

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

2020-2021 SPAN 320: Introduction to Literary Analysis
(Fall Term 2020)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Stephen A. Cruikshank
Office: REMOTE
E-mail: scruiksh@ualberta.ca
Class Website: See eClass site.

Time: M/W/F 2:00-2:50 PM
Place: REMOTE
Office Hours: By appointment

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: SPAN 300 or 306 or consent of department

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Technology requirements (minimum): For this course you will want to ensure that you have consistent access to a computer or laptop with the internet. The course demands consistent access online to course content through the eClass website and possible meetings through Zoom videoconferencing (accessible through eClass). For Zoom conferencing, please make sure your computer has access to both microphone and video functions. Please make sure you have access to Microsoft Powerpoint, as this will be necessary to record videos and presentations.

Note that it is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

Experiential Learning Component

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class

- Other (please specify)
 NA

Course Description, Objectives, and Expected Learning Outcomes:

In this course students will master the tools required for skillful reading. The course begins with a review of some prominent communication theories. In the remainder of the course, students are exposed to a range of genre-specific conventions and strategies, which we then examine in a variety of acclaimed Spanish and Latin American intermediate-level texts. These include fictional and non-fictional genres: journalistic prose, poems, short stories, and plays. By the end of the course, students will notice a marked improvement in all levels of their Spanish language communication, a deeper understanding of the craft of good fiction, and greater confidence in their analytical skills. They will be ready to master senior literature and culture courses, and hopefully, to delve into exciting reading adventures in the future.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course successful students will be able to:

- Increase efficiency in both writing and reading Spanish.
- Enhance Spanish vocabulary.
- Expand knowledge on cultural production in Latin America and Spain.
- Analyze, argue, and communicate ideas in Spanish.
- Compare and contrast a variety of Hispanic literary genres.

Course Format: This course will be run remotely online in an asynchronous format, meaning that there are no formal in-class meetings or online meetings to attend. Instead, it is the student's responsibility to submit all assignments on time and complete the course objectives in a timely manner as per the schedule outlined on eClass. As an online course, students are expected to be self-disciplined and consistently engaged and on time with the weekly readings and assessments. Failure to complete or keep up with assignments will immediately result in a zero for the work not done on time. Unless extenuating circumstances have been communicated with the instructor, there are no extensions provided in this course.

Remote Expectations and Important Information

- This remote course online will be primarily an "asynchronous" style of education. This means that you do not need to be present on a group video or chat room during class hours. You will, however, be required to complete the readings as well as various tasks by the end of each class day, by the end of the week, and by the end of the semester. Staying up to date with the course readings, assignments, and expectations is crucial to your success. You must be self-dedicated and willing to set aside the time you need each day to complete the readings and online tasks.
- Unless otherwise communicated, all due dates for assignments and quizzes are non-negotiable. Always refer to the course outline and syllabus for due-dates and

upcoming topics. I will always reflect any changes on this schedule and inform you.

- Any communication or class announcements will occur with you via the "announcement" section on eClass. This immediately sends an email to your U of A gmail, but also allows you to see and refer back to the messages on eClass. Any personal communication between me and individual students will always occur via **email**.
- eClass will be your primary access to all daily class assignments and ongoing submissions.
- If you ever have any questions, concerns, or comments for myself, please do not hesitate to contact me. Do this through your U of A email. *Do not try to contact me via eClass messages.* Always email me from your U of A account and not from another account. Do not expect a response from me outside of work hours such as weekends or holidays. I do my best to respond to all emails within 1 day of receiving them.
- As this course is remote, it is your responsibility to be connected online. This means that **you must be checking your email and eClass sites daily** for updates, news, course work, and expectations. This is vital to your successful completion of this course online.
- I can easily set up online zoom meeting if needed. If you ever need to speak to me directly for any reason, don't hesitate to email me and make a meeting appointment to do this.
- Accommodations: If you require any accommodations or have any concerns about your progress in the course, please communicate with me through email or request a Zoom meeting.

Texts: All readings are available online and may be accessed through the eClass website.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

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

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

Components of Course Grade (see "Explanatory Notes"):

Assignment Grade Percentages

*Note that all audio and written assignments are to be completed in Spanish. See eClass course schedule for due dates of all assignments.

- Weekly Audio Discussions 15%
- Class Journal & Participation 15%
- Reading Quizzes 10% (2% x 5)
- Podcast 30%
 - 20% audio presentation.
 - 10% reflection on student presentations.
- Research Paper 30%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Weekly Audio Discussions (10%)

Every week a prompt in the form of a question or discussion topic will be provided to students. Students will be responsible for responding to the prompt in a 2-4 minute audio recording in Spanish. Based on the discussion list on eClass, students will rotate roles each week with one group of students reflecting on the prompt and another group listening and responding to other student's reflections. Responses should be done through a power-point audio format. See the student list and detailed instructions on eClass.

Class Journal Responses (15%)

For each class students will be responsible for writing (in Spanish) a 150-250 word reflection on a reading prompt that will be provided on the eClass website. The response will directly relate with the reading and lectures for that class and must reveal a clear understanding and analytical engagement with the text. Responses will be assessed as a completion mark and as evidence of your course participation and engagement with the reading, lecture, and course materials. Important to note is that these journal prompts will take various forms, either as a recorded lecture or written reflection on the daily readings. Failure to read or listen through the prompt and complete the journal responses will, in a way, be like missing a class and will result in a grade of zero for that day.

Reading Quizzes (15% = 3% x 5)

Five Multiple Choice quizzes will be made available through eClass throughout the semester and will assess student knowledge on the course readings. Students will be given 20 minutes to complete a quiz at any point of the day on which the quiz is posted. Each quiz, however, must be completed by 11:59 pm on the day it is posted.

Podcast & Responses (30%)

Part I: Podcast (Audio Presentation) (20%)

During the podcast week, students will be responsible for uploading a 5-8 minute podcast on an literary topic and its application to an author or text posted on the class reading schedule. Only authors or texts on the schedule can be considered.

Part II: Podcast Reflections (10% = 2% x 5 reflections)

Note that there will be no journal or audio reflections during this week, so the expectation is for students to be dedicating their time to preparing their podcast and to responding to other student's podcasts. Response forums will be posted on eClass where students will upload their podcasts according to the day that they are assigned. On the forum students must listen to and respond to at least 5 podcasts during the duration of the podcast week. Each of the 6 responses must be 100-150 words and should represent positive constructive criticism, engaging with the student's presentation by making note of what they found interesting or engaging and adding some insight, reflection, or questions of their own on the topic.

Research Paper (30%)

Students will be responsible to write a 4-5 page research paper (in Spanish) on a topic of their choosing that relate to a single text listed on the class reading schedule. The paper should analyze and critique how an author engages a literary theory or theme throughout the text. All papers should be written in MLA format and must be double spaced using Times New Roman and 12 point font. See eClass for more details on paper expectations and formatting.

Required Notes:

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

Student Responsibilities:

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](#).

Language and Translation Courses

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected.

Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

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 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 direct 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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

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.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course 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.

In this course:

As this course will be run remotely, participation online will be assessed rather than physical attendance in a classroom. For this reason, it is critical that students keep up with the course readings, assessments, and assignments and consistently refer to the course schedule listed on eClass for direction. As a remote course, the schedule is not negotiable and extensions will not be given unless extenuating circumstances are communicated with the instructor. It is 100% the responsibility of the student to maintain an active engagement with the course readings and expectations.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Unless extenuating circumstances have been communicated prior with the instructor, no extensions will be granted in this course. All assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will incur a 5% per class day penalty.

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.

Grading:

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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