SPANISH LITERATURE (20TH CENTURY)

General description
This course covers the literary production during the XXth century and the multiple interactions this has with other fields of culture and knowledge, especially in the arts, music, popular culture, religion and philosophy. The material is divided into two sections which coincide with the historical significance of the start of the Spanish Civil War.

We consider of the utmost importance that the students read the literary texts and essays. We hope that the students will be able to relate the knowledge they already have to the new discourse, in a process which will entail the continual questioning on the common ground. We hope to stimulate a receptive and active attitude in the students which will invariably be of a critical nature.

Syllabus content

· Introduction
  - Reflections on the Western canon.
  - The XXth century in the global context of the History of Spanish Literature.
  - The act of reading, today.

· From the end-of-century crisis to the Civil War
  A. The beginnings of the literary Modern-Age
    1. End-of-century crisis
    2. Hispano-American Modernism and its reflections in Spain
    3. The new novel: a break with realist narrative and art prose
       i. Azorín and style
       ii. The generation of ‘98: notion, polemic, youth against maturity.
       iii. The concept of the Silver Age
       iv. Miguel de Unamuno
          - San Manuel Bueno, mártir. Reading and commentary
    4. New poetry
       1. Antonio Machado
       2. Juan Ramón Jiménez
    5. New theatre: Ramón Mª del Valle-Inclán and the “invention” of the theatre of the grotesque.
  B. Modern Age and Avant-garde
    1. The interwar period
    2. ‘Novecentismo’: ideology and aesthetics
    3. Essayist modernity: José Ortega y Gasset
       i. Aesthetic ideas of Ortega
       ii. Intellectual and ‘dehumanised’ art
    4. Typology of avant-garde modernity
       i. Ramón Gómez de la Serna: avant-garde and witty comments about life
       ii. European and artistic avant-garde literatures
       iii. Surrealism and the beginning of the rehumanisation process
          - Un chien andalou, by Luis Buñuel and Salvador Dalí. Viewing and commentary
    5. Poetic modernity
       i. Review of the concept of literary generation for the ‘27 group
       ii. The ‘27 group: Tradition and renovation
       iii. Authors of the ‘27 group
       iv. Miguel Hernández
    6. Modern Age in the theatre: the theatre of Federico García Lorca
       La casa de Bernarda Alba by Federico Gª Lorca. Reading and commentary
  C. Social crises and the Modern Age in crisis
    1. Literature between purity and revolution
    2. Literature during the Civil War

· From the Post-war period to the end of the XXth century
  A. Post-war period and the rehumanising process
     a. Triumphant literature
b. Exiles: interior and exterior

c. Poetry: From existentialism to social realism.
   i. Dámaso Alonso and Luis Rosales
   ii. Gabriel Celaya, Blas de Otero and José Hierro
   iii. Poets of the mid-century

d. La novela. Del existencialismo al socialrealismo:
   i. De Cela y Delibes a los novelistas del medio siglo
      - Nada, by Carmen Laforet. Reading and commentary

e. The theatre. From existentialism to social realism: from Buero Vallejo to Alfonso Sastre

B. Renovation and literary experimentation.


b. The novel: from Luis Martín Santos and Juan Benet to Juan Goytisolo

c. Theatre: from Fernando Arrabal and Francisco Nieva to the independant theatre groups.

C. End-of-century Spanish literary tendencies

a. Poetry: from aesthetic and decadent intimism to the “poetry of experience”: culturalism, classicism, barroquism, minimalism, conceptualism, new eroticism, new epic and ironic prosaism.

b. The novel: from verbal alchemy to the recuperation of realism; from memorialism to the historical novel. Open conception of the novel.

b. Theatre: from the realist theatre to the neo-theatre of the grotesque; the festive and spectacular experimentation of Els Comediants or la Fura dels Baus.

d. The upsurge of the essay in the democratic period
   • El planeta americano, by Vicente Verdú. Reading and commentary

Activities

- Reading of five works of a literary character:
  - José Javier León: Selección de textos españoles del siglo XX
  - Miguel de Unamuno: San Manuel Bueno, mártir
  - Federico García Lorca: La casa de Bernarda Alba
  - Carmen Laforet: Nada
  - Vicente Verdú: El planeta americano
- Listening to musical versions of several of the proposed poetic texts
- Viewing of films related to the syllabus
- Attendance, attention and participation in class
- Mid-term and final exam

Assessment

• Reading, attendance and participation: 30 %
• Mid-term exam: 30 %
• Final exam: 40 %

Bibliography

This will be given to the students at the beginning of the course