HU4271/HU4291
Advanced Modern Language Seminar: Language and Power
Spring 2012

Instructors: Ramon A. Fonkoué (French)
Alejandro Quin (Spanish)

Time/Room: Tuesdays/Thursdays from 3:35-4:50
Small target language groups
French and Spanish groups together
Films
Walker 144 (French)
Walker 143 (Spanish)
Walker 143
TBA

Please refer to individual syllabi for instructor's office hours, meeting rooms, and additional readings and/or films in the target language.

Syllabus for all sections:

January 12: First joint session. Discuss materials distributed the previous class.

February 7: Comparative analysis and discussion: The House of Bernarda Alba and The Last Day of a Condemned Man

February 14: Comparative analysis and discussion: The House of Bernarda Alba and The Last Day of a Condemned Man

February 16: Spanish film screening: Pan's Labyrinth
February 21: Discussion of Spanish film
February 28: Presentations on mid-term projects and writing workshop. Bring a draft of your essay

April 3: Comparative analysis and discussion: The Stranger and No One Writes to the Colonel

April 5: Comparative analysis and discussion: The Stranger and No One Writes to the Colonel.

April 10: French film screening: Entre les Murs
April 12: Discussion of French film

April 17: Presentations on final comparative projects and writing workshop. Bring a draft of your essay.

April 19: Due date for final comparative papers.

Required texts for all sections:
The House of Bernarda Alba by Federico García Lorca [Note: Spanish version only for Spanish target language group]. *Copies will be provided by your professor.
No One Writes to the Colonel by Gabriel García Márquez [Note: Spanish version only for Spanish target language group].
The Last Day of a Condemned Man by Victor Hugo. [Note: French version only for French target language group].
The Stranger by Albert Camus. [Note: French version only for French target language group].
**Course Description**
This course is designed with the purpose of engaging students in a critical study of the representation of politics, economics, and social institutions in literature, film, and authentic documents from French, and Hispanic language communities. Students read texts in French/Spanish and English translations. The class will focus specifically on the uses of language in political and social institutions. In the seminar we will consider such topics as political oppression, social justice, propaganda, resistance, racism, sexism, and the experience and abuse of personal power as revealed in and created through language.

The primary goals for this course are:
- To deepen our understanding of culture and society through literature and film selected from French and Hispanic 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 language as well as texts from the other language in English translation. To further develop language skills and at the same time facilitate an intercultural perspective, the seminar will include small group meetings in the individual modern language in addition to joint sessions in English. Please refer to both general and specific language syllabi when in doubt about joint sessions. **Note:** Students are strongly encouraged to read original texts in their target language.

**Attendance Policy 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 your attendance and participation grade. You cannot pass the class if you miss more than 4 sessions.

Please, **NO food, drink or gum in class.** Out of respect for everyone, **Electronic devices** must be turned off in the classroom.
- **Homework** is assigned on a daily basis to ensure preparedness for classes, and guarantee that those who are prepared for class are not penalized by those who did not do their homework. Homework assignments will be checked or collected, on an unannounced basis, during the class period. Instructors may also assign various activities to check homework completion.

**Readings and Screenings:**
Because we will be taking an intercultural perspective on the topic of language and power in literature and film, you will be completing not only all the readings in your target language but also the required reading in English translation. Each individual instructor may also assign additional shorter readings or other translated excerpts for small group comparison and discussion. In addition, all students will view two required films (subtitled in English). Each individual instructor may require additional film screenings for the small groups at his discretion. These readings and films will be spread throughout the semester. **Note:** It is of the utmost importance that you complete all assigned readings **before class**.
Oral Presentations
Each instructor will assist students in preparing to deliver short presentations to the English groups about "their text." This activity is an opportunity to work with your classmates. The presentation should be focused on critically analyzing or synthesizing what you have learned from a reading or a film. Additionally, each student will deliver a presentation in the target language to their respective modern language group (your instructor will give you specific guidelines for target language presentations).

Writing Assignments:
As part of the course you will be completing short, informal writing assignments or responses in the target language assigned by individual instructors. There will be two formal assignments in the form of two papers. The first paper (5 typewritten pages) must be written in the target language and should be an analysis of a reading or film in the target language. The second paper (8-10 typewritten pages with bibliography) must be written in English and should be a comparative analysis of a reading or film in the target language and a reading or film from the other language group. The individual instructor will specify due dates for the first paper. Due date for the second paper is no later than Thursday, April 19th.

Required films for all sections:
Pan’s Labyrinth (Guillermo del Toro, 2006)
Entre les Murs (Laurent Cantet, 2008)

Evaluation criteria:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Paper in Target Language</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Comparative Paper in English</td>
<td>35%</td>
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**IMPORTANT**
- Academic integrity: Students who cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate information as well as students who help others cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate can receive sanctions ranging from warning to special failing grade to expulsion from the University, depending on the severity of the offense. See the MTU Student Handbook or the Academic Integrity Policy: www.admin.mtu.edu/senate/02/18-02.htm
- If you face circumstances that could impact your performance in this class, please see your instructor ASAP so that he can make appropriate arrangements for you.
- MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act of 1990 (ADA)
- Please follow guidelines for all assignments carefully. You may be asked to revise or rewrite an assignment if not perceived as legible/clear or following the guideline by the instructor.
- The syllabus and course schedule may be revised during the semester to accommodate the needs either of students or the instructor.