



Dr. William Keeth
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[Class Schedule](#)
[Office Hours](#)

Spa 3310 Introduction to Literary Studies

Required material:

Rodríguez, Rodney T. *Momentos cumbres de las literaturas hispánicas: Introducción al análisis literario*. New Jersey: Prentice may, 2003. [PQ6014.R63]

Suggested Material:

Anderson Imbert. E. *Historia de la literatura hispanoamericana*. México: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1992.

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

A spiral notebook (Use [Modified Cornell Model](#) for note taking)

Overview of course:

SPA 3310 is an introductory course in literary studies. In this course, students will read a diverse but representative collection of short Peninsular and Latin American literary texts, concentrating on their form/construction, meaning, and relationship to literary genre and to socio-historical context. As a result, students will develop better reading, critical thinking, and evaluative skills. Class discussion of the texts 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.

Course Goals:

1. Actively attend and participate in class discussion.
2. Read all the materials assigned prior to and in preparation for classroom discussion.
3. Maintain an electronic journal that accounts for classroom discussion, personal observations/questions made during/after reading, attention given to individually initiated investigation or critical questioning.
4. Identify authors, texts, textual phenomena, and other critical information presented in class.
5. Prepare two summaries (approximately 1.5 pages in length), two essays (not to exceed 3 pages), and a research paper (approximately 5-7 pages in length). Each of these submissions will be evaluated according to bibliographical materials gathered and evaluated, the degree of literary and critical understanding, and the student's analysis and explanation of textual meaning.
6. Complete one mid-term exam and one final exam, fielding questions related to the works discussed in class and class discussion itself.

Performance and Evaluation:

System of Evaluation				
Standards of Measurement			Criteria and Weight	
Performance Description	Grade	Percentage	Class Participation	10%
Excellent	A	93 > 100 %	E-Journal	10%
	A-	90 > 92 %	2 Essays	10%
Good	B+	87 > 89 %	2 Article Summaries	10%
	B	83 > 86 %	Midterm	15%
	B-	80 > 82 %	Final Exam	15%
Satisfactory	C+	77 > 79 %	Research Paper:	
	C	73 > 76 %	Prelim. Bibliography	5%
	C-	70 > 72 %	Annot. Bibliography	5%
Marginal	D+	67 > 69 %	Oral Presentation	5%
	D	63 > 66 %	Final Draft (5-7 pgs)	15%
	D-	60 > 62 %	Total	100%
Failing	F	0 > 59 %		

Important Dates	
Feb. 17 th , 2012 –Summary 1	Feb. 24 th , 2012 –Preliminary Bibliography
March 9 th , 2012 – Midterm Exam	March 23 rd , 2012 –Essay 1
March 30 th , 2012, -- Summary 2	April 6 th , 2012 –Outline
April 13 st , 2012 –Essay 2	April 20 th , 2012 –Annotated Bibliography
April 27 th , 2012 –Rough Draft	April 30 th - May4 th – Oral Presentation
May 9 th , 2012 – Final Exam	May 11 th – Last Day for Final Draft

Class Participation:

Regular and punctual class attendance is expected. In order for an absence to be considered “excused” a student must document any illness, serious mitigating circumstances, or official university representation. Any “unexcused” absence will result in a 15% reduction in the student’s final Participation grade at the end of the semester.

Class participation to be evaluated in accordance with the [General Guidelines for Class Participation](#) and in accordance with the system of [Peer Scoring of Class Participation](#). Students will receive participation scores from their peers as well as the professor (60% professor, 40% peers). Any partial absence (over 15 minutes) will result in a maximum score of 2.5 for the day.

Exams:

The Midterm and Final Exam will be accumulative exams that assess student retention and comprehension of the materials discussed in class and assigned readings. The Midterm and Final Exam typically consist of recognition, map identification, multiple choice, and short essay exercises. They CANNOT be made up.

Electronic Journal:

In the electronic journal, students should prepare comments and notes on the assigned readings (commentary and reflection that will be used in class discussions and that fosters intellectual development). In addition, daily electronic journal entries should summarize the notes that each student takes during class and while reading at home (the suggested format is the [Modified Cornell Method](#)). The electronic journal must be written in Spanish and should include academic, emotional, creative, and intellectual comments. Journals will be turned in periodically throughout the course.

Final paper:

The format of this 5-7 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). The document's final draft must be typed in 12pt Times Roman, be written with 1.5 spacing, and have 1 inch margins.

Essays:

During the semester, each student will write two essays. In these essays, students should demonstrate a creative and analytical application of the major literary concepts covered in the course. Each essay will be assigned a week before the essay itself is due. The essays must be written in Spanish, typed in Times New Roman 12, and reach the length of at least two pages. If a bibliographical source is cited, students must follow the MLA format guidelines

Article Summaries:

During the semester, students will write two article summaries. In order to write this type of summary, students must read a critical article written on a single work that is related to the course readings or content. Each summary must be written in Spanish, be typed in Times New Roman 12, and follow the MLA format guidelines.

Oral presentations:

At the end of the semester, each student will prepare an oral presentation (5 minutes long) that reflects the literary work or topic that s/he has investigated for the Research Paper. In order to execute this assignment well, students will need to have selected and read a literary text, gathered and evaluated criticism about this work, organized and evaluated their material in a coherent and professional way, and explained the text's uniqueness and difficulty in a succinct and creative manner. They should be prepared to field questions after their presentation. Presentations should include (but not be limited to) information related to: the author, context of the work, the theme and argument of the work, the literary structure of the work, an analysis of the work, and an interpretation of the work. Each presentation will be evaluated according to these categories: execution and delivery (30%), material and preparation (60%), and class reception and/or fielding of questions (10%).

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 set up a rigorous routine of reading. They should also schedule office visits with their professor, as they deem necessary. To avoid burnout, students should always study in multiple, staggered, short blocks of time. Each block should be no more than an hour and should include 5 to 10 minute breaks. Integrating numerous small blocks of study time into the weekly schedule is empowering.

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to do their own academic work. Dishonesty in academic work, including cheating, academic misconduct, fabrication, or plagiarism is unacceptable. Any form of cheating may result in failure of the course. (For more additional information concerning academic honesty and university policy, please, consult the MU [Academic Integrity Policy](#)).

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 for any updates to the syllabus and/or class calendar.

Class records and Grades:

Oversee your grade by monitoring your progress and maintaining contact with your instructor. Any student material or record that has been returned to the student becomes the student's responsibility to maintain as a permanent record for the course. Students are responsible for picking up any materials that are made available to them or are returned in class. If a student loses these records and the professor does not have a copy of the material available, the student will receive a failing grade for the particular activity.

Students with "exceptionalities":

Any students with documented psychological or learning disorders or other significant medical conditions that may affect their learning should contact Mr. William Chabala in our [Counseling Center](#) (143 South Hall, Phone: 662-4695; mwchabala@mansfield.edu). Mr. Chabala will provide the professor with the appropriate letter and materials that will enable him to serve each student's particular needs more effectively. If a student has an exceptionality that requires class or testing accommodations, Mr. Chabala will work with the student and the professor to identify and implement appropriate interventions.