Spanish 420

Fall 2012 The Hispanic Novel 3 hrs. credit

Instructor: Dr. Karen Martin
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Prerequisite: One 200-level Spanish course (completion of 300-level literature suggested)
Course Meetings: MW 1:00-2:15, PAC C-17

Course Description:
This course focuses on contemporary Spanish-American and Latin@ narrative and cultures. We will discuss the ways in which these texts fit into the larger trajectory of Hispanic literature and contemporary socio-cultural debates. We will read male and female authors from Central America, Mexico, South America, and the United States whose works are marked by such phenomena as military dictatorships and the disappeared in South American and the Caribbean; (im)migration and deportation; narcotráfico; human trafficking; addiction; and marginalization rooted in class, gender, and/or racial hegemonies. This course will be taught as a seminar, with a great deal of discussion strengthened by students’ readings and research.

Required Texts:
A bilingual dictionary
Fuentes, Carlos. Aura. (Mexico)
Bencastro, Mario. Odisea del norte. (El Salvador)
Serrano, Marcela. Diez mujeres. (Chile)
Franco, Jorge. Rosario Tijeras. (Colombia)
Sáenz, Benjamin Alire. Carry Me Like Water. (US-Mexico border)

Recommended Text:
El pequeño Larousse or another monolingual dictionary

Attendance Policy, Makeups, and Pace of Course:
Students are expected to arrive on time and attend each class meeting. Late work (including papers and presentations) will not be accepted. In case of illness or an excused absence, students should notify the instructor prior to class, either by e-mail or voice mail, and should ask a friend to turn in their work for them if possible. Makeup tests will not be given.

The instructor will reduce final averages by three points for each absence in excess of four. Missing more than 25% of the course meetings for any reason will result in a
final grade of F.

Policy on Student Cheating Including Plagiarism/Academic Integrity:
The following is taken from your Student Handbook:
“Union University upholds the highest standards of honesty. Students are to refrain from the use of unauthorized aids on examinations and all graded assignments, to refuse to give or receive information on examinations and all graded assignments and to turn in only those assignments which are the result of their own efforts and research. Faculty are to accept the responsibility for discouraging cheating. They are to make every effort to provide physical conditions which will deter cheating. They are to be aware at all times of activity in the testing area. Any student found guilty by the instructor of cheating will be subject to disciplinary action by the instructor. . . “

If the instructor determines that you have cheated on a homework assignment or did not contribute to your group’s work, you will receive a zero on that activity. Plagiarizing (copying work from other students or from sources such as the Internet without crediting those sources) on a paper will result in a failing grade for the course. This includes the use of online translators. Cheating on an exam will also result in a failing grade for the course.

Pace of Course, Reading Schedule, and Key Dates:
We will discuss the novels according to the basic schedule attached to the syllabus. Please use these dates in guiding your reading. Even if we should fall behind in class, it is very important that you keep pace or stay ahead of this schedule in your reading, since we will catch up as the semester progresses. You will find that after each class discussion, as we move more deeply into a work, you will be more comfortable with the text and your pace will accelerate.

Method of Evaluation:
Assessment in this course will be based on meaningful oral participation, quality of preparation for class, and significant written reflection and analysis of the texts.

I. Preparation and participation grades will be given daily based on completion of reading assignments, involvement in that day’s activities, and participation in group activities. Absence from class for any reason results in a zero daily grade. Lack of preparation also results in a daily grade of zero. Your participation will feel much more natural if you come to class with difficult or significant passages identified and ready to discuss. (10% of final grade)

II. Brief reflection papers of 2-3 typed pages each will be due one week after we finish each of the following works: Aura, the Nos tomamos selections, Rosario Tijeras, and Diez mujeres. (25% of final grade).
III. A midterm analytical paper of 4-5 pages will be due after we complete our discussion of *Odisea del norte*. Students are responsible for selecting a topic that allows them to demonstrate connections and synthesis of the works read prior to this point in the semester. (30%)

IV. The final critical paper/project (5-7 pages) will demonstrate connections between *Carry Me Like Water* and at least one other novel from the course. (35%)

A  93-100
B  85-92
C  75-84
D  65-74
F  Below 65

**Approximate Reading Schedule and Key Dates:**

- **8/22-9/10:** Selections from *Nos tomamos la palabra*
- **9/3:** Labor Day
- **9/17:** Reflection paper #1 due
- **9/12-9/19:** *Aura*
- **9/26:** Reflection paper #2 due
- **9/24-10/8:** *Odisea del norte*
- **10/10:** Midterm due by 1:00
- **10/15:** Fall Break
- **10/17-10/31:** *Diez mujeres*
- **11/7:** Reflection paper #3 due
- **11/5-11/14:** *Rosario Tijeras*
- **11/28:** Reflection paper #4 due
- **11/26-12/5:** *Carry Me Like Water*
- **12/10:** Final due by 11:00 a.m.