

LIT 367E NOBEL PRIZES IN SPANISH AND LATIN AMERICAN LITERATURE: A CRITICAL APPROACH

1. OBJECTIVES

Every year since its foundation, the Nobel Prize in literature has recognized the works of men and women from many different languages and cultures. However, its history is one of controversy: major authors have been ignored by the Swedish Academy. The aim of this course is to analyze the life and the works of the Spanish and Latin American Literature Nobel Prize Winners and the reasons for the Academy's choices. The study will be carried out from a critical and comparative perspective within a historical and literary context. In this way, The Generation of 1927, Post-Spanish Civil War narrative or Magical Realism among other great literary tendencies will be included.

2. CLASS FORMAT

Students must come prepared to class. To do this, it is essential to read the texts before classes begin. Lectures will have both a theoretical component and a practical component. On the one hand, a set of master classes from the professor and on the other hand, in-class debates and activities about the readings that will be carried out by the students. After the analysis of each author, there will be a quiz (multiple choice) about the corresponding texts, in which the student must demonstrate his/her acquired understanding of the subject matter.

At the end of the course, the student must turn in an essay about one or many of the various lectures included in the DOSSIER: *Nobel Prizes in Spanish and Latin-American Literature*. The professor will assess and evaluate the originality of the chosen topic. Essays must be turned in typewritten, double-space, Times New Roman, font size 12, with a length of 6 – 7 pages (including bibliography).

The professor will explain the rules and policies of a standard essay at the beginning of the course.

Orthographical errors in submitted essays will not be permitted. Regarding the student's bibliography, all sources should be specified with total clarity. The use of Wikipedia will not be permitted. If there is any doubt how to attribute or cite sources,

please consult with the professor. The use of the “author-date” system or footnotes at the bottom of the page will be acceptable.

3. GRADING

Oral participation will be very important for success in this course. The goal is that every student actively participates in every class meeting. Student attendance will be checked daily.

The final grade is broken down as follows:

Participation 25%:

Essay 25%

Partial Exam 20%

Final Exam 30%

Late submissions of homework, activities, or essays will not be permitted. If for some reason, the student cannot turn in the written homework in a punctual manner, he / she should turn it in before, but never after. It is not permitted to submit items by e-mail (except for obvious and justifiable reasons).

The participation grade will include the on-time submission of all written assignments and in-class exams, and active involvement in class discussions.

Very important: students who do not turn in their homework on time cannot receive a “10” in the participation grade.

Important dates:

- Midterm Exam: To Be Determined.
- Final Exam: To Be Determined.
- Essay: To Be Determined. Students must turn in a draft to the professor.

The exams will have the following structure:

The midterm exam and final exam will consist of four essay questions related to the authors and readings of the course.

4 COURSE CONTENTS

1. Introduction to the Nobel Prize.

2. Nobel Prizes in Spanish Literature: Selection. Followers and detractors. Life and works.

-José Echegaray y Jacinto Benavente: The forgotten. The Spanish Theater in the end of the 18th and in the beginning of the 19th century. Readings: *The Great Galeoto and The Bond of Interests* (selection).

-Juan Ramón Jiménez: The universal Andalusian. From Modernism to *God Desired and Desiring*. Readings: *Platero and I* and *Selected Poems*.

-Vicente Aleixandre and the Generation of 27. The Spanish Surrealism. Readings: *Destruction or Love*, among others (selected poems).

-Camilo José Cela: Post-Spanish Civil War narrative: *The Hive*.

3. Nobel Prizes in Latin American Literature: Selection. Followers and detractors. Life and works.

-The Latin American poetry and essay:

-Gabriela Mistral.: The First Latin American Nobel: "What the soul is to the body, so is the artist to his people. Readings: *Sonnets of Death, Despair, Tenderness*, among other (selected poems).

-Pablo Neruda. From *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* to *Canto general*, among others (selected poems).

-Octavio Paz. Sensuality and humanism. *Sun Stone* (selected poems) and *The Labyrinth of Solitude and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, or The Traps of Faith* (selection).

-The Latin American Novel:

-Miguel Ángel Asturias. The indigenous world. Myths and reality. Readings: *Men of Maize* (selection).

-Gabriel García Márquez, The "Boom" novels. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*: The top of Magical Realism (selection of chapters)

-Mario Vargas Llosa. Innovation and commitment. Readings: *The Time of the Hero, The War of the End of the World, The Feast of the Goat*, among others (selection).

5. COURSE MATERIALS

There will be a course pack with the compulsory reading assignments available at the copy center on campus. DOSSIER: *Nobel Prizes in Spanish and Latin-American Literature. Selection of Texts*. Supplementary materials may be provided during the course.

In addition, the following books must be read:

Cela, Camilo José, *The Hive*, The review of Contemporary Fiction, 2001.

Jiménez, Juan Ramón, *Platero y yo / Platero and I* (ed. bilingüe español-inglés), Dover, 2004.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Feldman, Burton (2000). *The Nobel Prize: A History of Genius, Controversy, and Prestige*. New York, Arcade Publishing.

Links and recommended sources on the official website: www.nobelprize.org

7. SCHEDULE

Classes and tutorials to be determined.

8. ATTENDANCE

After **three unjustified absences**, the final grade will decrease ½ point (Spanish point system) for each unexcused absence (beginning with the 4th absence). If the student has **6 unjustified absences** he or she will be automatically fail the course. Justified absences must be accompanied with a doctor's note: signed, sealed, and dated. Travel is not a justifiable excuse. The student should first show the medical excuse directly to the professor and then hand it in at the International Center for their files.