Course title: Transatlantic Perspectives in Literature: Modern Narratives in Spain and the Americas
Language of instruction: English
Professor: Marta Puxan.
Professor’s contact and office hours: Wednesday 11am-1pm
Course Contact Hours: 45
Recommended Credit: 3 US credits-5 ECTS credits
Course Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.
Language Requirements: None

Course Description: This course aims to offer a comparative analysis of well-established narrative texts written in English and Spanish but read only in English in the light of three main theoretical approaches in today’s literary criticism. Although the texts come from two different literary traditions, they are studied in their treatment of particular topics and perspectives such as postcolonial studies, metafiction, and the historical myth in literature. These points of view allow building up very suggestive interpretations that expand the novels’ projection throughout their contrast, allowing the works to be seen from a transnational perspective rather than a national one.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this course the students will:
-be able to contrast their own literary tradition in the English language with that of the Hispanic world.
-be capable of choosing and developing a genuine and original comparative analysis in the papers due in the course.
-be provided with an overview of narrative theory, they will acquire technical skills very useful not only to analyze individual works but to overcome the limitations of national literatures.
-develop a close reading method that would allow them to better support their arguments.
-have been introduced to main texts of the Hispanic tradition and will have a general idea of problems and achievements of translation and the possibilities that different languages allow in narrative fiction.

Course Workload: Students will read four novellas and two novels. In addition they will read one theoretical essay for each unit. They will write one paper (5 to 7 pages) on one of the blocks, providing bibliographic references when needed and building their own comparative analysis. They will have a midterm on one of the blocks they have not written their paper about, and a final exam about the last unit.

Methods of Instruction: This course will be conducted in English and all the readings will be also in English if they are originally in this language and in English translation when they are originally in Spanish. Reading in translation will make those students who are beginners in Spanish familiar with Hispanic literatures when they are
not ready to read such long texts in Spanish yet. In this sense, the course is understood as an introduction to Hispanic literatures in discussion with the great names of English literatures.

Students need to read the texts entirely and discuss them in class.

Instead of a reader, the course has a website where all the theoretical essays are posted in PDF format. Students have to get the books, which are available at the Abacus bookstore in the UPF campus.

The bibliography is provided to students as a helping tool, they are not required to read it, but they can use it when needed for writing their essays.

**Method of Assessment**
- Paper: 30%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final exam: 25%
- Class participation: 20%

**Absence Policy:** Attendance to class is mandatory and will be daily monitored by professors. Missing classes will impact on the student’s final grade as it follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Absences</th>
<th>Penalization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>Two absences are permitted and not penalized.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>-1 point out of final grade (on a /10 scale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>-2 points out of final grade (on a /10 scale)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE for the course</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The HESP attendance policy does not distinguish between justified or unjustified absences. The student is responsible to manage his/her absences around the two permitted ones. Emergency situations (hospitalization, family emergency...) will be analyzed on a case by case basis by the Academic Director of the HESP.

**Classroom Norms:**
- Students need to bring the texts for each class.
- Students will have a ten-minute break after one-hour session.
Weekly Schedule

Course introduction (session 1 and 2)
- General aspects of comparative literature
- The theory of narrative and the analysis of literary works
- The critical perspective of transatlantic studies

1. Colonial and postcolonial narratives
- Colonialism and postcolonialism as a literary theory. The examples of Melville and Carpentier. (session 3 and 4)
- Reading and discussion I: Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (sessions 5 and 6)
- Reading and discussion II: Alejo Carpentier, *El reino de este mundo* (in English translation: *The Kingdom of this world*) (sessions 7 and 8)

2. Literature within literature and the limits of fiction
- Metafiction and the limits of fiction. The examples of James and Piglia (session 9 and 10)
- Reading and discussion II: Henry James, *The figure in the carpet* (sessions 11 and 12)
- Reading and discussion III: Ricardo Piglia, *Nombre falso* (English translation: *Assumed name*) (sessions 13 and 14)

Midterm exam: session 15 and handing in of the paper.

3. The mythical territory as a narrative strategy
- The myth in Literature, an introduction. The examples of William Faulkner and Juan Benet (session 16 and 17)
- Reading and discussion II: William Faulkner, *Requiem for a Nun* (sessions 18 and 19)
- Reading and discussion I: Juan Benet, *Volverás a Región* (English translation, *Return to Region*) (session 20 and 21)
- Building the comparison of the two novels.

Final Exam (session 22)

Required readings:

Recommended bibliography:


