

Spanish 393
La agencia cultural
ciudadanía e identidad en el Cono Sur contemporáneo
Moravian College
Spring 2010

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 details: M, W: 1:10-2:20 Location: Comenius 411 Office Hours: M, W, F 11:15-12:15 and by appointment.
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This seminar examines questions of agency, citizenship and identity, as well as the subtle categories of inclusion and exclusion that shape different groups' and individuals' experiences in society. Through a careful study of literary and filmic representations and multi-disciplinary secondary sources, we will focus on particular examples in the South American Southern Cone of the ways in which individuals and groups negotiate their place in society. Students will have the opportunity to do individual research. Pre-requisites: Span 230 and another 200-level Spanish course (or the equivalents abroad), or permission by the instructor.

These are some of the questions that will guide our study:

- ¿Qué es la agencia? ¿Qué es la agencia cultural? ¿Cómo se define y se ejerce en determinadas circunstancias?
- ¿Qué significa la ciudadanía? ¿Cómo se emplean diferentes conceptos de ciudadanía para criticar o legitimar el Estado, o para definir la identidad individual?
- ¿Cuáles han sido algunas reacciones y respuestas sociales y culturales a la reciente crisis económica en Argentina? ¿Cómo podemos analizar dichas reacciones?
- En el cine argentino, ¿cómo se representan los efectos de la más reciente dictadura en la generación “posmemoria” y sus negociaciones de identidad?
- Los mapuches en Argentina y Chile, ¿cómo se representan a sí mismos, su literatura, su lengua, y su cultura dentro del imaginario contemporáneo? ¿Cómo relacionan sus comunidades con el Estado y las comunidades que no son indígenas? ¿Cómo se representa a los mapuches?

Texts and Films:

The texts and films will be available primarily on Blackboard.

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, course calendar, my contact information, and the readings and films. As the semester progresses, I will post homework assignments, details on compositions and presentations, any changes to the syllabus, and additional information. If you miss class for any reason, you should check Blackboard so that you know what material to prepare and what homework to complete for the next class.

EXPECTATIONS AND EVALUATION:

Participation and homework: As a workshop-based, seminar-style class, the success of this course depends on the collective efforts of all of us. Students are expected to arrive prepared to participate in all class activities by having studied the topics to be covered and completed all assigned homework or **informal writing** assignments.

***Informal writing** will be graded in the following way: the completion of all assignments will guarantee a “B”. If there is writing missing, the student will receive a grade in the C-F range. Qualitatively superior work will be rewarded with an “A”.

***Active participation** involves collaborating in paired and group activities, volunteering answers, working on in-class writing, having read and understood any assigned texts, and contributing thoughtfully to class discussions. Simply being present, looking attentive and taking notes is **not** considered active participation. Participation should be in Spanish unless otherwise specified.

*As per departmental rules, students **must attend at least three (3) relevant events outside of class**. Check the Spanish Club calendar for possibilities, come to the Spanish Table, or ask me about other opportunities.

* Absences: 0-2 will not be penalized. Every absence over two will lower the final grade by one point.

Short essays (*ensayos cortos*): Students will write six short essays on specific topics or concepts. The focus for these activities is to develop ideas and arguments, as well as the writing skills necessary to communicate them. Please, no hand-written papers – all papers should be typed and double-spaced. I will not accept emailed papers unless we have made previous arrangements. **Late papers will lose 10 points per day, starting at the time of class.** Exceptions will be made only in extraordinary circumstances.

Final composition and presentation: In consultation with the professor, students will choose a topic of interest to them that relates to the class material and complete a research paper (10-12 pages) on this topic. Students will also present their research and conclusions to the class. More details will be available on Blackboard.

Evaluation:

Final grade:			
10%	Participation	7%	Final presentation
10%	Informal writing	25%	Final composition
48%	Short essays (8%-each)		

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)

Resources:

- **Office Hours:** I encourage you to stop by during office hours or make an appointment with me. I am happy to work with you on any difficulties you are encountering or questions you may have. We can speak in English or in Spanish.
- **Writing Center:** The writing center tutors help students work on thesis development, argumentation, organization, coherency, clarity, transitions, and other elements of good writing. Depending on availability, there may be a bilingual tutor who can work with you on those elements of your paper in Spanish! Please note that they are not grammar tutors (see a departmental tutor for grammar). If you are interested, ask me or Dr. Hinnefeld about tutors who can also work in Spanish.
- **Reeves Library:** In addition to the research materials, the library has a good collection of dictionaries and other language reference material. If you are serious about expanding your vocabulary, the monolingual (Spanish to Spanish) dictionaries are excellent resources. Reeves has a copy of the Diccionario de la Lengua Española put out by the Real Academia Española, as well as the fabulous Diccionario de Uso de María Moliner. The latter has great examples of general and regional uses of different words. The class will attend a short session focused on databases and performing searches on material relevant to this class.
- **Online Resources.** The *Diccionario de la lengua española* from the Real Academia Española is an excellent resource that is now available online 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.
- **Grammar Tutors:** The Department of Foreign Languages prepares a list of tutors at the beginning of each semester, including ones for advanced students. The department pays the peer tutors, so it's free for you. They're a great resource!
- **Office of Learning Services:** The folks at Learning Services help students with strategies to succeed in the academic environment, and they can help you establish habits that will be useful after college, too. In addition, if you would like to request accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you should schedule an appointment with the Office of Learning Services.
- **Counseling Center:** The counselors help students deal with the stressors of college life. If you are feeling overwhelmed, give them a call or stop by!