

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2016-2017 SPANISH 320 A2:  
INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY ANALYSIS  
(Fall Term)  
M W F 9:00 – 9:50  
HC 2 30**

Office: *Arts 242-D*

Office Hours: M W F 11:00 to 1:00, 2:00 to 3:00, or by appointment

E-mail: [marisa.bortolussi@ualberta.ca](mailto:marisa.bortolussi@ualberta.ca)

Instructor Web-site: <http://www.humanities.ualberta.ca/MLCS/staff-bortolussi.htm>

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**PRE-REQUISITES:** SPAN 300 or 306 or consent of the Department.

**COURSE-BASED ETHICS APPROVAL**

N/A.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING COMPONENT**

None.

**PAST OR REPRESENTATIVE EVALUATIVE COURSE MATERIAL**

N/A. Documents distributed in class.

**ADDITIONAL MANDATORY INSTRUCTIONAL FEES (approved by Board of Governors)**

Yes     No

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

Numerous benefits, besides enjoyment, ensue from the reading of fiction, as evidenced by research in psychology. Some of these include enhanced cognitive performance, greater empathy, a richer vocabulary, and increased pro-social behaviour. Hence reading fiction is good for you. But to reap the benefits one must be able to read productively, and reading complex texts requires skills beyond word recognition and plot comprehension. In this course students will master the tools required for skilful reading. We begin by examining first some prominent communication theories, and then a range of conventions and strategies associated with a variety of Spanish and Latin American texts at intermediate-level. These include fictional and non-fictional genres: journalistic prose, poems, short stories, and plays. In an interactive work environment, students will have ample opportunity to apply and practice the tools learned in class.

By the end of the course, students will notice a marked improvement in all levels of their Spanish language skills, and confidence and ease in their ability to perform in-depth analyses of texts. They will then be ready to master senior literature and culture courses, and to read productively and insightfully in the future.

**TEXTS:** (all texts are in the public domain; PDFs available in e-class).

**Journalistic Prose:**

Anon. "Próxima estación: el pasado"

Rosa Montero. "Vergüenza", y "Maldición"

Paula Chouza "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"

Ana María Matute. "Pecado de omisión"

Julio Cortázar. "Continuidad de los parques"

Soledad Puértolas. "La indiferencia de Eva"

Amparo Dávila. "Detrás de la reja"

**Theater:**

Calderón de la Barca. *El Mágico Prodigioso*

Arrabal, Fernando. *Pic-Nic*

Ruibal, José. *Los ojos*

**Poems:**

Anónimo. "Abenamar"

José Martí. "Cultivo una rosa blanca"

Nicolás Guillén. "Negro Bembón", "Búcate plata", "Mulata"

Antonio Machado. "XXIX" (Caminante)

César Vallejo. "A mi hermano Manuel"

Pablo Neruda. "Oda al día feliz"

Ernesto Cardenal. "Somoza"

José Bergamín. "Ecce España"

Juan Ramón Jiménez. "El viaje definitivo"

Quevedo. "Poderoso caballero es Don Dinero"

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Analytical Assignments: (4 X 10) - 40% (Sept. 14; Oct. 7; Oct. 31, Nov. 30)

Mid-Term - 20% (Oct. 14)

Final Exam - 30% (Dec. 16, 9:00 a.m.)

Class Participation - 10%

100%

## **ANALYTICAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Practice is the key to mastering textual analytical skills. Four practice assignments on each of the four units have been designed to: a) reinforce the genre-specific concepts and analytical tools learned in class, and b) develop vocabulary and written communication, in particular the ability to articulate complex ideas and informed responses to texts. A list of eligible works, assignment specifications, and evaluation criteria are available in e-class. Assignments may be written in point form.

## **MID-TERM EXAM**

This exam will focus on the theory and concepts learned in the first two units – journalistic prose and short stories.

## **FINAL EXAM**

The final exam will focus on the last two units studied – drama and poetry. Exam preparation will be provided in class.

## **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Attendance to class is not included in the class participation component of the grade; only active, positive contributions to class discussions will count. To obtain the full 10%, students must contribute to every class, thus absences will reduce class participation opportunities. Given the interactive nature of this course, students are expected to think about the readings, take notes at home (following the assignment topics sheet to prepare the readings is highly recommended), and make consistent, positive oral contributions in class. Disruptive or disrespectful behavior will lead to a reduction in the class participation grade (e.g., sustaining conversations with classmates while instructor and/or students are talking).

## **E-MAIL POLICY**

Students are encouraged to ask their questions during class, and to discuss concerns during the instructor's office hours. Please note that although all e-mails will be acknowledged, if questions are asked for which answers are available in the course syllable or e-class materials, students will be referred back to those materials.

## **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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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	<b>97-100</b>
	A	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	A-	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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	<b>87-89</b>
	B	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	B-	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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	<b>77-79</b>
	C	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	C-	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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	<b>65-69</b>
	D	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	F	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

### 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 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](#)

***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](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381).