



Instituto Universitario
de Investigación en
Estudios Norteamericanos
"Benjamin Franklin"

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH LITERATURE: THE MASTERPIECES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is aimed at American students who wish to have a general knowledge of the Spanish literature considering the different literary movements since the Middle Ages until the 20th century. It is organized in a practical way, focusing on literary texts within a specific historical and sociocultural context.

The course is structured so as to include the different literary movements, focusing on the most significant periods and their reflection in the literary texts of each period. The objective is that the students have a general overview of the most important authors of each period. Each author will be studied in the context of a specific period or movement. This way, students can learn about the different perceptions that the different social groups represented in Spanish literature had of the world.

The class is complemented with a selection of the most significant literary pieces of the most important authors from each period.

By the end of the course, the student will be able to comment on a text and show the acquired knowledge in a practical way.

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 be able to read and understand Spanish literature.
Competence 2.	To discuss and argue the required texts using complex ideas, orally or in writing.
Competence 3.	To analyze the most relevant writing style features of the main Spanish writers so that the students are able to place the literary works within the specific movement, style and period in which they were written.

Competence 4.	To be able to express opinions in a critical way.
Competence 5.	To know the Spanish literary movements between the 12 th and 20 th centuries as well as their main characteristics and the most important authors.
Competence 6.	To present and defend knowledge both orally and in writing.
Competence 7.	To acquire a global and linear knowledge of contemporary 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 (the chapters from the *Anthology*) 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 lecture introducing the concepts that will be discussed and 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 the 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.

PREPARATION

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 complete the comprehension exercises. This task is fundamental as it will enhance their ability to follow the pace of the class, by helping them to understand what they learned. In fact, this method will be used to help students get used to a specific terminology, some authors and some of their most representative works 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 analyze literary texts in groups or individually through short projects that they must submit by email. In addition, students must complete the exercises assigned for each class. The Professor will provide daily feedback for the student's work. Competences 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 will be developed.

This aspect is worth **15%** of the final grade.

Complementary activity: A creative writing activity, in which the students (in groups of three) must compose a brief text: story, poem, theatre script, etc. This aspect is worth **10%** of the final grade.

Project: All students must participate in a collaborative project that we will develop throughout the course: a play. The content of this project will be presented at the beginning of the course. The whole group will be in charge of its organization and the task distribution. Competences 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be developed. This aspect is worth **15%** of the final grade.

(First) Midterm exam: In the middle of the course. The exam will include short answer and multiple choice questions. All competences will be assessed. This aspect is worth **30%** of the final grade.

(Final) Second exam: There will be a final exam at the end of the course. It will be non-cumulative. It will follow the same structure as the midterm exam, with short answer and multiple choice questions. All competences will be assessed. This aspect is worth **30%** of the final grade.

For any attempt of copying or of plagiarism in the exam or 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.

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
Overview of the course	
<p style="text-align: center;">Early lyrical poetry: the Kharjas The Middle Ages: oral literature: <i>El Cantar de Mio Cid</i></p> <p>Text analysis</p>	Read Anthology: 3, 4 and 6.
<p style="text-align: center;">The Middle Ages: <i>El Cantar de Mio Cid</i> The origins of the play.</p> <p>Text analysis</p>	Anthology: 7-11
<p style="text-align: center;">Play rehearsal. The play and acting.</p> <p>Group project.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">The meeting of two worlds: -The pre-Columbian world: texts -the Spanish Conquest of the Americas: Columbus and Hernán Cortés</p> <p>Text analysis</p>	Anthology: 16-20; 21-23; 30-31
<p style="text-align: center;">The meeting of two worlds: Text analysis Poetry from the Spanish conquest period: poems by Sor Juana Film: <i>Yo, la peor de todas</i></p>	Anthology: 36-43 Read photocopies <i>Sor Juana</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">Renaissance and Transition period: Miguel de Cervantes and <i>Don Quijote</i>. Text analysis</p>	Anthology: 44-47
<p style="text-align: center;">Baroque. Poetry: Góngora and Quevedo. Text analysis</p>	Anthology: 48-53
<p style="text-align: center;">Baroque. The Play. Lope de Vega: The new art of comedy writing Text analysis</p>	Anthology: 54-57
Review theory and texts	
MIDTERM EXAM	
<p style="text-align: center;">Review for the exam Comment on the film Watch one of the following films: <i>Much a Do About Nothing</i> <i>La dama duende</i> <i>El perro del Hortelano</i> <i>La dama boba</i></p>	Anthology
<p style="text-align: center;">Watch one of the following films: <i>Much a Do About Nothing</i> <i>La dama duende</i> <i>El perro del Hortelano</i> <i>La dama boba</i> Work on the class project</p>	

18 th and 19 th centuries: General characteristics. Romanticism: Larra Text analysis	Anthology: 61-65
Romanticism. Bécquer: Rimas Practice poetry	Anthology: 67-73 Photocopies de poesía
Realism and Naturalism	Anthology: 78-85
Authors: Fernán Caballero, Galdós, Emilia Pardo Bazán y Clarín Text analysis	Anthology: 87-93
20 th century: General characteristics. The Students' Residence and The Young Ladies' Residence [<i>La residencia de estudiantes y La residencia de señoritas</i>] Watch Documentary	
Authors from the Spanish generation of 1898: Unamuno, Valle-Inclán, Machado Text analysis	Anthology: 95, 98, 100
Civil War Spanish generation of 1927: Lorca, Salinas, Juan Ramón Jiménez Text analysis	
Early 20 th century theater: The Quintero brothers, Miguel Mihura Text analysis	Photocopies <i>Teatro de los Quintero</i>
Postwar. Poetry of the postwar period: Social Poetry and <i>Novísimos</i> (the "Newest Ones). Text analysis	Photocopies <i>Poesía social y Novísimos</i> Anthology: 101-107
Presentation of group project: recording	
Review theory and texts. Mock-exam	
FINAL EXAM	

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory materials:

INTRODUCCIÓN A LA LITERATURA ESPAÑOLA: ANTOLOGÍA – PROF. SANDRA LAGA (8.60 €)

This Anthology is available at the Photocopy Center (Reprografía, Colegio de Málaga) so that the student can make photocopies. It will be used for the assignments and the exam.

Additional Bibliography:

- Francisco Rico, *Historia y crítica de la literatura española*, Barcelona: Crítica (several volumes).

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 high level of Spanish is recommended.