HU 3294: Hispanic Literature
Fall 2007

Instructor: Prof. Natalia Crespo
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Office Hours: M-W-F from 9:30 to 10:50, and by appointment.
Classes meet: T-TH from 9:35 to 10:50 (Section R01) and from 11:05 to 12:20 (Section R02); both in Fisher 127.

Prerequisite: A minimum score of 441 in the Placement Test or successful completion of HU 2291/2292 (with a grade of C or better).

Required Materials:
- A large Spanish/English dictionary, such as Collins, Cassells, Webster's, or Larousse.
- A binder. For organizational purposes, I suggest that you divide your binder in the following sections: 1) Class activities and notes, 2) Vocabulary, 3) Grammar, 4) Critical Responses and Exams.

Philosophy:
Literature allows us to better understand different cultures in context and to deepen our knowledge and appreciation of human beings. This course is a survey on Hispanic literature, culture, and on its multiple contexts. You are not supposed to become an expert in the Hispanic World after this class, but I do expect you to considerably improve your Spanish, your proficiency on Hispanic literatures, as well as your cultural awareness.

Course Goals:
This course will be taught completely in Spanish. While it is intended to be mostly lecture, you will still be required to discuss texts and concepts in class. After working hard during the semester, at the end of this class students are expected to:
- Have increased their vocabulary and linguistic skills so that they can understand 90 % of the output when immersed in a Hispanic Literature class.
- Be acquainted with some of the most important authors, literary movements and cultural contexts in Hispanic Literature from the Colonial Period to the Twentieth Century.
- Be capable to distinguish main dialectical differences among the most important cultures in the broad Hispanic world.
- Be able to summarize the content and respond critically and originally to a brief literary text written in Spanish. For this purpose, you are expected to become familiar with a handful of basic analytical tools, such as **narrador**, **personajes**, **cronotopo**, **receptor**, **tono o modalidad**, etc.
- Be proficient enough to sustain correctly and intelligently a conversation about general issues in Hispanic literature and culture.
- Be able to write in Spanish a 2-page text about a particular topic in Hispanic Literature and/or culture without major difficulties or obscurities.
Requirements

• Attendance, Punctuality, and Participation: 25%
Being present in class does not mean the same as participating. I understand participation as your intelligent and helpful engagement with and completion of all the activities and assignments during and after class. In order for your enriching comments to be considered as participation they should be made entirely in Spanish, regardless of the possible mistakes you might commit. To derive the utmost benefit from class time, you must actively participate in class. Not doing so may lead to missed opportunities to speak and hear Spanish. Be aware that information from class discussion will appear on the exam.

Punctuality does not only refer to your arrival time to class but also to your capability to complete assignments on time. Hence, it is very important that you comply with the deadlines established in the Programa de clases for each assignment.

We will cover five chapters of the book De paseo during the semester. I plan us to work for two weeks on each chapter. You are expected to come to class with the assigned pages for each day already read and revised. You are also required to keep up with new vocabulary and new structures. Since the course meets two times a week, each student is allowed two absences. After that, each unexcused absence will lower the final grade by one percentage point. Any student who is absent is still held responsible for all assignments and in-class activities for the following class day. Please exchange phone numbers with at least three classmates at the start of the semester so that you will have someone to call to get any information you missed during your absence. If you are more than five minutes late, your lack of punctuality will be counted as a half-cut. After the third absence, your grade will be lowered by 5% for each additional cut or unpunctuality, unless you present an official note. Examples of appropriate written documentation include: doctor’s notes, a letter from the Dean of Students providing explicit documentation for all the days you were absent. An e-mail is not considered an official documentation. Cases of students with extended absences (more than one week of consecutive class periods) that are appropriately documented will be considered individually.

• Critical Responses: 25%
You will have to write five critical responses during the semester. Each respuesta crítica will be about an author recently covered in class. In each case, you have the liberty to write about the same text that we have analyzed in class or about another text by the same author. Since we have several important writers in the book, I do not encourage you at this stage of your studies in Spanish to research by yourself on a new author, but rather to get to know as deeply as you can the ones we will be working with during class time. If you decide to read a new text by a certain writer covered in class, do not hesitate to contact me for bibliographical assistance.

All respuestas criticas must be at least two pages in length, well-organized, thoughtful analysis of the topic assigned and will display an effective use of grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. The final evaluation of each respuesta critica will be based on both content and form. Bear in mind that I consider originality a crucial feature in these written works. All respuestas criticas must be typewritten in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-space and with four margins of 1” each. You are allowed to revise each respuesta critica up to two times. Always hand in your respuesta along with a copy of the correspondent grading criteria. When handing a revised respuesta, you will have to staple the corrected version of your respuesta to the previous one and to the already used page of grading criteria.

Important Note: All students must abide by the Academic Integrity and Honesty Code at MTU. Plagiarism, dishonesty and cheating are extremely serious matters for us. All respuestas criticas, exams, as well as any other homework (unless explicitly specified the contrary by your instructor)
must be the result of your entirely individual effort. These assignments are not intended to be collaborative works, and thus you are not allowed to seek help from any person outside the classroom, nor from any classmates unless indicated by your professor. Your work must to be original.

The effective use of any bibliography and/or the World Wide Web requires, as almost everything in life does, that you are a person with a clear ethical integrity, and I believe you all are. Always bear in mind that is very easy for any person to check whether a text is original or plagiarized from the Web, and I do take the time to check this if I suspect any abnormality in my students’ works. The use of electronic translators is completely prohibited in this class. Please do not place yourself and your professor in a violent situation. For more information on Academic Integrity at MTU contact: Office of Student Affairs, (906) 487-2212, (906) 487-2465.

- Mid-Term Exam: 25 %:
This exam is intended to cover the essays, short-stories, contextual and cultural information read or/analyzed during class activities and homework assignments. It is very important that you pay attention during class and take notes when given information you consider important. Further explanations on the midterm exam will be given later in the semester. The date is indicated in the Programa estimativo de clases below. No make-ups allowed! So please plan ahead.

- Final Exam: 25 %:
This exam is intended to cover ALL the important information seen during class activities and homework assignments. It will be a cumulative exam, just as life is. You will receive further explanation on the final exam later in the semester. The date is indicated in the Programa estimativo de clases below. No make-ups allowed! So please plan ahead.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: Any student who believes s/he has a condition that may prevent full demonstration of his or her abilities should contact the professor personally to discuss learning needs and accommodations.

Grading Scale:
A: 100-93
B: 88-82
C: 76-70
D: 64-60
AB: 92-8
BC: 81-77
CD: 69-65
F: 59-

Internet. Sitios interesantes. Here are some interesting Spanish Websites that you can navigate in your spare time:
Some Hispanic Important Newspapers:
http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/ (Diario El Universal, Mexico)
http://www.jornada.unam.mx/ (Diario La Jornada, Mexico)
http://www.lanacion.com.ar/(Diario La Nacion, Argentina)
Some Webpages about Hispanic Art and Culture:
http://www.epdlp.com/ About art in general.
http://www.colarte.arts.co/colarte/ About art in Colombia.
http://www.ecultura.gob.mx/ About art in Mexico.
http://www.literatura.org/ About Argentine Literature.

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Programa Estimativo de Clases

Semana 1:
- **Martes 4 de septiembre**: Presentacion del curso. Conocernos y conocer el syllabus.
  Tarea: Lectura del Syllabus.
- **Jueves 6 de septiembre**: Presentacion de Roberto Fernandez Retamar.
  Lectura y discusion en clase.
  Tarea: Lectura de “Roberto Fernandez Retamar”, “Caliban”, “Nuestro simbolo” (pp. 719-724)\(^1\).

Semana 2:
- **Martes 11 de septiembre**: Compresion de los textos de Fernandez Retamar.
- **Jueves 13 de septiembre**: Discusion y actividades con los textos de Fernandez Retamar.
  Tarea: Lectura de/sobre Rigoberta Menchu y de “Me llamo Rigoberta Menchu y asi me nacio la conciencia” (pp.727-735).

Semana 3:
- **Martes 18 de septiembre**: Presentacion y compresion de Rigoberta Menchu.
- **Jueves 20 de septiembre**: Discusion y actividades de los textos de Rigoberta.
  Tarea: Lectura de “Instrucciones para subir una escalera”, de Julio Cortazar (handout).
  Entrega de la Respuesta Critica # 1.

Semana 4:
- **Martes 25 de septiembre**: Presentacion y comprension de “Instrucciones para subir una escalera”.
- **Jueves 27 de septiembre**: Discusion y actividades con “Instrucciones para subir una escalera”.
  Tarea: Lectura de “Isabel Allende” y de “Tosca” (pp.673-684).

Semana 5:
- **Martes 2 de octubre**: Presentacion y comprension de “Isabel Allende” y “Tosca”.
- **Jueves 4 de octubre**: Discusion y actividades con “Isabel Allende” y “Tosca”.
  Tarea: Lectura de “Borges y yo” (handout).
  Entrega de la Respuesta Critica # 2.

Semana 6:
- **Martes 9 de octubre**: Presentacion y comprension de “Borges y yo”.
- **Jueves 11 de octubre**: Discusion y actividades con “Borges y yo”.
  Tarea: Estudiar para el Mid-Term.

\(^1\) The pages indicated here correspond to the first edition of the book.
Semana 7:  
Martes 16 de octubre: Repaso para el Mid-Term Exam  
Jueves 18 de octubre: Mid-Term Exam.  
Tarea: Lectura de “Elena Poniatowska” y “La ruptura” (pp. 649-656).

Semana 8:  
Martes 23 de octubre: Presentacion y comprension de Elena Poniatowska.  
Jueves 25 de octubre: Discusion y actividades con “La ruptura”.  
Tarea: Lectura de “Ernesto Cardenal”, “Epigramas”, “Oracion por Marilyn Monroe” (pp. 615-620).

Semana 9:  
Martes 30 de octubre: Presentacion y comprension de los textos de Cardenal.  
Jueves 1 de noviembre: Discusion y actividades con los textos de Cardenal.  
Tarea: Lectura de Rosario Castellanos y de los poemas que figuran en el libro (pp. 606-613).  
Entrega de la Respuesta Critica # 3.

Semana 10:  
Martes 6 de noviembre: Presentacion y comprension de los poemas de Castellanos.  
Jueves 8 de noviembre: Discusion y actividades con los poemas de Castellanos.  
Tarea: Lectura de poemas de Pablo Neruda (handout).

Semana 11:  
Martes 13 de noviembre: Presentacion y comprension de Pablo Neruda.  
Jueves 15 de noviembre: Discusion y actividades con los poemas de Neruda.  
Tarea: Lectura de poemas de Nicanor Parra (pp. 587-593).  
Entrega de la Respuesta Critica # 4.

Desde el viernes 16 hasta el domingo 25 de noviembre: Semana de Accion de Gracias

Semana 12:  
Martes 27 de noviembre: Presentacion y comprension de Nicanor Parra.  
Jueves 29 de noviembre: Discusion y actividades con los poemas de Parra.  
Tarea: Lectura de poemas de Claribel Alegria.  
Entrega de la Respuesta Critica # 5.

Semana 13:  
Martes 4 de diciembre: Presentacion y comprension de Claribel Alegria.  
Jueves 6 de diciembre: Discusion y actividades con poemas de Alegria.

Semana 14:  
Martes 11 de diciembre: Repaso para el Examen Final.  
Jueves 13 de diciembre: Examen Final

Semana 15: Entrega de notas finales y cierre del curso. ¡Felices Fiestas!

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