

Fall 2017 Graduate Course List

- **SPAN 722: Special Topics in Spanish Literature**
Versteeg
2:30-3:45, TR, 2600 Wescoe
- **SPAN 795: Literary Theory and Criticism**
Garibotto
4:00-7:00, M, 2600 Wescoe
- **SPAN 801: Teach Spanish in Inst Higher Learning**
Rossomondo
4:00-7:00, T, 2600 Wescoe
- **SPAN 922: Seminar Spanish Literature & Culture**
Bayliss
3:00-4:15, MW, 4034 Wescoe
- **PORT 612: Acc Basic Portuguese Spanish Speakers II**
Tosta
1:00-2:15, TR, 4037 Wescoe
- **PORT 785: Special Topics Brazilian Culture & Literature Studies**
Tosta
9:30-10:45, TR, 2600 Wescoe

SPAN 755 Spain on the Eve of Modernity: the Realist Novel
Prof. Margot Versteeg

Course description and goals

Description: This course will explore Spanish Realism as part of the cultural realignment that accompanies the political and social transformation of nineteenth-century Spain. We will read a series of novels written by Spanish authors against the backdrop of the important changes peninsular Spain underwent in the second half of the nineteenth century. In this context we will focus on how literary texts reflect and participate in larger cultural processes and how they reveal the concerns of a society that has moved from war and dictatorship, through rebellion and reaction, to a difficult modernization and the growth of a middle class.

At the same time, this course has been set-up as a pro-seminar or literary/cultural methodology course for incoming graduate students (master or doctorate). We will combine the reading and analysis of texts with mini-workshops in order to develop both the skills that the ideal graduate student should possess and the strategies that are necessary to plan his/her professional future beyond graduate school. Students will be evaluated based on their participation in class, several short essays, a term paper, a written exam, and at least one oral presentation.

Goals: At the end of the course students will have reflected on the limits of the discipline from a cultural studies approach. They will be familiar with theoretical and methodological tools for the analysis of cultural products, especially literature. Students will also be familiar with the main aspects of Spanish cultural (including literary) history of the second half of the nineteenth century and they have read a set of novels belonging to the realist tradition. Students will have the possibility to think about the design of their own courses through active participation in the creation of classroom activities.

Span 795: Literary Theory and Criticism

Fall 2017

M 4- 7pm (Seminar Room)

Instructor: Verónica Garibotto

garibotto@ku.edu

Course description

This course introduces graduate students to literary and cultural theory via theories, disciplines, and approaches that are especially relevant for (or that have significantly impacted) the field of Hispanic studies: cultural studies, subaltern theory, post-colonial theory, and memory studies. After some preliminary classes on basic theoretical concepts (“literature,” “interpretation,” “representation,” “narrative,” “ideology,”) we will pay special attention to how the abovementioned theories, disciplines, and approaches have answered the following questions: How does literature intersect with culture, language, and representation? What is the link between discourse and ideology? What are the connections among literature, culture, history, and politics? In order to better answer these questions, we will study the most recent approaches in conjunction with relevant classical theories. For example, we will study cultural Marxism together with subaltern theory; structuralism, post-structuralism, and deconstruction together with post-colonial theory; and psychoanalysis together with memory studies.

Span 795 fulfills the literary theory requirement for PhD students and is recommended for MA students, especially for those interested in continuing into the PhD level. The class is open to students who have taken Span 795 with prof. Mayhew. Due to overlap in content, however, the course is not open to students who have previously taken this course with me.

Course materials:

Course reader, available on Blackboard.

Objectives and expected outcome

On completion of the course, students will have accomplished:

- Further knowledge of key concepts in literary and cultural theory
- An understanding of theories, disciplines, and approaches that are especially relevant for (or that have significantly impacted) the field of Hispanic studies.
 - Further development of critical strategies for reading, interpreting, discussing, and writing about theoretical texts.
- Further development of strategies for incorporating theory into scholarly writing.

SPAN 922 Seminar in Spanish Literature and Culture
The Spanish Golden Age, Then and Now



This seminar will approach the evolving concept of Spain's "Golden Age" as a problem with broad cultural implications for both sides of the Atlantic. For Spain, the Golden Age "classics" are a source of cultural and even political capital exploited by media industries as well as by governmental and cultural programs for political and economic profit; they are deployed both in defense of a centrist nationalism and to support emerging peripheral nationalisms. In Latin America, Spanish classical literature has since the colonial period remained an important element in educational and cultural programs, despite the region's varied and complex relationships with its former colonizer. This seminar will examine these problems through the theoretical lenses of Cultural Studies and the New Historicism: the former provides a framework for analyzing the presence of the Spanish Golden Age in contemporary Hispanic cultures, while the latter will allow us to better situate the original production of the "classics" in ways that have allowed them to be interpreted, appropriated and applied to so many contradictory contexts.

Beyond the course's primary texts (both the Golden Age classics and their literary and cinematic reproductions), a series of theoretical readings will be assigned to familiarize us with the principles and methods of both the New Historicism and Cultural Studies, to be supplemented by critical studies applying those models to selected early modern primary texts and their reincarnation in 20th- and 21st-century Hispanic cultures. Secondary historical documents will situate our neohistorical studies, and data on the material conditions under which the theater, film, and television industries operate will enable our study of how these industries reproduce the classics for modern consumption.

Students in this writing-intensive seminar will develop an article-length research project over the course of the semester, and each student will be asked to research, organize, plan and direct a class session. They are encouraged to develop a project in which the course goals and their own research interests intersect, regardless of any geographical or historical boundaries.

Fiction and History: Latin American Dictatorships in Literature and Film

Port 785 & Port 347 (Fall 2017)



This course will discuss novels, movies, and songs that have revisited moments of oppression in the national histories of Latin American nations, with special emphasis on the dictatorships from the 1960s to the 1980s. By analyzing these works and the historical contexts that they discuss, students are expected to achieve an understanding of these important political moments in the continent, and of how artists reacted to these times of despotism and repression. Students will also discuss the paradoxical but complementary relationship between fiction and history in the light of works by historians and literary scholars. Moreover, they will study the differences between "historical novels," "new historical novels," and "historiographic metafiction," and distinguish the various sub-genres that compose historical fiction in Latin America, such as the journalistic, and the memorial. Themes will include power and gender relations, the role of the artist, art as a resistance tool, the politics of voice, and individual versus national identity. Theoretical texts will include works by Malcolm Silverman, Idelber Avelar, David Foster, Silviano Santiago, Roberto Schwartz, Antonio Candido, Sartre, Italo Calvino, Gayatri Spivak, Linda Hutcheon, Seymour Menton, Hayden White, and Dominick LaCapra, among others.

Instructor: Luciano Tosta

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45