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MORAVIAN COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
Spanish 348: Central American Literature:
Rebirth through Contemporary Voices
Fall 2012

Professor: Nilsa Lasso-von Lang

Phone: (610) 861-1393

Office hours: W 2:30-3:30 pm and F 10:15-11:15 am or by appointment

Class time: 11:45am – 12:55pm

Email: nilsa@moravian.edu

Office: Comenius 408

Classroom: PPHAC 338

No specific textbook is required.

Instructor has gathered all necessary reading materials (short stories, poems, fragments of plays and novels, articles, etc.) from various anthologies on Contemporary Central American Authors and from the most recent research and publications of CIHAC (Centro de Investigaciones históricas y literarias de Centroamérica).

Other materials for discussion (outlines, questionnaires, guidelines) will be provided by the instructor in class. Please to go blackboard and enroll yourself in this course after our first meeting. **Note:** articles, announcements, specific instructions for assignments, outlines, handouts, useful links, videos, summaries, and progress reports will be on blackboard <http://blackboard.moravian.edu/>

Course Description:

This course focuses on literary works written by contemporary Central American writers. Special emphasis will be given to the relationship between literature and social change, stressing particularly on the works of women writers. Students will read short stories, poetry, plays, essays, testimonial literature, and fragments of selected novels. As they study these literary works, students will learn about history, politics, human rights, social activism, and gender roles in the Central American region.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Articulate an understanding of Central American history, politics, human rights, social activism, and gender roles, as seen through the lens of fictional and non-fictional characters.
- Understand the social and political impact of Central American writers in the struggle for social change.
- Read, understand, and analyze literary work and critical essays in Spanish
- Write critically, concisely, and clearly in Spanish
- Communicate with sophistication and ease in spoken Spanish about the class topics
- Demonstrate an understanding of the different literary terminology employed in the analysis of different types of narratives.

Course requirements and evaluation

1. Attendance

- Every student will be allowed to miss up to **two (2) classes** without losing points off their final grade (*however, remember that your weekly class participation grade will suffer beginning with the first absence, regardless of the reason for it*).
- Every absence beyond **two** will result in a **deduction of 1 point off the final grade**. It is the responsibility of the student to reserve his/her 2 absences for those circumstances when missing class is unavoidable (i.e. illnesses, field trips, participation in sporting events, etc.) and to inform the professor as soon as possible about the reason for the absence.
- In case of extended absences the student should talk to Student Services or the Academic Dean who will contact the professor. **Only if the Dean justifies the absences, they will be excused (and points will not be taken off)**.
- Remember:** Requests to excuse absences at the end of the semester will not be considered. Students have the responsibility of keeping track of their own absences. **No reminders will be given**.
- Four (4) late arrivals** to class (10 minutes or more) will be the equivalent of one absence and students will lose 1 point off their final grade. Please, be respectful to other students and the professor, late arrivals are disrupting.
- No late assignments will be accepted without official written documentation.
- Arriving to class late or leaving early will be considered as tardiness or absence. Students who arrive 30 minutes late to an exam will not be given the opportunity to take the exam.
- Don't forget** to turn off your cellular phone before coming to class. Only in case of an emergency, the professor will allow students to use them. **You will be asked to place all cell phones in a basket when entering the classroom. If you insist**

in using your cellular (talking, texting, etc.) you will be asked to leave the classroom.

- **Note: Please make sure you read and understand the “Attendance Policy” and academic regulations. I will put into effect such regulations in my class.**

2. Papers

Students will write **two essays** (5-8 pages) and **one final research paper** (10-12 pages) based on a primary source (a short story, a novel, a poem, etc.). **At least one** of these essays must be a comparative analysis of literary works by two or more authors. All essays and the final paper must follow the MLA citation style and format (Use the latest edition of the *MLA Handbook*). The final paper must be at least ten to twelve pages long and should include a list of works cited. You must inform your instructor what topic you selected for your final paper at least two weeks before the last day of classes.

Papers are due at the beginning of class and **may not be sent via e-mail (see course calendar for due dates)**. Be aware that content, grammar, mechanics, and completion of task will be considered when grading these assignments (Your instructor will post topics and questions for essays and rubrics on Blackboard).

4. Oral presentation (15 minutes – including discussion)

Each student **MUST** select a topic related to Central American literature, research it and present it in class. (A list of suggested topics can be found on the last page of this syllabus. Guidelines will be provided by instructor at least a week before presentations – see Blackboard). **NOTE:** Select a topic and let your instructor know at least a week before your presentation.

NOTE: Each student must turn in an outline of his/her presentation and a list of sources used. The topics of your presentation and your final research paper MUST be different.

5. Homework

Homework will include a variety of readings and exercises such as short response journals, debate preparation, and thesis development activities (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. Quality and completeness of task will be graded. Your homework will be graded as follows *full credit, half credit or no credit* (guidelines will be provided by your instructor)

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), and other cultural activities. These activities are part of your participation grade. Students can earn up to 5pts. which will be added to the total participation grade.

Active Participation in class will be graded as follows:

A=95 or higher *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).

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

Final Course Grade:							
Essays	30%						
Participation/Discussions	25%						
Oral Presentation	15%						
Homework	10%						
Final Research Paper	20%						
Letter Grades							
A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
Note: A weekly student progress report will be available on Blackboard.							

Academic integrity: academic dishonesty, that is, **cheating** on tests and exams, and **plagiarism** (using another person's words and passing them off as your own) is a serious offense and will be handled according to the Moravian policy on Academic Honesty (please, see the *Student Handbook*). It is your responsibility to avoid dishonest behavior!

Disability Statement:

“Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.”

Classroom Civility:

Each Moravian student is encouraged to help create an environment during class that promotes learning, dignity, and **mutual respect** for everyone. Just a reminder that normal courtesies are practiced in the classroom!

Course Calendar

Agosto:

27 Introducción a la clase

29 Definiciones: Historiografía/historia? Historia y Ficción, Autobiografía/Testimonio?
Memoria/autobiografía?

Historia, nación/pueblo e individuo en el testimonio centroamericano. Artículo de Werner Mackenbach

Septiembre:

3 **Labor Day**

5 Artículos: “Aspectos historiográficos-literarios de la Historia de la Literatura
Centroamericana” Leonardo Montalbán

“El Sintagma Olvidado: Historia y género en el canon literario centroamericano” Lety Elvir Lazo

“Literatura, sociedad y discursividad crítica en el marco de la reflexión historiográfica centroamericana” Artículo de Mijail Mondol López

- 10 Artículos: “Cambios históricos y conflictos éticos: una reflexión sobre el cambio social y el conflicto entre valores al analizar la situación actual de las mujeres” Urania A. Ungo

“Narradoras centroamericanas contemporáneas: la utopía en la escritura” de Consuelo Meza Márquez

- 12 Selección de obras (Selecciones: poemas, cuentos, fragmentos de novelas): Claribel Alegría, Tatiana Lobo, Gloria Guardia, Rosario Aguilar, entre otras

Entregar Ensayo 1

- 17 (Selecciones) Continuación...

- 19 (Selecciones) Continuación...

- 24 Violencia política y memoria o discurso personal
Figura femenina en el texto revolucionario y de (Pos) guerra.
(Rosario Aguilar, Norma García Mainieri (pen-name: Isabel Garma), Gioconda Belli, Jacinta Escudos, Ana María Rodas, entre otras)

Artículos de Aida Toledo y Ricardo David Avilés Salmerón

“La nueva novela histórica en Nicaragua y Centroamérica” de Werner Mackenbach

- 26 (Selecciones) Continuación...

Octubre:

- 1 (Selecciones) Continuación...

- 3 Presentaciones Orales

Fall Recess: October 6-9

- 10 Presentaciones Orales

- 15 (Selecciones) Continuación...

- 17 (Selecciones) Continuación...

Entregar Ensayo 2 (Estudio comparativo)

- 22 “Memoria y Olvido en la novela actual centroamericana, un estudio desde la novela *Con Pasión Absoluta* de Carol Zardetto de la Vega.” Artículo de Isabel Jara Quesada (artículos críticos y selecciones en fragmentos)

- 24 Continuación...
- 29 Artículo: “Historia y ficción en las memorias y autobiografías nicaragüenses” de Nicasio Urbina
- 31 Mujeres Ensayistas y autobiógrafas (Selecciones). Artículo de Ana Lorena Carrillo

Noviembre:

- 5 Historia y ficción en las memorias y autobiografías. (Selecciones): *El país bajo mi piel: Memorias de amor y guerra* de Gioconda Belli (Nicaragua).
- 7 Continuación...
- 12 “Escritoras Afro-descendientes centroamericanas: entre el olvido y la autoafirmación” de Magda Zavala. (Selecciones)
- 14 Nuevos espacios discursivos (Selecciones)
Artículo de Alexandra Ortiz Wallner
- 19 Continuación...

Thanksgiving Recess: Nov. 20-25

- 26 El espacio ¿un dolor compartido en la poesía centroamericana? Artículo de Marie Seguin (Selecciones)
- 28 “Evolución de la poesía panameña” Artículo de Lasso-von Lang (Selecciones)

Diciembre:

- 3 Voces de mujeres campesinas e indígenas. Artículo de Yolanda Marco Serra
- 5 Conclusiones

Final research paper will be due the day of the final exam: Thursday, Dec. 13 at 8:30am

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus. You will be notified within a reasonable period of time.

Sugerencias: Lista de temas para presentaciones orales (todos los temas deben estar relacionados con el tema del curso.

Historia y literatura:

Crónica, discurso y relato historiográfico centroamericano.
Estudio comparativo (de dos o más escritoras centroamericanas)
Historia, cultura e identidad en la obra de escritoras centroamericanas
Identidad y modernidad: discurso del mestizaje
Historia y ficción en memoria y autobiografía
Memoria histórica en las obra de escritoras centroamericanas
Reflexión historiográfica centroamericana

Historia, literatura, sexo-género y política, violencia:

Sexo-género en la literatura centroamericana contemporánea (selección de autora/obras)
Figura femenina en el texto de (Pos) guerra
Lit. femenina centroamericana: Nuevos espacios discursivos y cambios sociales (incluir ejemplos de obras/autoras)
El espacio: un dolor compartido en la poesía femenina centroamericana (incluir ejemplos)
La evolución de una tradición escritural femenina centroamericana
El renacer de la literatura femenina centroamericana (ejemplos de esos cambios- autoras/selecciones)
Ideario social y práctica literaria en la historia intelectual del XX/XXI
Literatura testimonial: Realidad o ficcionalización de la historia
La literatura histórica: una contribución al debate teórico
Lit. femenina entre mulas, rieles y revoluciones/ violencia política