

# Independent Study

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Prof. William Keeth

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Office: 12 Manser      Hours: MWF 1:00-1:50 pm, MW 3:00-4:00 pm or by appointment.

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## Required material

\*All required reading materials will be distributed in electronic format and can be found on the IS webpage located at <http://www.mnsfld.edu/~wkeeth>.

## Suggested Material

Anderson Imbert, E. *Historia de la literatura hispanoamericana: II época contemporánea*. México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1993.

*Handbook of Latin American Literature*. Ed. by David William Foster. New York: Garland Publishing, 1992.

*Diccionario de escritores hispanoamericanos: Del siglo XVI al siglo XX*. Ed. por Aarón Alboukrek y Esther Herrera. México: Ediciones Larousse, 1991.

## Overview of course:

In this course, we will read a selection of contemporary Spanish American short stories that have been chosen as a representative introductory corpus for this Spanish American genre. As we read this selection of texts, we will comment on their meaning, analyze their construction, and discuss their relationship to the short story genre itself. Our consideration of each work will always attempt to link the text to the historical, intellectual, cultural, and aesthetic context in which it was generated. Thus, our discussion of the text will not only promote better language proficiency in Spanish, but will also allow students to gain a better appreciation of the artistic and historic importance of each work. Students can expect to explore fundamental areas of literary criticism and critical approach, learning more about the process of creative construction, critical appreciation, and the literary institution. Students are encouraged to combine this information with their own interpretation of the texts in both oral and written commentary. Two short essays will be written and shared in class and time will be allowed for their revision. A final ten page written paper will replace the traditional final exam.

## Course Goals

1. Actively attend and participate in class discussion.
2. Read all the materials assigned and prepare for classroom discussion.

3. Maintain a journal that accounts for classroom discussion and personal observations/questions made during/after reading. Attention will be given to individual research initiated in order to understand a particular reading or critical discourse.
4. Identify authors, texts, textual phenomena, and other critical information presented in class.
5. Prepare two critical essays (approximately 3 pages in length) and a research paper (approximately 10 pages in length). Each of these submissions must be presented orally in class and will be evaluated according to bibliographical materials gathered and evaluated, the degree literary and critical understanding, and the student's analysis and explanation of textual meaning. Each of these submissions
6. Complete one mid-term exam, fielding questions related to the works discussed in class and class discussion itself.

**Performance and Evaluation**

**Evaluation:**

Evaluation Scale:			System of Evaluation*:	
A	90%-100%	Excellent	Midterm.....	30%
B	80%-89%	Good	Class Participation.....	10%
C	70%-79%	Average	Journal.....	10%
D	60%-69%	Passing	2 Critical Essays.....	15%
F	0%-59%	Failure	Research Paper:	
			Preliminary bibliography.....	5%
			Annotated Bibliography.....	5%
			Oral presentation.....	10%
			Final Draft (5-7 pages).....	15%
			Total: 100%	

\*Specific due dates will be listed in the Class Calendar or assigned periodically in class.

**Performance:**

The Syllabus: This syllabus serves as a contractual agreement. Presence in this class means that you agree to the items stipulated in the syllabus and are aware of any modifications made throughout the semester. One should periodically check the course web site to keep abreast of any announcements and/or changes, to view the class calendar, and to take advantage of the suggested links or e-guides found there.

Midterm: All students must be present at the midterm. If a student is absent from the midterm (unless the absence is a result of an unexpected illness or the student has arranged a make-up plan with the professor), the student will receive a failing grade on the midterm. The midterm exam will test and expand upon information presented and discussed in class. Its format may include multiple choice questions, short answers, box diagrams, essay questions, etc.

Final paper: The format of this 10 page document must follow MLA guidelines for research papers. The final paper will be completed and evaluated in a staged process (Preliminary bibliography, Annotated Bibliography, Oral presentation, Final Draft).

Journals: A format for journals will be posted on the website. Journals will be accepted only on the days established for turn-in. They will be evaluated and discussed periodically through the course.

Class participation: A grade for each student's class participation will be determined in accordance with each student's attendance and the results of periodic instructor evaluation.

Study Method: Students should expand their class notes as soon as possible following each class and should review the previous day's notes before they attend the next class. Students are encouraged to self-monitor their progress and schedule office visits with their professor as they deem necessary.

Attendance: All students are expected to attend all classes. Missing a class does not release a student from homework, testing, or participation obligations. Although it is NOT mandatory that a professor assist students in making-up work missed due to an official field trip, due to an official university function, or due to an illness, students in this course MAY arrange with the professor to make-up missed work. Students MUST, however, make this type of arrangement *at least 24 hours prior* to their absence or the absence will be considered unexcused. In the event of an unexpected illness, students MUST provide documents supporting the medical emergency, or the absence will be considered unexcused. *Every unexcused absence will result in a 15% reduction in the student's participation grade.* Students should, therefore, keep in touch with a classmate and be sure to contact their professor in advance of any absence. Electronic submission of written work is an effective and secure way of handing in required written work by a specified deadline, especially when a student expects to be absent. Students should take advantage of this feature whenever possible.

Conduct: Academic honesty, the submission of original work, and student interaction is expected in this class. Any form of cheating may result in failure of the course. Additional information concerning academic honesty can be found in the Password.

**Other Operational Matters:**

Disabilities: If a student has a documented disability and requires accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, s/he needs to contact the professor at the beginning of the semester.