Introduction to Hispanic Poetry

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Office Hours: MW 1pm-2pm TR 2pm - 2:30pm or by appointment

If you want to reach me, please, use this address and not the usual SFASU one. I check my home email several times a day. If you choose to write me to my SFASU email, I might not be able to read it on time.

General purpose of the course: This course is dedicated to the study of Hispanic Poetry. The poems studied in the course are not easy, especially for the non-native speakers. The difficulty is not only in the grammar and vocabulary, but in the rhetoric of poetry and figurative language used in the poems. That is why it is very important that the students come prepared to class, after having read the material assigned for every class. They need to be able to give an informed opinion about the texts in every class meeting.

Every poem has many possible interpretations. A good analysis of a poetic text is coherent, original and appreciative of the different options of the reader. Students will receive their grades according to these principles.

Class materials: We do not have a specific book for this class. Students will find the information needed for the class on the course website. There are two articles required for the class that will be provided by the professor. The articles are:

Jorge Luis Borges. La poesia
Jonathan Culler. Poetics of the Lyric

Course Grade

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Quizzes 15%
Class Participation and Homework 15%

Scale

90-100 pts. A
80-89 pts B
70-79 pts C
60-69 pts D
Below 60 pts F

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities that need course adaptations or accommodations please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

Class Conduct

There is a University policy that forbids any eating and drinking in the classroom. These activities interfere with the normal functioning of the class, and therefore we should avoid them. Also, any unnecessary class disruption (such as speaking English or distracting other students from following class activities) may result in the total or partial loss of points in the class participation grade. Cell phones and texting are not permitted in the classroom. Electronic devices must be turned off and put away before class begins. Ringing phones and text messaging are considered rude and disrespectful. Using cell phones in class will result in 0 (zero) points in your final participation grade.

Course Requirements

1-QUizzes AND HOMEWORK: The homework for the class consists in exercises based the readings assigned in the syllabus. The students will receive a grade for it. Late homework will not be graded, since all assignments will be covered in class immediately after being turned in by the students. If a student is going to miss a class, he or she should turn in the homework due on that day in advance. We will have weekly quizzes based on the homework assigned in the class. They are designed to check if the
students have understood the theory concerning the reading and analysis of poems and if they have some interesting opinions about what they saw.

2-ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: A portion of the final grade will depend on class participation. Students are required to attend all classes. There is possibility of making up missed classwork, quizzes or oral presentations. Talk to your professor about any attendance problem.

This class is taught in Spanish, and the students need to speak Spanish during the class period. Speaking English during class or disrupting the class in any way will result in the loss of all the points in the quiz taken the week the misbehaving took place. If you disrupt the class more than once a week you will have a 0 in the quiz taken the week before. You will also lose points in your class participation final grade.

Having a good participation grade in this class is not easy. Keep in mind that just coming to class and not speaking Spanish means a 0 (zero) in class participation. Average participation is no more than 50 points worth. These are my specific criteria to assess a class participation grade:

-85 to 100 participation points: the student comes to class well prepared and shows initiative in every class. He or she has interesting suggestions and observations that improve the quality of learning, is willing to be a part of any activity during the class period and helps other students.

-60 to 85 participation points: the student comes prepared to class, shows initiative and participates frequently. He or she pays attention to the explanations.

-50 to 60 participation points: the student is not well prepared for class and only participates if called by name.

-20 to 60 points: the student does not prepare for the class. He or she does not pay attention and asks questions to other students instead of asking the professor. He or she answers rarely to the professor's questions.

-0 to 20 points: the student does not participate. He or she speaks English in class or diverts the attention of other students.
3-EXAMS: There will be three exams in the course, with questions about poetic theory and the analysis of one or several fragments of poetry. These fragments won't necessarily be the ones we have analyzed in class. The dates for the written exams are specified in the syllabus. The final exam will be comprehensive.

4-Term essay: The Term Essay for this class will be based on an analysis of a poem. It will be at least five pages long, without counting the transcription of the poem. There is a list of poems that can be used as topics for the Term essay in the course website. Every student needs to select a poem from the list, and no poem can be analyzed by two students. The selection will be made on a first come first served basis. The deadline to select a poem is March, 23.

Tentative Course Schedule Spring 2016

Week 1

January

19: Course presentation

21: What is poetry?

Week 2

26: Poetic Function. Jakobson

28: La poesía, essay by Jorge Luis Borges

Week 3

February

2: Jonathan Culler: Poetics of the Lyric

4: Images and ambiguity

Week 4

9: Symbols

11: Poetry and the Humanities
Week 5
16: Review for the Exam 1
18: Exam 1

Week 6
Día 23: Meter
Día 25: Rima, Stanzas

Week 7
March
1: Rythm 1
3: Rythm 2

Week 8
8: Review for the Exam 2
10: Exam 2

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<th>Spring Holyday</th>
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Week 9
22: Classification of signs
24: EASTER

Week 10
29: Denotation and Connotation
31: Metaphor

Week 11
April
5: Symbols

7: Colors

Week 12

12: Colors: el romance sonámbulo

14: Metonymy

Week 13

19: Mystery

21: Surrealist Poetry

Week 14

26: Places

28: Portraits

Week 15

May

3: Love Poetry

5: Review for the Final Exam


10

Final Exam

12