in the dossier Chapter III Submit the report on «Lázaro de Tormes» Visit to Corral de Comedias de Alcalá de Henares and Cervantes' house
«Don Quijote»	Submit the materials on the Activity based on the visit to Corral de Comedias from Alcalá
MIDTERM EXAM And preparing for the visit to Barrio de las Letras	
Baroque Theatre	Read the corresponding chapter in the dossier Chapter IV Submit the materials on the Activity based on the visit to Barrio de las Letras Submit the report on «Don Quijote»
«El perro del Hortelano»	
Realistic novel	Read the corresponding chapter in the dossier Chapter V Submit the report on «El perro del Hortelano»
«La Regenta»	
Postwar novel	Read the corresponding chapter in the dossier Chapter VI Submit the report on «La Regenta»
«La Colmena»	
Revision and general conclusions of the course	Submit the report on «La Colmena»
FINAL EXAM	

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. The final syllabus will be given to students on the first day of class.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

COURSE MATERIALS

The Professor will leave a Dossier with the material for the course at the Photocopy Center (Reprografía, Colegio de Málaga) so that the students can make photocopies at the beginning

of the course. This material is essential for the theoretical and practical part of the course and students must have it. The book will be available starting on Monday, September.

(COURSE TEXTBOOK). Students can voluntarily choose to consult the two books that have been used to set up the dossier (available at the CRAI library.)

Cabrales, J.M. y Hernández, Guillermo. *Literatura Española e Hispanoamericana. De la Edad Media al Neoclasicismo* (Tomo 1). Sgel, Madrid, 2009.

Ibid., *Literatura Española y Latinoamericana, del Romanticismo a la Actualidad* (Tomo 2), Sgel, Madrid, 2009.

ADDITIONAL READINGS (These texts can be found at the CRAI library).

Rico, F. *Historia y crítica de la literatura española*, Barcelona: Crítica, 1980-2000.

Mainer, J.C. *Historia y Crítica de la Literatura Española*, Crítica, Madrid, 1994.

WE WILL ONLY SPEAK IN SPANISH

In class we are going to speak only in Spanish. The use of English in the classroom would prevent the total immersion of the student in the process of learning Spanish. Moreover, it is important to emphasize that in order to understand and enjoy the class we will ask for an additional effort of terminological adaptation with the sole aim of helping the student get used to the specific jargon of the professional field. For a better understanding of the class a medium-high level of Spanish is recommended.