

Spanish 394
Literatura caribeña: espacio y narrativa

Moravian College
Fall 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: PPHAC 338 Office Hours: M, W, F 11:15-12:15 and by appointment.
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This course will examine the ways in which space and narrative are intertwined in the Caribbean imaginaries. Whether we consider the space of an island itself or particular spaces within and without--a city, a house, a room, a park, an airplane, for instance--their filmic and literary representations can help us better understand the complexities of national, social and individual identities, ideals, fears, and perceptions.

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 informal writing: 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 read and understood the assigned readings and by having completed the written homework. Some texts are more difficult than others; you may need to read them more than once. I am happy to work with you during office hours if you find you are having difficulties or would like to further discuss the readings.

***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”, provided all assignments have been completed.

***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.

Essays: Students will write three essays: one short (1-2 pg), one medium-length (5-6 pg), and one long (10-12 pg). Students will be encouraged to complete multiple drafts of the essays. There are Writing Center tutors available this semester to work with students writing in Spanish.

*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.

*The first two essays will be on specific topics or concepts. The focus for these activities is to learn how to develop ideas and refine arguments, as well as to strengthen the writing skills necessary to communicate them.

*For the final composition, students will choose a primary text of interest to them that relates to the course material and that we have not read (at least in its entirety), complete some research of secondary sources, and develop and support their own analysis. More details will be posted on Blackboard. The topic and text should be chosen in consultation with the professor.

Presentations: Students will give three formal presentations to the class; each will have a slightly different structure, skill focus, and topic. To support the development of presentation skills in Spanish, we will have a guest teacher one day who will lead a class on public speaking. If students need additional help with pronunciation or grammar in Spanish, the professor will help them find an appropriate tutor.

*The first two presentations will develop the skills needed to successfully complete the final presentation and will enable students to receive feedback along the way. These first presentations will be on assigned topics.

*The final presentation will complement the final essay topic, as students present their research and conclusions to the class. More details will be posted on Blackboard.

Evaluation:

	Final grade:		
10%	Participation	10%	Informal writing

10%	Presentation I	5%	Short essay (1-2 pg)
10%	Presentation II	15%	Medium-length essay (5-6 pg)
15%	Presentation III (Final Presentation)	25%	Final essay (10-12 pg)

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.

- The purpose of graded written work is to evaluate what you can do and to give you feedback so that you can improve. For that reason, handing in an essay with context lifted from other sources (print, internet, others' papers, etc.) without attribution misses the point of the assignment. It's a lie to say that something represents your work if, in fact, it does not.
- 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.
- Note that "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)

For detailed information, see the website:

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

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. This year we have bilingual tutors who can work with you on those elements of your paper in Spanish! And, as always, the college pays the tutors, so you receive the help for free. Sign-ups will happen at the Foreign Languages department, although meetings will take place at the Writing Center. Please note that they are not grammar tutors (see a departmental tutor for grammar). We'll post more information soon.
- **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 guided research library session later in the semester.

- **Online Resources.** The *Diccionario de la lengua española* from the Real Academia Española is now available online at <http://buscon.rae.es/draeI/>. If you want to enter words without accents, 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. It's worth it.