

UTA: Spring 2009

MODL 5304

Currents in European & Latin American Literature & Thought.

Professor Aimée Israel-Pelletier

Class: Monday 5:00-7:50 Trimble 212

Office: Hammond 328. E-Mail: aip@uta.edu

Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:30 & by appointment

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112--The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Academic Dishonesty

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

Course Description

This course is an examination of the mainstream genres and movements in European and Latin American literatures from 1600 to the present. It is taught in English. Required for MA students in Modern Languages. It may not be repeated for credit. This semester the course is coordinated by Professor Aimée Israel-Pelletier with guest lecturers, Professors Amy Austin, Christopher Conway, Lonny Harrison, Ignacio Ruiz Pérez, Lana Rings, Antoinette Sol, and Kim Van Noort.

Learning Goals & Outcomes

Goals: The objectives of this course are for students to develop an understanding of European and Latin American history, literature, and culture in order to place their own

specialization in French or Spanish studies within the larger context. Students are encouraged to view aesthetic and philosophical movements as helpful tools that are open to investigation and reformulation. Because the course is taught by various professors each introducing his or her specialty, students will be introduced to a variety of approaches to literature and culture as well as to different currents of thought.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students should improve their knowledge of European and Latin American history, literature, and thought. They will develop and improve their understanding for the uniqueness of the people, regions, and cultures of Europe and Latin America from 1600 to the present.
- 2) Students will identify, understand, and reflect on issues regarding the Western canon.
- 3) Students will be able to present information, concept, and content efficiently and accurately, in written form (through the Response Papers and examinations).
- 4) Students will develop and increase their ability to think logically and critically. Students should improve their critical thinking skills as well as their knowledge of the broader Western canon, issues pertinent to the international and intercultural issues.
- 5) Students will gain and/or improve awareness and understanding of their own culture and its relation to the past.

Course Requirements

- Attendance is required. More than three unexcused absences will result in loss of 15 points on your overall average grade. Tardiness to class of 10 minutes or more will be considered an absence.
- Assignments must be returned on the due date.
- E-mail responses should not be expected before 48 hours from the date I receive them.
- No E-Mails will be addressed during the weekend, unless told otherwise.

Uses of the Internet

The use of open sources on the internet, including Wikipedia, is encouraged but only as a first step in your research. The internet is changing, changeable, and cannot be taken at face value as a legitimate source of information. Most all the information gathered through its sources need to be put to the test and measured against others more established sources. When in doubt, make sure to ask me. Open source information on the internet should never be your principle source of information.

Texts to Purchase (*All other readings will be in photocopy*)

- Abram Tertz, *The Trial Begins & On Socialist Realism*
- Juan Rulfo, *Pedro Páramo*
- Jean-Paul Sartre, *No Exit*
- Voltaire, *Candide*
- Emile Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*

GRADE

- Midterm

30%

- Final Exam 20%
- Response Papers (10 papers)* 30%
- Participation & Attendance 20%

Response Papers are responses to the lectures given. They are due, without exception, on the Fridays before the following meeting-class. Send them to me by E-Mail (aip@uta.edu) with Subject Title: Response to (title of the lecture). You can also send me a hard copy, to be received Friday before 12:00. The response (both hard-copy and electronic entry) must include your name, date, title of paper. The response should be a well-written summary of the lecture (70% of the grade) and should include any comments or questions you may have (30%). The length will vary from 2-4 pages in length or about 4000,00 words.

January, 26 Introduction. Why this course? Why we study literature & culture?
Professor Aimée Israel-Pelletier

Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, January 30

February

2 Canon formation. The case for French literature.

Professor Aimée Israel-Pelletier

Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, Feb. 6.

9 Canon formation. The case for literature in Spanish.

Professors Amy Austin & Sonja Watson

Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, Feb. 13

16 The Renaissance: Humanism and the Reform Movement

Professor Aimée Israel-Pelletier

Assignment: Research on German Baroque. To be handed out. Discussion on Monday Feb. 23.

Readings: Montaigne & Erasmus (Photocopies)

23 The Baroque. The case for Spain and Germany

Professors Amy Austin & Lana Rings

Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, Feb. 27

March

2 The Enlightenment

Professor Antoinette Sol

Readings: Voltaire, *Candide*.

Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, March 13

9 Midterm examination

16 Spring Break

23 Romanticism

Professor Christopher Conway

Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, March 27.

- 30 Realism & Naturalism
Professor Aimée Israel-Pelletier
 Readings: Zola, *The Ladies' Paradise*

April

- 6 Social Realism and Marxism. Bertold Brecht
Professors Lonny Harrison & Lana Rings
 Readings: Abram Tertz, *The Trial Begins & On Socialist Realism*
Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, April 10.

- 13 Existentialism
Professor Kimberly van Noort
 Readings: Sartre, *No Exit*
Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, April, 17.

- 20 Towards the “New Novel” in Latin America
Professor Ignacio Ruiz Pérez
 Reading: Juan Rulfo, *Pedro Páramo*
Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, April 24.

- 27 The Negritud Movement in the Americas: Spanish and French Caribbean
Professor Sonja Watson
Assignment: Submit Response Paper by Friday, May 1.

May

- 4 Summing up & Final exam review
- 11 Final Exam