

FORL 115
MASTERPIECES OF SPANISH LITERATURE
IN TRANSLATION

Spring 2013

Professor: Dr. Carmen Ferrero.

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Office hours: Wednesdays 10:10-11:40 am, Fridays 10:10 am- 12:00 pm. and by appointment.

Paper books required:

1. **Don Juan Tenorio** by José Zorrilla.
2. **Blood Wedding** by Federico García Lorca
3. **In the Burning Darkness** by Antonio Buero Vallejo
4. **Soldiers of Salamis** by Javier Cercas
5. **The Sleeping Voice** by Dulce Chacón

Purpose of the course:

The purpose of this course is to give students who do not necessarily know any Spanish, some understanding of the Spanish people and their culture as expressed in some of their enduring classics. The themes and protagonists of these works, while often universal in scope are also distinctively Spanish. The professor will provide introductions and ample guidance for the comprehension and appreciation of these masterpieces. Emphasis will be placed on recurring themes and characteristics peculiar to Spanish literature.

All the readings, presentations, skits, written work and class discussions will be in English.

Class attendance:

Faithful attendance is expected. Every student will be allowed to miss up to **two classes** without losing points of 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 taken off your participation grade**. It is the responsibility of the student to reserve his/her 3 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 Students 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.

Two late arrivals to class (10 minutes or more) will be the equivalent of one absence. Please, be respectful to other students and the professor, late arrivals are disrupting.

Cell phones and all other communication devices will be turned off during the entire class period. If you need your device for emergency purposes, inform the professor before class begins. If your phone/device “rings” during class, you will be warned. The second occurrence during that same class period will result in the student being removed from class that day.

PLEASE, no checking or sending mail during class.

Class participation: Students are expected to come to class having prepared ALL materials assigned beforehand. In class, students **must participate actively** speaking in group activities and class discussions. Missing class lowers the 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 calling on him/her. The comments and answers show that the student is well prepared, completed and understood the assignment).

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

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

D=65 Poor participation (the student answers questions and offers very brief comments only when the professor calls on him/her. The comments and answers show lack of interest, improvisation 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 or incorrect answers shows that the student has not completed the assignment or prepared for the class. If he/she has done it, it has been in a careless or incomplete way).

No attendance, no participation at all: When a student is not in class, he/she gets a 0 for that day regardless of the reason for that absence.

Other graded work:

1. Individual preparation of questions: Every day, three students selected in alphabetical order ahead of time, will bring to class 2 questions each about the reading assigned for that day. The questions will serve as a guide for an

insightful class discussion; therefore students should avoid asking simple questions about the plot and the characters.

2. Power Point Presentations. In groups of three, students will prepare a 15 minute, power point presentation about each author to do in class. They will give an introduction to the historical period, literary movements of the time and information about the author and his or her work before we read it.

3. Skits: In groups, students will also prepare skits (dramatizations) of some sections of the plays Don Juan Tenorio by Zorrilla, Blood Wedding by Lorca and In the Burning Darkness by Antonio Buero-Vallejo in order to do them in class. Get ready to be an actor/actress for a day!

4. Exams: There will be a midterm exam in class, a written comparative essay in class, and a final take home exam. The topics for the final take-home exam will be given by the professor during the semester.

Final grade:

Preparation and active class participation -- 20% (You must prove that you have read the assigned material)

Questions to aid class discussion ----- 10%

Skits (dramatizations) ----- 5%

Power Point Presentation ----- 10%

Midterm exam ----- 15%

One in-class comparative essay ----- 15%

Final take-home exam (a list of topics will be given to students) -----25%

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.

For detailed information, see the website:

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

Resources:

Office Hours: I encourage students to stop by during office hours or make an appointment with me. I am

happy to work with students on any difficulties they encounter or questions they may have. Students are also welcome to stop by and chat about their future career plans.

Writing Center: The writing center tutors help students work on thesis development, argumentation, organization, coherency, clarity, transitions, and other elements of good writing.

Reeves Library: The library has a great collection of dictionaries and reference material.

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!

COURSE CALENDAR

January

W 16 Introduction to the course.

F 18 **Bring to class** a summary of the main periods of the literature of Spain. You may use Internet and books available in the library about Spanish literature.

DON JUAN TENORIO (Play)

W 23 **Power Point** about José Zorrilla and the 19th Century Romantic period.

Students: _____

Before coming to class: Read first part: Acts 1 and 2.

TOPIC: How the myth of Don Juan appears in other literatures and forms of art. Why.

Questions for discussion: _____

F 25 **Before coming to class:** Read first part: Acts 3 and 4. TOPIC : Literary characteristics of the romantic hero in the 19th Century. Concept of his honor. Questions for discussion: _____.

W 30 **Before coming to class:** Read second part: Acts 1, 2 and 4. TOPIC : Religion and Don Juan, repentance, good and evil.

Questions for discussion: _____.

February

F 1 Feed-back from students about the play (debate).

Skits:

Power Point about García Lorca and the 20th Century poetry in his generation.

BLOOD WEDDING

- W 6 Before coming to class:** Read first 2 acts of this play. TOPIC: What is a Greek Tragedy and how does it develop. Questions for discussion:
_____.
- F 8 Before coming to class:** Read the last act of the play. TOPIC: What is tragic hero, how do we recognize it. Questions for discussion:
_____.
- W 13** Feed-back from students about the play and film by Antonio Gades (debate). Skits:
- F 15 In class comparative written essay.**
- W 20 Power Point** about Antonio Buero Vallejo and his generation.
Students: _____
Before coming to class: Read first 2 acts of this play. TOPIC: Concept of reality and imaginary worlds. Questions for discussion:
_____.
- F 22 Before coming to class:** Read last act of this play. TOPIC: Is this a tragedy? Is physical blindness a metaphor? Questions for discussion:
_____.
- W 27** Feed-back from students about the play and the film “Julia’s Eyes”(debate). Skits:

March

SORDIERS OF SALAMIS

- F 1 Power Point** about Javier Cercas and the Spanish Civil War.
Before coming to class: Read pages _____ of the novel.
TOPIC: The two enemy groups in the Spanish Civil War. Questions for discussion: _____.

Spring Break

- W 13 Before coming to class:** Read pages _____ of the novel.
TOPIC: The concept of the “hero”. What makes a war hero. Questions for discussion: _____.
- F 15 Before coming to class:** Read pages _____ of the novel.
TOPIC: Make your own summary of the novel (main topics, ideas, point of view of the narrator etc). We will compare the novel to the film.

W 20 Mid-Term Exam

F 29 No class

April

W 3 Power Point Presentation on Dulce Chacón, Spanish Women writers in the post-war years. Documentary on the War.

THE SLEEPING VOICE

F 5 Before coming to class: Read pages 3- 44 of the novel.

TOPIC: War prisoners and fear. Concept of defeat. Questions for discussion: _____.

W 10 Before coming to class: Read pages 45-93 of the novel.

TOPIC: How do women deal with war and imprisonment. Questions for discussion: _____.

F 12 Before coming to class: Read pages 95- 150 of the novel.

TOPIC: War as depicted in the novel and the film. Questions for discussion: _____.

W 17 Before coming to class: Read pages 151- 201 of the novel.

TOPIC: Women in battle. Questions for discussion: _____.

F 19 Before coming to class: Read pages 201-260 of the novel.

TOPIC: Make your own summary of the novel to discuss in class. Debate about the novel and film.

The last week of class, we will work on your final essay. Bring your laptop to class. We will work in how to propose a thesis and develop it, supported by the appropriate documentation.

