

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2019-2020
SPAN 320 A1: INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY ANALYSIS
(Fall Term 2019)

Instructor: Dr. M. Bortolussi
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Office Hours: T Th 11:00 to 12:00 or by appointment

Time: MWF 10:00 to 10:50
Place: HC 2-30

Course Prerequisite: SPAN 300 or 306 or consent of the Department. It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval

Not needed.

Community Service Learning component

None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

Exam registry – Students' Union

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED LEARNING
OUTCOMES:**

Numerous benefits ensue from the reading of fiction, as evidenced by research in psychology. Besides enjoyment, some of these include richer language skills, enhanced cognitive performance, greater empathy, and increased pro-social behaviour. But to reap the benefits of reading, complex texts must be processed productively, which requires more than word recognition, plot comprehension, and impressionistic reactions. In this course students will master the tools required for skilful, analytical reading.

The course begins with a general review of some prominent theories of communication. We then focus on the communicational strategies and conventions of both fictional and non-fictional genres; in particular, journalistic prose, poems, short stories, and a play. Our readings are acclaimed Spanish and Latin American intermediate-level texts

By the end of the course, students will notice a marked improvement in all levels of their Spanish language, as well as analytical skills. They will thus be well prepared to meet the challenges of our senior-level literature and culture courses. Hopefully, they will also be eager to delve into future reading adventures.

COURSE FORMAT

The objectives of this course will be achieved from a combination of formal lectures with slide shows and assigned readings, all in an interactive work environment in which students will have ample opportunity to practice the tools learned in class.

TEXTS: Buero Vallejo's text is on reserve in Rutherford. All other texts are in the public domain, and available as PDFs in e-class.

Journalistic Prose:

Anon. "Próxima estación: el pasado"

Rosa Montero. "Vergüenza", and "Maldición"

Juan José Dalton. "México niega el aborto a una mujer de 13 años víctima de un abuso"

Short Stories:

Augusto Monterroso. "El eclipse"

Don Juan Manuel. "Lo que sucedió a un mozo que casó con una muchacha..."

Rosa Montero. "Como la vida misma"

José Arreola. "El guardagujas"

Emilia Pardo Bazán. "Las medias rojas"

Amparo Dávila. "Detrás de la reja"

Manuel Rivas "La lengua de las mariposas"

Poems:

Varios. Acrósticos

Anónimo. "Abenámar"

Antonio Machado. "XXIX" (Caminante)

César Vallejo. "A mi hermano Miguel"

Melendez Valdés. "Oda anacreónica VI"

Pablo Neruda. "Oda al día feliz"

Ernesto Cardenal. "Somoza", "Salmo 5", "Salmo 5 (Bíblico)"

José Bergamín. "Ecce España"

Juan Ramón Jiménez. "El viaje definitivo"

Drama: (*on reserve)

Ruibal, José. *Los ojos*

*Buero Vallejo, Antonio. *Las palabras en la arena*

ADDITIONAL COURSE FEES

No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 3, 2019

Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019

50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019

Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019

Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019

Final Exam Date (if applicable): Dec 17, 2:00 pm

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:

[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_\(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Analytical Assignments: (4 X 15)	60% (Sept.16, Oct, 7, Nov. 18, Dec. 2)
Final Exam	30% (Dec.17, 2:00 p.m.)
Class Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

EXPANATORY NOTES ON COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Analytical Assignments

Practice is the key to mastering textual analytical skills. Four practice assignments on each of the units are designed to: a) reinforce genre-specific concepts, b) hone analytical skills, and c) develop vocabulary and written communication to better articulate complex ideas. A list of eligible works, assignment specifications, and evaluation criteria are available in e-class. Copy questions and answer point by point. Please print out and attach the cover page prepared for each assignment; double space and corner staple. Only hard copies will be accepted.

Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative. Exam preparation will be provided in class. Exam must be written in pen, no pencils.

Class Participation

Attendance is not included in the class participation component of the grade; only active, positive contributions to class discussions count. Think about the readings, take notes at home and make consistent, and come prepared to share your ideas. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will lead to a reduction in the class participation grade (e.g., sustaining conversations with classmates while instructor and/or other students are talking).

Policy for Late Assignments

See “Required Notes”.

E-MAIL POLICY

Please read through all course materials before e-mailing instructor for information. Although all e-mails will be acknowledged, if questions are asked for which answers are available in the course syllabus or e-class materials, students will be referred back to them. Students are encouraged to ask their questions during class, and to discuss concerns during the instructor’s office hours.

Grading

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Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute

achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59

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Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>.

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse is given for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed in on time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.