

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

**SPAN 450 B1: TOPICS IN SPANISH-AMERICAN LITERATURE AND
CULTURE**

Winter Term 2017

Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:50, HC L2

Instructor: Dr. M. Bortolussi
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Course Prerequisite: 300 or 306 or consent of department

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

Not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

X Exam registry – Students' Union

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

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

No

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No

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Witches, sorcerers and wizards, vampires, ghosts, monsters, fairies, elves and bizarre apparitions have populated literary narratives throughout the world from time immemorial. In Latin America fantasy is a prominent twentieth century trend, practiced by many of its most influential writers. Far from escapist fiction, stories of fantastic beings and situations, such as hypnosis, telepathy, clairvoyance, necromancy, inexplicable coincidences, shape shifting, spells and enchantments, serve as a commentary on socio-historical issues, scientific and technological developments, philosophical and existential themes, and the very nature of reality.

In this course we will examine seminal theories of a variety of fantasy forms, such as the marvelous, allegory, the uncanny, mythic realism, magic realism, supernatural horror (the fantastic and neo-fantastic), science fiction, and post-modern fantasy through a selection of prominent stories. By the end of the course students will be able to distinguish a variety of fantasy genres, appreciate their unique adaptations in Latin America, and better understand the unique nature of the Latin American cultures and realities they expose. Students should also notice a marked improvement in their ability to communicate at a more advanced level.

Texts (Required)

For purchase at U of A Bookstore:

Bioy Casares – *La Invención de Morel*

Fuentes, Carlos – *Aura*

Rulfo, Juan – *Pedro Párramo*

Downloaded from internet, available in e-class (Folder “Textos”)

Cortázar “Casa Tomada”; “Lejana”

Darío “El Caso de la Señorita Amelia”

Dávila “El Huesped”

Ferré “Pico Rico Mandorico”

García Márquez “Un Señor Muy Viejo con Alas Enormes”; “Blacamán, el Bueno”

Lugones – “Yzur”

Ocampo “Casa de Azúcar”

Obtain on web, following URLs

Arreola “El Guardagujas” <http://ciudadseva.com/texto/el-guardagujas/>

Asturias “La Leyenda del Cadejo” <http://www.cuentosinfin.com/leyenda-del-cadejo/>

Borges “Las Ruinas Circulares” <http://ciudadseva.com/texto/las-ruinas-circulares/>

Grade Distribution see “Explanatory Notes”:

Reading Quizzes (5 X 4)	20% (unannounced)
Seminar	15% (see e-class for dates)
Essay 1	15% (Mar. 7)
Essay 2	15% (Apr. 7)
Final Exam	25% (April 24)
Class Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Reading Quizzes

Literary texts cannot be appreciated and understood, and class discussion cannot occur if the selected texts are not carefully read. To encourage attentive reading of the materials, five unannounced, five minute quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. Allowances will not be made for students arriving late.

Seminar

One fifteen to twenty-minute oral, slideshow presentation is required. Presentation specifications and grading criteria are available in e-class, in the folder “Tareas”. Topics are to be selected in e-class (first come first served); see “Selection de Tema Seminario” for topics and dates.

Essays

Essays must be double-spaced and provide a cover-page on which is indicated the word count; minimum 1,500 words. No electronic submissions will be accepted. Presentation specifications

and grading criteria are available in e-class, in the folder “Tareas”.

***Final Exam**

The final exam is cumulative. ***Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):** Please consult:

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

Class Participation

Attendance to class is not included in the class participation component of the grade. Only active, positive, and consistent contributions to class discussions will count. Therefore students are encouraged to take notes on the readings and come prepared to share ideas and insights. A good way to prepare for class is by answering the questions at the end of the selections. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior (e.g. constant whispering while instructor is talking) will lead to a reduction in the class participation grade.

“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

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 (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) 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.”

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](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages 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 conduct with dire consequences.

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](#).

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.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

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/>).