

**SPAN. 5335**  
**Genre Studies in Spain: The Novel of the Transition to Democracy**

J-Term 2013 Jan 7 – Jan 16, 2013

Plano Campus, SMU

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**Required texts:**

The following novels are required readings:

-*Crónica del desamor*, by Rosa Montero

-*El cuarto de atrás* by Carmen Martín Gaité

-*El desorden de tu nombre*, by Juan José Millás

**\*Important:** Due to the intensive nature of the course, it is required that students read all or at least two of the three novels during Winter break. These novels were best sellers in Spain when they came out, and are an entertaining read. If any questions arise, the instructor may be contacted and will answer students' questions during the break by e-mail.

**Course description:**

After Francisco Franco died in 1975, Spain embarked in a remarkable and accelerated process of change. Politically, it moved from a dictatorship to a democracy. It was a time of great economic prosperity, social change and general freedom, but the initial excitement eventually turned into sober disillusionment. In the area of culture, its most prominent features were an opening in all modes of expression called "apertura," and the variety and abundance of the artistic production.

While the novels of previous decades were characterized by adopting a common aesthetics, such as "tremendismo" or social realism, the novel of the Transition branches out in many directions. In this course, we will examine some of the most interesting and representative novelistic categories of that time, such as the thriller, the novel of memory, the self-referential novel, and novels written by and about women. We will analyze the representation of the Transition and Francoism in these novels, the new emphasis on the act of writing (metafiction), the expansion of areas of experience included in fictional works (such as sexuality), and the general experimentation that occurs in the arts. The texts chosen for the course enjoyed both the esteem of literary critics and unprecedented commercial success.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

After taking this course, students:

- will have a more nuanced understanding of the history and culture of Spain the late 20th century.
- will be able to knowledgeably discuss the nature and evolution of the Spanish novel of the Transition to democracy
- will be able to produce increasingly sophisticated analyses of literary texts in Spanish
- will demonstrate a clear knowledge of the Spanish novels studied in class
- will have improved their linguistic abilities in Spanish, having had ample practice discussing abstract ideas, and defending arguments and theses both orally and in writing.

**Grade:** The final grade for the course will be based on the following:

- Class participation (includes brief oral presentations) (15%)
- Contribution to Student Forum on Blackboard (20%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (25%)
- Short quizzes (15%)

**Blackboard Forum:** Students are required to contribute to an online class discussion on Blackboard. Comments and reaction to the following day's readings need to be posted on Blackboard by 10 pm the evening before.

**Examinations. Midterm:** The midterm will include all the material covered the first four classes. A variety of formats is possible. **Final Exam:** It will be comprehensive, but the material covered during the second week of class will be emphasized.

**Quizzes:** Mostly unannounced, at the beginning of class. Please, be punctual. If a student is late and misses the quiz, a grade of "0" will be assigned.

**Attendance** is extremely important. As permitted by University policy, I reserve the right to drop students who miss more than one class (6 hours of instruction).

**Participation.** Your active participation is expected, both individually and in group-work.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4557) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. Then you should schedule an appointment with Prof. Colbert to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4.)

**Religious Observance:** Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

## CLASS SCHEDULE:

### WEEK 1

JAN 7 Presentation of the course. Surveys.

Mon.

**Historical background:**

**1) II Republic and Civil War.**

Hand-outs (in Blackboard)

**Documentary:** The Spanish Civil War (and the Republic)

**Music of the Civil War:** political hymns

**Class Activity:** student randomly assigned a role: landless peasant, Nationalist military officer, Republican military officer, industrialist, progressive intellectual, etc. Needs to reflect on her or his attitude about the military uprising.

**Civil War posters**

**Activity:** Find material (photograph, speech, documentary, film, image, song, work of art, etc) related to the Spanish Civil War online and post it on Student Forum. Include your reasons for choosing it and your commentary on the item.

**2) Francoism:** hand-out (in Blackboard)

**Artifacts:** currency.

**Activity:** Find material (photograph, speech, documentary, film, image, song, work of art, etc) related to Francoism online and post it on Student Forum. Include your reasons for choosing it and your commentary on the item.

**3) Late Francoism:** hand-out (in Blackboard)

**article:** “España o el vertigo de Cenicienta” (in Blackboard)

JAN. 8

Tues.

***Crónica del Desamor:*** chapters 1-6 (included)

**Video:** The condition of women during late Francoism

**TV publicity:** attitudes towards women.

**Early feminism in Spain.**

**The political Transition:** Constitution, legalization of all political parties, first democratic elections, UCD, PSOE.

JAN 9

Wed.

***Crónica del desamor:*** chapters 7-14 (end)

**Youth Culture during the Transition: La Movida**

***El destape:*** changes in attitudes towards sexuality

JAN 10      *El cuarto de atrás*, chapters 1-3 (included)  
Notions on Metafiction  
Todorov's Lo fantástico.  
Thurs.      **MIDTERM** on historical Background and *Crónica del desamor*. Take home  
exam, due Monday, Jan 14

JAN 11      *El cuarto de atrás*, chapters 4-end.  
Fri.      *Usos amorosos de la posguerra española*. (excerpts)  
El bolero y la copla.

## WEEK 2

JAN 14      **Turn in MIDTERM exam**  
Mon.      ***El desorden de tu nombre***, chapters 1-9 (included)

JAN 15      ***El desorden de tu nombre***, chapters 10-end.  
Tues.      The end of the Transition: *el desencanto*

JAN 16      Review of all novels read and literature of the Transition  
Wed.      **FINAL EXAM** (in class)