

Spanish 290:  
From McOndo to the Movies  
Moravian College  
Fall 2007

Dr. Erica Miller Yozell Comenius Hall 402 610-625-7782 emy@moravian.edu I will generally respond to your emails within 24 hs on weekdays and within 48 hs on weekends.	Class times: M, W, F 10:20-11:10 a.m.  Location: PPHAC 103  Office Hours: M 11:15-12:15, W 8-8:50, F 11:15-12:15, and by appt.
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In the last few decades new authors and filmmakers have stepped into the spotlight in Latin America and demanded recognition. They've broken with magical realism, reveled in the over-stimulated mediatic age, weighed in on the effects of globalization, ventured into the chaos of the contemporary city, and considered re-tooling tradition to take on current issues. As we enjoy a selection of short fiction and films, we'll look carefully at the issues raised by these new voices. The course will also incorporate the continued development of written and spoken expression in Spanish, including in-class writing workshops.

The course will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Prerequisite: SPAN 155.

**Texts and Films:**

We will read short stories or excerpts from Alberto Fuguet, Sergio Gómez, Edmundo Paz Soldán, Juan Terranova, Jordy Soler, Cristina Rivera Garza, Beatriz Sarlo, Eduardo Galeano, Luisa Valenzuela, Vicente Verdú, and others. Films will include Alejandro González Iñárritu's *Amores perros*, Fernando Meirelles's *Cidade de Deus*, Fabián Bielinsky's *Nueve Reinas*, and Adrián Caetano's *Bolivia*.

Texts will be available as a course packet or will be placed on reserve.

Some materials will be online.

All films will be placed on the server by media services so that they may be viewed on any on-campus network computer. The online address will be listed on Blackboard.

Make sure you have a good Spanish-English or Spanish-Spanish dictionary.

**Blackboard:**

I have put together a Blackboard site (<http://blackboard.moravian.edu/>) for this course. You need to enroll yourself — so please do this soon! On Blackboard you will find a copy of the syllabus and my contact information. As the semester progresses, I will post details on compositions and projects, any changes to

the syllabus, and additional information. If you miss class for any reason, you should check the syllabus and Blackboard so that you know what material to prepare and what homework to complete for the next class.

### REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

#### Attendance:

- You need to come to class and be on time. 0-3 absences will not be penalized, but may affect class performance. If you will miss class for a religious holiday, please let me know ahead of time so we can make arrangements for missed work.
- **More than three (3) absences, for any reason, will result in a lowering of the final grade by one point** for every additional absence (every absence over three). Exceptions may be granted only in extraordinary circumstances such as prolonged illness or family emergency; these situations may require additional documentation through Learning Services and are not automatically guaranteed. The student would need to make arrangements to complete missed work.
- Arriving **late** (10 min or more) to class **more than three times** will equal one absence.
- Please turn off your cell phone before entering class.

**Participation:** Students are expected to arrive prepared to participate in all class activities by having read and understood the readings and completed all assignments. While there may be short lecture portions of the class, the majority of class time will be dedicated to discussion. Outside of class, as per departmental requirements, students must attend at least three (3) events such as the *mesa española*, Spanish club activities, or another approved event. Participation in these events will count toward the overall class participation grade. I will distribute a calendar of events as soon as it is released.

**Homework:** Work is due at the beginning of the class period, whether or not you are present. Homework will include a wide variety of readings, exercises such as short response pieces, in-class presentations, film analysis, preparing to lead a discussion, question writing, associative activities, and thesis development activities. **LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** If you absent because of a (documented) illness, you may be able to hand in work late.

**Compositions:** Students will write two drafts of one composition (5-6 pages) during the semester and a final 5-6 page paper at the end of the semester (due on the designated final exam date). Papers must be in Times New Roman 12pt, typed, double-spaced, with 1" margins. I will not accept emailed papers unless we have made previous arrangements. **No late papers will be accepted.** Exceptions will be made only in extraordinary circumstances.

**Tests:** There will be two tests during the semester. There will not be a final exam. The format may be in-class or take-home, but in either case they will be essay and short-answer tests. Make-up exams will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances; such arrangements may require additional documentation.

**Journal and presentation:** Students will write a short series of journal-style entries and present their conclusions for the “película de mi vida” topic.

**Evaluation:**

Final grade:			
40%	Tests- 2 essay-based tests during the semester, each worth 20%	20%	Homework, in-class presentations, discussion leader, participation
20%	2 Compositions, 5-6 pages each	10%	<i>Película de mi vida</i> journal and presentation

**Academic Honesty:**

It is your responsibility to make sure you are familiar with the Policy on Academic Honesty at Moravian College. Plagiarism (presenting someone else’s words or ideas as your own) and cheating are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. Homework is assumed to be done individually unless otherwise specified. For example, while you may study together, it is not acceptable to write “joint” homework and turn in two copies.

For detailed information, see the website:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

Note especially:

“When writing creative or research papers in a foreign language, students may not use electronic translation services. Utilizing such tools without express permission of the instructor constitutes plagiarism. The use of electronic dictionaries for single-word inquiries or short idiomatic expressions is permissible at the discretion of professors in the Department of Foreign Languages.” (Moravian College Academic Honesty Policy, my emphasis)

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Any student with a disability who would like to request accommodations under the ADA must meet first with someone to evaluate the case and give recommendations to the professor. For learning disabilities and/or ADD/ADHD, see Mrs. Laurie Roth in the Office of Learning Services; for all other disabilities, see Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center.

