

**Department of Foreign Languages  
Moravian College  
Spanish 155: Reading and Culture  
MW 2:35 – 3:45pm, COM 304  
Fall 2009**

**Professor: Nilsa Lasso-von Lang**

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**Office hours: MW 1:30pm-2:30pm and by appointment.**

### **Course Description**

Spanish 155 offers an exciting portrait of Spain and Latin America through the study of essays, short stories, films, music and paintings that deal with topics of identity, memory and imagination. In this course students not only refine their language skills, but also acquire a better understanding of the culture, history and literature of the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Goals**

- Promote your interest in the literature and culture of Spain and Latin America
- Identify areas of interest for future courses and/or undergraduate research (honors, independent studies and SOAR projects)
- Read, understand, and analyze short stories and critical 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
- Communicate with sophistication and ease in spoken Spanish about the class topics

### **Required Text**

Mejía, Claudia M. and Conchita L. Davis. *Miradas: Contextos para conversar y escribir*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson-Prentice Hall, 2008.

Other materials will be posted on Blackboard <http://blackboard.moravian.edu/>. Please set up an account and enroll yourself in this course after our first meeting. Look for SPAN155.FALL09: Reading and Culture

### **Reference Books**

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

*Diccionario de la lengua española*. Real Academia Española. 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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>

\* If you are a student requiring learning assistance, I will be happy to accommodate you. I recommend you contact the Office of Learning Services or Dr. Ronald Kline from Student Counseling at Ext. 1510. Also, feel free to talk to me directly.

## Course 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. Papers

Students will write two short papers (2-3 pages) and one final research paper based on a primary source (a short story, a film, a poem). The final paper must follow the MLA citation style and format. The final paper must be at least five pages long and should include a list of works cited. Short papers are due at the beginning of class and **may not be sent via e-mail**. Be aware that content and grammar will be considered when grading these assignments (Your instructor will provide the rubrics)

### 3. Exams

There will be two exams during the semester.

### 4. Oral presentation

Each student will have the opportunity to prepare a lesson for the rest of the class on one of the following topics: (Pick one and let your instructor know- see “programa del curso” for scheduled lessons/topics). Each student has 20 minutes to present the topic. Each student must turn in an outline of his/her presentation and a list of sources used to prepare the lesson presented.

1. Identidad y culturas en el mundo hispano
2. Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca y *los tlacuilos*
3. Hernán Cortés y la conquista de México
4. José Martí, héroe de la independencia cubana
5. La Revolución cubana y el estado actual de Cuba
6. Cultura, política y feminismo en el mundo hispano
7. La herencia africana en el Perú
8. La dictadura militar argentina y las madres de la Plaza de Mayo

9. La Revolución Sandinista en Nicaragua
10. La inmigración y las culturas en España contemporánea

### **5. Homework**

Homework will include a variety of readings and exercises such as short response journals, debate preparation, and thesis development activities. You **must prepare** the following activities and sections from your textbook before coming to class: *lectura and dramas asignados, una ojeada al vocabulario, Antes de leer or/ Antes de la función, resumen o comprensión, notas culturales y lingüísticas y temas para discutir*. (You must keep all these materials and evidence of preparation in a separate folder). I will collect this folder at the end of the semester. Total points: 50pts. (5% of final grade). According to the quality of your homework you will receive *full credit, half credit or no credit*.

### **6. Class participation**

Students are expected to come to class having prepared all materials assigned. In class, students **must participate actively** speaking in group activities and class discussions. At this level, ALL students are required to assist at least three times during the semester to an event organized by the Spanish Club such as the Spanish Table, featured films, talks, museum visits, **Publication of BABEL**. (*Babel* is the literary journal of the Department of Foreign Languages at Moravian. It invites submission of original poems, articles, and short stories in Spanish. Contact: Dr. Mesa [cmesa@moravian.edu](mailto:cmesa@moravian.edu)), and other cultural activities. These activities are part of your participation grade.

#### **Active Participation in class will be graded as follows:**

**A=95 Excellent participation** (the student answers questions and offers interesting comments without the need of the professor or the debate leader calling on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student prepared, completed and understood the assignment.

**B= 85 Good participation** (the student answers questions and offers interesting comments whenever the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. Sometimes, the student participates without being asked. The comments and answers show that the student has prepared and understood the assignment.

**C=75 Fair participation** (the student answers questions and offers comments only when the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student has prepared or attempted to complete the assignment, but doesn't seem to understand it.

**D=65 Poor participation** (the student answers questions and offers very brief comments only when the professor or debate leader calls on him/her. The comments and answers show lack of interest and/or a poor preparation.

**F=55 Lack of participation** (the student does not answer questions and does not offer any comments in the class or group discussion. The lack of comments and answers

as well as incorrect answers, show that the student has not completed the assignment or, if he/she has done it, it has been in a careless or incomplete way).

**IMPORTANT:** As a general rule for this class, no late assignments will be accepted and make-up exams will be given in extremely unusual circumstances.

### **Academic Honesty**

It is your responsibility to make sure you are familiar with the Policy on Academic Honesty at Moravian College. Plagiarism, cheating and disrespectful behavior are serious offenses and will not be tolerated. (See your student handbook)

### **Final Course Grade**

Short essays (2)	20%	Oral presentation	10%
Final research paper (1)	20%	Participation	15%
Exams (2)	30%	Homework	5%

### **Letter Grades**

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

Español 155  
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## PROGRAMA DEL CURSO

- Agosto 31 Introducción y presentación del curso.  
Augusto Monterroso, “La rana que quería ser auténtica”
- Septiembre 2 Frida Kahlo, Las dos Fridas (2-4)  
Gloria Fuentes, “Geografía humana” (6-12)
- Septiembre 7 Día del trabajador (no hay clases)**
- Septiembre 9 Comunidades autónomas e identidad nacional en España
- Sept. 14 Manuel Castells, “El poder de la identidad” (13-20)  
**Tema 1: Identidad y culturas en el mundo hispano**
- Sept. 16 Elena Poniatowska, “La casita de sololoi” (21-34)
- Sept. 21 María Luisa Bemberg, Película: De eso no se habla (35-38)
- Sept. 23 De eso no se habla continuación y discusión  
Entregar ensayo #1 (Resumen de “El poder de la identidad”)
- Sept. 28 Miquel Rodrigo Alsina, “¿Cuál es la diferencia entre pluriculturalidad e interculturalidad?” (51-54)
- Sept. 30 **Tema 2: Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca y los tlacuilos**  
**Tema 3: Hernán Cortés y la conquista de México**
- Oct. 5 Tino Villanueva, “Cuento del cronista” (54-63)
- Oct. 7 **Tema 4: José Martí, héroe de la independencia cubana**  
**Tema 5: La Revolución cubana y el estado actual de Cuba**
- 10 de Octubre – 13 de Octubre: Vacaciones de otoño**
- Oct. 14 José Martí, Fragmento de “Nuestra América” (64-71)
- Oct. 19 **Tema 6: Cultura, política y feminismo en el mundo hispano**  
Rosario Aguilar, “La niña blanca y los pájaros sin pies” (72-80)
- Oct. 21 Taller de redacción: La narración (90-94).  
Oct. 26 Reseña (141-144). Prácticas en clase

- Oct. 28      **Examen 1** (unidades 1-2)
- Nov. 2      Brigada Ramona Parra, Mural del Estadio Víctor Jara (96-97)  
Ariel Dorfman, “El otro 11 de septiembre”
- Nov. 4      **Tema 7: La herencia africana en el Perú**  
Susana Baca, “Caracunde” (80-84).  
Eduardo Galeano, “La memoria porfiada” (98-99)
- Nov. 9      **Tema 8: La dictadura militar argentina y las madres de la Plaza de Mayo**  
Fernando Birri, “No, desaparecidos” (100-105)  
Entregar ensayo #2: Ensayo analítico
- Nov. 11      Gastón Biraben, Cautiva (película)
- Nov. 16      Cautiva continuación y discusión
- Nov. 18      Gioconda Belli, “De las implicaciones del poder y de cómo el amor me hizo perder la cabeza” (Managua, 1979) (105-117)  
**Tema 9: La Revolución Sandinista en Nicaragua**
- Nov. 23      **Tema 10: La inmigración y las culturas en España contemporánea**  
Nieves García Benito, “Naranjas rojas y amargas” (157-167)
- 25 -29 de noviembre: vacaciones de Acción de Gracias**
- Nov. 30      Ver película fuera de clase: Pedro Almodóvar, Todo sobre mi madre (179-182)  
Venir a clase preparados para discutir la película. Taller de redacción: el ensayo de opinión (186-189). Escribir un ensayo de opinión sobre esta película.
- Dic. 2      **Examen 2 (unidades 3-4)**
- Dic. 7      Comedia en clase: Fernando Pérez, La vida es silbar (229-232)
- Dic. 9      Gabriel García Márquez “Fantasía y creación artística en América Latina y el Caribe (200-208)  
Práctica y repaso, Taller de redacción: el cuento (238-240)

**EXAMEN FINAL: Wednesday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am. Your final research paper is due at the start of the exam period for Spanish 155. Please DO NOT e-mail your final paper.**

**NOTE:**

- a. Movies and supplementary materials will be available on Blackboard
- b. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus. You will be notified within a reasonable period of time.

