GENERAL SYLLABUS
HU4272/4292
Advanced Modern Language Seminar: Individual and Society
Spring 2010

Instructors:  Dr. Diane Shoos, French (dshoos@mtu.edu)
Dr. Natalia Crespo, Spanish (nmcrest@mtu.edu)

Time/Room:  Tuesdays & Thursdays from 11:00-12:20
Combined group meetings: Walker 109

*Please refer to individual syllabi for instructor’s office hours, meeting rooms, & additional readings in the target language

Syllabus for all sections:

January 12  Course introduction; Introduction and screening of French film *Wild Child*
January 14  Conclude film screening; discussion
January 19  Individual language meetings
January 21  Individual language meetings
January 26  Individual language meetings
January 28  Individual language meetings
February 2  Discussion of poems from *The Mirrors Ask Questions in Rio’s El espacio de la luz/The Space of Light*

February 4  **Winter Carnival recess**

February 9  Discussion of poems from *The Mirrors Ask Questions in Rio’s El espacio de la luz/The Space of Light*
February 11  Individual language meetings
February 16  Individual language meetings
February 18  Individual language meetings
February 23  Individual language meetings
February 25  Discussion of Conde’s *Crossing the Mangrove*, pp. 1-110

March 2  Individual language meetings
March 4  Discussion of Conde’s *Crossing the Mangrove*, pp. 111-208

March 9 & 11  **Spring recess**
March 16 Introduction and screening of Argentinian film, I Don’t Want to Talk About It
March 18 Conclude film screening
March 23 Discussion of I Don’t Want to Talk About It
March 25 Individual language meetings
March 30 Individual language meetings
April 1 Introduction and screening of French film Vagabond
April 6 Conclude film screening; discussion
April 8 Individual language meetings: Oral presentations of final papers
April 13 Individual language meetings: Oral presentations of final papers
April 15 Individual language meetings: Oral presentations of final papers
April 20 Preparation of group presentations; Class evaluations
April 22 Group presentations

Required texts for all sections:
El Espacio de la Luz/The Space of Light, Nela Río, (Edited and translated by Elizabeth
Gamble Miller, 2004)
Crossing the Mangrove, Maryse Condé, 1989, (Translated by Richard Philcox, 1995)

Required films for all sections:
Wild Child, (L’enfant sauvage, François Truffaut, France, 1970)
I Don’t Want to Talk About It (De eso ne se habla, Maria Luisa Bemberg, Argentina, 1993)
Vagabond (Sans toit ni loi, Agnès Varda, France, 1986)

Goals and Objectives:
This seminar will broadly focus on the relationship between the individual and society in
literature, film, and other selected arts from Francophone and Spanish language communities. In the
seminar we will consider such topics as family, education, gender roles, identity, and alienation. We will
also examine problems and resolutions arising from different historical periods, class formations and
struggles, private as opposed to societal conventions, and freedoms and interests.

The primary goals for this course are:
• To deepen our understanding of culture and society through literature and film selected
  from Francophone and Spanish language communities
• To develop analytical and comparative skills
• To develop an understanding of relationships between literature, film and other selected
  arts.
Participants in the seminar will read texts in their respective modern languages as well as
texts from the other languages in English translation. To further develop language skills and
at the same time facilitate an intercultural perspective, the seminar will include both individual language meetings in the target language and combined sessions (when both groups meet together) in English.

**Student Responsibilities:**

**Attendance and Participation:**

This class has been designed not as a lecture class but rather as a seminar whose primary format is small and large group discussion. For this reason a minimum requirement of the course is that you attend all classes and participate actively during each meeting. Any unexcused absence will seriously affect the course grade.

**Readings and Screenings:**

Because we will be taking an intercultural perspective on the topic of the individual and society in literature and film, you will be completing not only the reading in your target language but also the required readings from the other language in English translation. In addition, all students will view three required films (subtitled in English). Each individual instructor may also assign additional readings or screenings in the target language and/or translated excerpts for small group comparison and discussion.

**Assignments:**

As part of the course you will be completing written assignments in the target language throughout the term. **Your individual instructor will inform you of the specifics and due dates for these assignments.** The final assignment consists of two components: a comparative analysis of a reading or film in the target language and a reading or film from the other language (5-8 pages, written in English); and a short oral presentation in the target language to the individual language group about the main points of the comparative analysis. Your instructor will also specify deadlines and presentation schedule for this final assignment.

**Final Group Presentations:**

During the last class period, groups of 3-5 students will each make a final presentation focused on particular issues, questions, problems and insights raised by the class. All groups will convene Tuesday of the 14th week to finalize their preparations. Each individual student should participate in the presentation. Please note that attendance for the planning session and this final class is mandatory.

**Evaluation:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in all class meetings</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written assignments (target language)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>88-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final comparative paper (English)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>83-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral presentation of paper (target language)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>78-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final group presentation (English)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>70-77</td>
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