

Syllabus for  
**SPA 416—Latin American Short Story**  
3 Credit hours  
Spring 2002

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the Latin American short story in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with emphasis on the contemporary period and magical realism. The short story is studied against a philosophical and socio-political background. The course is taught in Spanish.

Prerequisite: SPA 314 or by special permission.

This course is in nature a survey. Thus, the treatment of each author is not intended to be intensive. It covers many authors from many countries, and the student is expected to know the country the author represents, as well as the place he holds with respect to world literary, philosophical, and political movements. The works selected for required reading are not to be studied inclusively, but rather with emphasis on their importance as representatives of a given type or period of literature.

This course will give the student a broad, general knowledge of the development of major philosophical and literary trends in Latin America. The material read will be discussed in terms of sociopolitical influences found within the works, and in terms of structure, style, and literary genre. Thus, the student taking this course will receive exposure to basic literary movements such as romanticism, realism, naturalism, modernism, and the avant-garde, and know the philosophical systems underlying them.

II. COURSE GOALS

To assess the message of a literary artist as seen in the work and to apply that message to contemporary society, especially within a Christian perspective. Examples of these include social, political, economic, and religious comments as the particular author analyzes his own society.

To recognize the philosophical base of a work as a representative of one or more genres. Examples of this include analysis of Darwinist thought in naturalism or Nietzschean thought in existentialism.

To recognize literary techniques and styles.

To increase verbal and oral-aural proficiency.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

To satisfactorily complete the requirements for this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Read, discuss and hear lectures in the target language and have a factual knowledge of the material.
- B. Synthesize historical, political, and cultural facts into a humanistic reality for a given period.
- C. Analyze a particular work in terms of its literary genre; including style, theme, structure and content.
- D. List the critical historical and literary dates associated with the material read.

- E. Exhibit both orally and in writing a working knowledge of Darwinist, Freudian, Nietzschean and existential philosophy as depicted in the literary works.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS

##### A. Required text

Anderson, Imbert & Florit. Literatura Hispanoamericana, Volume II. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1970.

- B. Research material. A reserve list will be given during the first week of classes.

#### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.
6. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of this semester.

##### B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Minimum grade** – A minimum grade of “C” must be achieved in this course before the next level may be taken.
2. **Tardies** – Tardies are an inconvenience to class members and to professors; therefore, three tardies equal one unexcused absence.
3. **Incompletes** – As stated in the University catalog, incompletes are granted only for “good cause,” such as extended hospitalization, long-term illness, or a death in the family. Students must petition for an incomplete using the form available in the Modern Language Department.
4. **Late Work**
  - a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. Late work may result in a lower grade. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence.
  - b. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy that is given to students at the beginning of a course. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work resulting from absences. In unanticipated absences, such as sickness or family crises, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible and agreement reached on due dates and possible penalties.
5. **Attendance** – Because unavoidable circumstances can prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed unexcused absences equal to the number of times per week a class meets. After this, the student loses one percent of the

semester average per absence. With an unexcused absence, tests can be made up within a week but will incur a \$10.00 late fee paid to the Modern Language Department and a 10% grade cut. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require verification from a doctor.

6. **Administratively Excused Absences** – Only absences that are required by approved University activities are given administrative excuses. Students who must miss for University sponsored activities must inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually agreed upon deadline.
7. **Plagiarism** – Each student attending Oral Roberts University is required to do his or her own academic work and must not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments. A plagiarized paper will result in an F for the paper. Flagrant cheating will result in an F for the course.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. All exams are a combination of identification, short answer and essay, which require a comparison of themes, techniques, and styles in all the works read. All exams are of the same value in the final grade computation.
2. Any student not appearing to take the scheduled examinations can make up the exam with a letter grade penalty. With regard to late penalties: **No exception will be made except in case of verified illness or administrative excuse. In all cases any exam missed must be prearranged with the instructor, and if not made up within seven days becomes an F.**
3. Special Assignments:
  - a. All students in the course are expected to read and review 12 substantial outside research articles or do a term paper. This research may be taken from the books on reserve or may be researched from other sources, including Spanish language periodicals.
  - b. Research done may be handed in until the last day of classes in the form of reviews or note outlines, although no more than three articles may be handed in during the last week of classes. A term paper is due in completed form at the close of class in week 12. Late term papers receive a letter grade penalty.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Weeks 1-4	Lecture and discussion of the short stories found in Paul Rogers, <u>Florilegio de Cuentos Hispanoamericanos</u> . (romanticism and realism). <b>EXAM</b>
Weeks 5-9	Lecture and discussion of stories found in Alexander Coleman, <u>Cinco Maestros</u> . (realism, naturalism and modernism). <b>EXAM</b>
Weeks 10-15	Lecture and discussion of stories selected from Anderson-Imbert, Volume II. <b>FINAL EXAM</b>

## VII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

William R. Walker  
Name of Instructor

Spa 416  
Course No.

Latin American Short Story  
Title of Course

Modern Language Department  
Name of Department

### MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word "Wholeness." ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of mind, spirit, and body.

### GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. Spiritual Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication
4. Analysis
5. Problem Solving
6. Valuing in Decision-making
7. Social Interaction
8. Global Perspectives
9. Effective Citizenship
10. Aesthetic Responsiveness

### MAJOR OUTCOMES

**Critical Thinking/Analysis, Problem-solving, Decision-making:** Ability to discuss, explain, and debate the relativity of themes and genres of literature to the real world.

**Communication:** Ability to communicate knowledge of major literary genres and authors of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as well as the social, political, and religious implications of these genres.

**Global Perspectives:** Students will appreciate perspectives which differ from their own, question the viability of these perspectives, and arrive at a better comprehension of the Spanish culture and society through literature.

**Aesthetic Responsiveness:** Utilize the student's command in the Spanish language to communicate the religious, social, and political implications and relativity of major literary genres, themes, and works.

### COURSE OUTCOMES

1. Identifies a comprehensive knowledge of major literary works, genres, and themes.
2. Utilizes the Spanish language to actively discuss major literary works as to style, content, theme, and structure as well as a factual knowledge of the progression of genres

### ASSESSMENT OF COURSE GOALS

#### STIMULI:

- Research
- Active oral participation
- Comparison between genres
- Exams
- Papers

#### CRITERIA:

National levels for corresponding courses.

- 90% - 100% = A
- 80% - 89% = B
- 70% - 79% = C
- 60% - 69% = D
- 59% & below = F

