

Department: MODERN & CLASSICAL LANGUAGES

Course No: 282

Credits: 3

Title: The Literary Culture of Modern Spain

Contact: Roger Travis

Content Area: CA1-Arts and Humanities

Catalog Copy: SPAN 282 The Literary Culture of Modern Spain Either Semester. Three Credits.

Recommended preparation: SPAN 278 or instructor consent. The study of selected poems, plays, short fiction, and novels reflecting the literary culture of Spain in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Spain.

Course Information: a. The course introduces the students to the literary culture of Spain from 1800 to the present. Literature is contextualized within the artistic and historical changes of Spain during this time period, with emphasis on Romanticism and Realism in the 19th century and on the pre-civil war/post-civil war cultural conflicts of the 20th century.

b. The course may vary in small degree depending upon the instructor, but generally consists of the following: representative works from poetry, theater, and narrative fiction (usually seven books in total), with approximately 50-75 pages of reading per week. The course usually requires the following: two exams plus a final exam; two short papers of approximately 5-7 pages each on assigned literary topics. All reading, writing, and discussion is in Spanish.

c. Major topics are: the development of Spanish literary culture of the past two centuries; the tension between progress and tradition during the 19th century, and between modern and anti-modern ideas in the 20th; the relationship between Spanish and Western European literature of the past two centuries related to aesthetic concepts, philosophical ideas, and the representation of human experience.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: The students will be introduced to what is, for most of them, a foreign literary culture. They will study this literary culture within the broader artistic and historical context of Spain. The students will read in a variety of literary genres (poetry, drama, narrative fiction), will be required to make comparative judgments about the content and thematic focus of the literature studied, will be required to write about that literature, and will participate in class discussions. Hence students will develop skills in articulating their ideas; they will gain intellectual breadth and awareness of the culture of a country other than the United States; they will most certainly be required to make critical judgments about what they have read and to express those judgments orally and in writing, and they will gain some sense of the diversity of human experience as it is represented through the literary writings of Spanish authors.

CA1 Criteria: Students will gain a historical understanding of Spain of the past two centuries with emphasis on the literary representation of human experience. Students will learn, and discuss, key concepts of philosophical and literary thought in Spain related to critical themes of the time period studied: e.g., the rise of industrialism, the conflict between tradition and progress; the role of

authoritarian government in shaping literary culture, the literature of resistance, the development of aesthetic precepts within Romanticism, Naturalism, Modernism, Surrealism, and Social Realism, to name only the most salient.