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: Monday and 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 four 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, the historical myth in literature, female voices, and metafiction. These points of view allow building up very suggestive interpretations that expand their 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 English language with that of the Hispanic world.
-They will be capable of choosing and developing a genuine and original comparative analysis in the papers due in the course.
-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.
-They will develop a close reading method that would allow them to better support their arguments.
-Students will 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 full novels and will read excerpts of four more novels. In addition, they will read one theoretical essay for each block. They will write two papers (7 pages each) on each of the blocks of full reading, providing bibliographic references when needed and building their own comparative analysis. They will have a final exam on the two blocks read partially.

**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 do not have to read entirely all the texts discussed in class. Each student will be assigned two of the listed topics which texts he/she will read entirely. When we treat these two assigned topics in class, the students in charge of their readings will have to intervene more in the debate. When we discuss the other two not assigned topics, the students will read excerpts of the texts posted in the course website to be able to follow the class and to participate in it. In this way, students will have a deep knowledge about two of the blocks and a more general one of the other two.

- Instead of a reader, the course has a website where all excerpts of the novels for those that have to read partially will be posted in PDF format, including some theoretical texts - to introduce the students to each of the general topics. The theoretical texts from the reader are selected from the course bibliography.

- 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**
Final exam: 25% (comprehensive)
Class participation: 15%
Term papers: 30% each

**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>
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<tr>
<td>Up to two (2) absences</td>
<td>Two absences are permitted and not penalized.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three (3) absences</td>
<td>-1 point out of final grade (on a 10 scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four (4) absences</td>
<td>-2 points out of final grade (on a 10 scale)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five (5) absences or more</td>
<td>The student receives an INCOMPLETE for the course</td>
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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 to class the printed excerpts and the novels due on that day.
- Students will have a ten-minute break after one one-hour session.

**Weekly Schedule**
1. **Course introduction (session 1)**
   - General aspects of comparative literature
   - The theory of narrative and the analysis of literary works
   - The critical perspective of transatlantic studies
2. **Colonial and postcolonial narratives**
   - Colonialism and postcolonialism as a literary theory (session 2)
   - Reading and discussion I: Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (sessions 3 and 4)
   - Reading and discussion II: Alejo Carpentier, *El reino de este mundo* (in English translation: *The Kingdom of this world*) (sessions 5 and 6)
3. **Literature within literature and the limits of fiction**
   - Metafiction and the limits of fiction (session 7)
   - Reading and discussion II: Henry James, *The figure in the carpet* (sessions 8 and 9)
   - Reading and discussion III: Ricardo Piglia, *Nombre falso* (English translation: *Assumed name*) (sessions 10 and 11)
4. **Assignment due**
5. **Modern female perspectives**
   - Female voices in literature and in the modern novel (session 12)
   - Reading and discussion I: Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (sessions 13 and 14)
6. **The mythical territory as a narrative strategy**
   - The myth in Literature, an introduction (session 17)
- Reading and discussion II: William Faulkner, *Requiem for a Nun* (sessions 18 and 19)
- Reading and discussion I: Juan Rulfo, *Pedro Páramo* (English translation) (session 20 and 21)

**Final Exam and 2nd Assignment due (session 22)**

**Required readings:**

**Recommended bibliography:**


