

Department of Foreign Languages
Moravian College
Spanish 248: Latin American Contemporary Culture
"Tales of Love, Madness, and Death in the Short Stories of Latin America"
MWF 10:20am-11:10am Comenius 304
Fall 2008

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Office Hours: MWF 1:45-2:45 and by appointment

Course Description

In 1917 Horacio Quiroga published a collection of short stories entitled *Cuentos de amor, de locura y de muerte*. Quiroga is well known as one of the masters of short stories not only for his tales of man and women working against the forces of nature, but also for his portrayal of unusual psychologies and mental states. Beyond his work as a storyteller, Quiroga was interested in the short story as genre. He composed various treatises on the topic including his famous "Decálogo del perfecto cuentista," in which not without irony Quiroga spells out the basic rules for what he calls a "perfect short-story writer."

Taking as a point of departure Quiroga's legacy, this course focuses on the most prominent writers and theorists of the Latin American short story from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. We will study the classic stories that shaped the Latin American tradition as well as more recent contributions; such works offer a unique window into the cultural history of Latin America. As it will become apparent, some of the voices that we will encounter had shifted their geographical boundaries from Montevideo and Buenos Aires, from the burning plane and the Caribbean, to the streets of Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and New York. In such configuration the United States stands as a necessary point of reference, a literary trope, where people not only speak but also write *en español*.

The course will be conducted entirely in Spanish. Pre-requisite: SPAN 155.

Required Texts

Paz Soldán, Edmundo y Alberto Fuguet. Se habla español. Voces latinas en USA. Miami: Alfaguara, 2000.

Other materials will be posted on Blackboard <http://blackboard.moravian.edu/> or distributed in class. Please set up and account and enroll yourself in this course immediately after our first meeting. In Blackboard look for LATIN AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE (SPAN248.FA08)

Reference Books

Gibaldi, Joseph. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2003.

Diccionario de la lengua española. Real Academia Española. 22nd. ed. Madrid: Espasa Calpe, 2001.

You can find a free online version at: <http://buscon.rae.es/draeI/>. Select: *Búsqueda sin signos diacríticos*. If the word is a verb, you will be able to see all the conjugations.

Other Electronic Dictionaries:

Diccionario español-inglés/inglés-español <http://www.wordreference.com/>

Diccionarios de sinónimos y antónimos <http://tradu.scig.uniovi.es/sinon.cgi>

<http://www.elmundo.es/diccionarios>

Goals

- Foster your interest in the literature and culture of Latin America and provide an awareness of its diversity. Such diversity is also represented by the short stories written by Latino and Chicano writers in the United States.
- Identify areas of interest for future courses and/or undergraduate research (honors, independent studies and SOAR projects)
- Read, understand, and analyze short stories and theoretical essays in Spanish
- Write critically, concisely, and clearly in Spanish
- Work on the development of a thesis statement and supportive evidence
- Familiarize yourself with the most important databases in the field of Spanish literature: Modern Language Association International Bibliography (MLA), HAPI (Hispanic Periodical Index), and HLAS (Handbook of Latin American Studies).
- Familiarize yourself with the *MLA Handbook* and the *MLA Style Manual*.
- Communicate with sophistication and ease in spoken Spanish about the class topics through formal presentations and class discussion

*If you are student requiring learning assistance, I will be happy to accommodate you. I recommend you contact Mr. Joe Kempfer in the Office of Learning Services (Ext. 1510) or Dr. Ronald Kline in the Counseling Center. Also, feel free to talk to me directly.

Requirements and Evaluation

1. Attendance. You need to come to class and be on time. 0-2 absences will not be penalized, but may affect class performance. More than two absences will result in a lowering of the final grade by one point for every additional absence. Please turn off your cell phone before entering the class.

2. Exams. There will one final exam. The format may be in-class or take-home. Please note that make-up exams will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

3. Oral presentation. Each of you will have the opportunity to lead a portion of one class. Details will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

4. Papers. Students will write two short papers (3 pages) and final paper (5-6 pages). We will focus not only in the mechanics of writing but also, on the development of a thesis statement and supportive evidence. All papers should follow the MLA guidelines and must include a list of works cited. I will not accept papers via e-mail unless we have made previous arrangements. No late papers will be accepted.

5. Homework. Homework will include a variety of readings and exercises such as short response journals, question writing, and thesis development activities. I will collect homework usually before or on the day of an exam. Although you won't receive a specific grade for your homework (only *pass* or *fail*) your participation grade will be affected if you fail to submit it or if the work is insufficient. In other words, you don't receive extra credit for doing homework, but failure to do it will impact your grade adversely.

6. Participation. Students are expected to arrive prepared to actively participate in all class activities by having read and understood the readings and completed all assignments. Please note that outside of class, the Department of Foreign Languages requires that starting with Spanish 150 you attend at least three events organized by the Spanish Club. Participation in these events will count toward the overall class participation grade. The complete guidelines for participation are posted on Blackboard.

Academic Honesty

It is your responsibility to make sure you are familiar with the Policy on Academic Honesty. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. For more information please see, <http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

Final Course Evaluation

Final exam (cumulative)	25%
Participation	10%
Short papers (2)	30%
Final paper	20%
Oral presentation	15%

Letter grades

A	94-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-93	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59

Spanish 248
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PROGRAMA DEL CURSO
(This program subject to change)
Last revised August 5, 2008

Semana 1

- Agosto 25 Presentación del curso
Edward H. Friedman, “The Short Story: Art and Analysis”; “El cuento:
vocabulario y conceptos básicos”
- Agosto 27 Edgar Allan Poe, “Hawthorne y la teoría del efecto en el cuento”; “Sobre la trama,
el desenlace y el efecto”
- Agosto 29 Horacio Quiroga, “El manual del perfecto cuentista”

Semana 2

- Sept. 1 **No hay clase** (Labor Day)
- Sept. 3 Horacio Quiroga, “La gallina degollada”; “El hijo”
- Sept. 5 Horacio Quiroga, “El solitario”; “El almohadón de plumas”

Semana 3

- Sept. 8 Jorge Luis Borges, “El cuento y yo”; “El Zahir” (opcional)
“El escritor argentino y la tradición” (fragmento)
- Sept. 10 Jorge Luis Borges, “Las ruinas circulares”
- Sept. 12 Jorge Luis Borges, “El milagro secreto”

Semana 4

- Sept. 15 Jorge Luis Borges, “El otro”
- Sept. 17 María Luisa Bombal, “El árbol”
- Sept. 19 Taller de escritura: ¿Qué es una tesis?

Semana 5

- Sept. 22 Entrega del primer trabajo escrito
Workshop at Reeves: Citing sources according to the MLA style
Databases for Latin American Studies
- Sept. 24 Alejo Carpentier, “Lo barroco y lo real maravilloso”,
prólogo de El reino de este mundo

Sept. 26 Alejo Carpentier, “Viaje a la semilla”

Semana 6

Sept. 29 Alejo Carpentier, “Viaje a la semilla” (cont.)

Octubre 1 Juan Rulfo, “Nos han dado la tierra”; “Es que somos muy pobres”

Octubre 3 Juan Rulfo, “Talpa”; “No oyes ladrar los perros”

Semana 7

Octubre 6 **No hay clase** (Receso de otoño)

Octubre 8 Adolfo Bioy Casares, “En memoria de Paulina”

Octubre 10 Adolfo Bioy Casares, “En memoria de Paulina”

Semana 8

Octubre 13 Silvina Ocampo, “La casa de azúcar”

Octubre 15 Silvina Ocampo, “El vestido de terciopelo”
Entrega del segundo trabajo escrito

Octubre 16 (*Jueves*) **Movies at Monocacy: Nueve Reinas**, Dir. Fabián Bielinsky
7:00pm at Prosser Auditorium

Octubre 17 Julio Cortázar, “Algunos aspectos del cuento”

Semana 9

Octubre 20 Julio Cortázar, “Casa tomada”; “Axolotl”

Octubre 22 Julio Cortázar, “Carta a una señorita en París”

Octubre 24 Gabriel García Márquez, “Fantasía y creación artística en América Latina y el Caribe”

Semana 10

Octubre 27 Gabriel García Márquez, “El ahogado más hermoso del mundo” or
“La prodigiosa tarde de Baltazar”

Octubre 29 Cristina Peri Rossi, “La grieta”, “Sordo como una tapia”

Octubre 31 Cristina Peri Rossi, “Punto final”; “Historia de amor”

Semana 11

Nov. 3 Alberto Fuguet, “I am not a Magic Realist”

<http://www.salon.com/june97/magical970611.html>

Alberto Fuguet y Sergio Gómez, “Presentación del País McOndo”

<http://www.lai.at/wissenschaft/lehrgang/semester/ss2005/fs/files/mcondo.pdf>

Nov. 5 Se habla español: Prólogo: El monstruo come (y baila salsa)

Nov. 7 Se habla español: Edmundo Paz Soldán, “Faulkner”; Mario Beltrán, “Flores”

Semana 12

Nov. 10 Se habla español: Sergio Galarza, “Todas las mujeres son galgos”

Entrega del tercer trabajo escrito

Nov. 12 Se habla español: Santiago Vaquera-Vázquez, “Esperando en el Lost and Found”

Nov. 14 Se habla español: Rosina Conde, “El silvido”

Semana 13

Nov. 17 Se habla español: Alberto Fuguet, “Más estrellas que en el cielo”

Nov. 19 Se habla español: Ricardo Armijo, “Chichicastenango Supermarket”

Nov. 21 Se habla español: Junot Díaz, “Instrucciones para citas con trigueñas, negras, blancas o mulatas”; “How to date a Brown Girl, Black Girl, White Girl, or Halfy”

Semana 14

Nov. 24 Se habla español: Jorge Volpi, “Teoría de juegos”

Nov. 26-28 **No hay clases** (Día de Acción de Gracias)

Semana 15

Dic. 1 Se habla español: Silvana Paternostro, “Northern Ladies”

Dic. 3 Se habla español: Ernesto Quiñónez, “El niño blanco”

Dic. 5 Se habla español: Jorge Franco, “Micos en el polo”; Homero Carvalho, “Náufrago”

Semana 16

Dic. 8 Se habla español: Ilan Stavans, “Xerox Man”

Dic. 9 Presentación de los ensayos finales

Final exam TBA