

The Center for Cross Cultural Study
Calle Harinas, 18 Seville, Spain

SPAN 425 Women Writers of Spain
Professor: Milagros Molina

FALL, SPRING

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course analyzes the role of women in Spanish literature from its origins to the present day. The course does not offer either a feminine nor a feminist interpretation, instead it discusses the role assumed by women in texts over the course of different literary periods and movements. Therefore the student will observe the transition of the view of the woman from object to protagonist in different works by different authors.

Spanish literature is particularly rich in terms of the variety of feminine types and it is interesting to follow the development of these characters in accordance with their geographical location. The problems of a Catalunian woman in Laforet's Nada will not be the same as those of Lorca's women in Yerma.

These contrasts and similarities, along with the development of the female protagonist over the course of Spanish literature will be the focal points of this course.

Owing to the appearance of most of these writers at the end of the 19th Century, the readings will strongly reflect that era and will provide the students with a new perspective and a broader view of Spanish culture from a social perspective.

STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY

Over the course of the semester four novels written in the 20th Century, as well as a selection of short stories and poetry will be read. Guided by introductory comments about the period and author by the instructor, the students will prepare a close analytical reading of the text to be discussed. The study of these works will be augmented by attendance at theatrical performances or films related to the topic being discussed in class.

Three quizzes and two papers are required. The first paper will be a minimum of two pages in length on a topic determined in consultation with the instructor. The second paper will be six to eight pages in length on a work chosen from a list of suggested topics.

TOPICS

- I. Women in Spanish literature from the Middle Ages to Neoclassicism.***
- 1. The women in the Mozarabic jarchas.*
 - 2. The description of the ideal woman in the Archpriest of Hita.*
 - 3. The woman in the Renaissance: Saint Teresa of Jesús.*
 - 4. The woman in the Baroque period: María de Zayas' El laurel de Apolo.*

II. From Romanticism to the Generation of '27.

1. *Women in the eyes of the romantic writers.*
2. *The awakening of female authorial consciousness. The first female writers: Rosalía de Castro y Fernán Caballero (between romantic and realist).*
3. *Emilia Pardo Bazán: Stories and short narratives..*
4. *The vision of woman in the realist authors: contrasts between two distinct feminine types: The rebel and nonconformist in Galdos' Tristana, and the self sacrificing conformist in Valera's Pepita Jiménez.*
5. *Toward the construction of a dramatic rebellious feminine character: **Tula** and **Ángela** in Unamuno.*
6. *The drama of the woman of rural Andalucía. Three women by Lorca: **Bernarda Alba, Adela y Yerma**.*

III. Spanish literature since 1939. Proliferation of female authors in the Spanish literary panorama.

1. *The novel of the 40's and 50's: Carmen Laforet, Carmen Martín Gaité, Ana M^a Matute.*
2. *The 60's and 70's: Esther Tusquets, Mercé Rodoreda, Ana María Moix, Lourdes Ortiz y, Soledad Puértolas.
La novel of exile: Rosa Chacel.
La Spanish novel of the transition period: The generation of the 80's: Pilar Pedraza, Rosa Montero, Montserrat Roig y Adelaida García Morales.*
3. *Journalism in recent years: Maruja Torres.*
4. *Current theater and poetry by women: Ana Diosdado y Gloria Fuertes.*

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Carmen Laforet: Nada. Barcelona, Destino, 1988.
- Carmen Martín Gaité: Entre visillos. Barcelona, Destino, 1987.
- Mercé Rodoreda: La plaza del diamante. Barcelona, Edhasa, 1991.
- Adelaida García Morales: El Sur. Barcelona, Anagrama, 1985.
- Selections of short stories by Emilia Pardo Bazán.
- Selections of poems from the XIX y XX Centuries.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BLANCO AGUINAGA, Carlos: Historia social de la literatura española. Madrid, Castalia, 1984.
- DE NORA, Eugenio: La novela española contemporánea (1939-67). Madrid, Gredos, 1982.
- RICO, Francisco: Historia y crítica de la literatura española. Barcelona, Crítica, 1992.
- SANZ VILLANUEVA, Santos: Historia de la literatura española. literatura actual. Barcelona, Ariel, 1984.

EVALUATION

Participation.....	25%
Quizzes.....	25%
Papers.....	25%
Final examination	25%

NOTA: Attendance is required as is the use of Spanish.