

SPRING 2009

SPAN 3302 HISPANIC LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION: “Literature and Culture of the Afro-Hispanic/Brazilian Diaspora”

Dr. S. Watson

Class time: T/R 12:30-1:50PM Trimble Hall 216

Office hours: Tuesday 8:30-9:20, Thursday 2-3 & by appointment

Office: Hammond Hall 322

Telephone: (817)-272-5109

Email: swatson1@uta.edu

Required Texts:

Course packet (Eagle Business Center 1720 S. Cooper Street)

Bitita's Diary by Carolina Maria de Jesus

Chambacú, Black Slum by Manuel Zapata Olivella

Sirena Selena by Mayra Santos-Febres

Course Description: In this introductory course, students will read selected poetry and prose of Spanish and Portuguese-speaking writers of African descent from Latin America and the Caribbean. The literature will be explored by analyzing selected works of writers considering their socio-historical, geographic, and racial implications from their respective literary movements beginning with the 1900s to the present.

Course Objectives: Students will obtain familiarity with the Afro-Hispanic and Afro-Brazilian literary canons by gaining exposure to different cultures outside of the traditional Latin-American literary canon. Throughout this course students will be challenged to question the following when reading and analyzing texts written by Afro-Hispanic, Afro-Caribbean, and Afro-Brazilian writers:

- How do these texts fit into the Latin-American literary canon?
- How is race (de)constructed?/ How is blackness appropriated?
- How is gender problematized when dealing with Spanish and Portuguese-speaking writers of African descent? Is gender an issue?

Attendance/Preparation/Class Participation: Participation and attendance in class is mandatory. Students should come to class prepared having read all material assigned and ready to participate. **Missing more than three classes will severely lower your final grade. After three absences your final grade will be lowered by 10%. NO exceptions!**

Grading Components:

10% Participation/Attendance
20% Daily Quizzes
20% Essays (2)
30% Tests (2)
20% Final Exam

Quizzes: Daily Quizzes will be given on all readings. The quizzes will be administered during the first 10 minutes of class. If you are late or absent, NO make-ups will be allowed. No exceptions! At the end of the semester, I will drop the lowest two quiz grades.

Essays: I will assign two topics that are to be analyzed at home. I will assign the topic two weeks before the essay is due. The paper should be no shorter than three (3) pages and should not exceed five (5) and should be Times New Roman Font 12 point, double-spaced, and typewritten. Papers should conform to the *MLA Style Citation* located in the back of your course packet.

Note: Spanish majors and minors taking the class for Spanish credit are required by the department to write their papers in Spanish.

Drop Policy:

The University has adopted a single drop date for all undergraduate students. **For Spring 2009, the last drop date is Friday, April 3**, which occurs at the end of the tenth week of classes. As usual, students are allowed to drop until 5:00p.m. CST on that date. Undergraduate students who drop a course on or before the Last Drop Date will receive an automatic grade of “W” regardless of whether they have completed assignments or not. Students seeking to drop a course will be advised to speak with the instructor of record and then, if deemed appropriate, proceed to the Academic Advisor for their major (or designee) who will complete the drop in the MyMav system. A “W” will be placed on the student record automatically by MyMav when the drop is entered.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112-The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Student Support Services Available

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students who require assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Academic Integrity

It is the philosophy of the University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion with University regulations and procedures. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism,* collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

***The submission for credit of work attributable to a computer program, such as electronic or Internet translators is also academic dishonesty.**

Week 1

T Jan. 20 Introduction to course syllabus and Afro-Hispanic/Brazilian Literature

R Jan 22 Discovering Mexico's African Roots

Film: *La Raíz Olvidada/The Forgotten Root*

Week 2

T Jan. 27 Course Packet Selected poetry of Luis Palés Matos: "Black Town", "Black Majesty," "Black Dance," "Mulatta-Antille"

R- Jan. 29 - Course Packet "Negrista: The Poetry and Nicolás Guillén;"

Selected poetry of Nicolás Guillén: "Sensemaya, ""Son Number 6," "The New Woman"

Week 3

T-Feb. 3 Course Packet Selected poetry of Nicolás Guillén: "Ballad of the two Grandfathers"

R-Feb. 5 Course Packet Selected poetry of Nicolás Guillén: "My Last Name"

Week 4

T-Feb. 10 *Course Packet* Selected Poetry of Julia de Burgos (“Ay, Ay, Ay of the Kinky-Haired Negress,” “I Greet in You the New American Woman,” “Awaken”) and Carmen Colón Pellot (“Oh Lord, I Want to be White!,” “Roots of Mulata Envy,” “The Land is a Mulatto Woman.”)

R- Feb. 12 De Burgos and Colón Pellot continued; Review for Test 1

Week 5

T- Feb. 17 Test 1

R- Feb. 19 *Bitita’s Diary* p. 3-45 (Chapters 1-6)

Week 6

T- Feb. 24 *Bitita’s Diary* p. 46-101 (Chapters 7-12)

R- Feb. 26 *Bitita’s Diary* p. 102-152 (Chapters 8-end)
Course packet Brazil: “A great divide”

Week 7

T- Mar. 3 Film *City of God*

R- Mar. 5 Film *City of God* and Discussion

Week 8

T- Mar. 10 *Chambacú, Black Slum Part one*
Essay 1 due

R- Mar. 12 *Chambacú, Black Slum Part two*

SPRING BREAK March 16-20

Week 9

T- Mar. 24 *Chambacú, Black Slum Part three*

R- Mar. 26 No class.

Week 10

T-Mar. 31 *Chambacú, Black Slum Part three*

R-Apr. 2 Review for Test 2

(For Spring 2009, the last drop date is Friday, April 3.)

Week 11

T- Apr. 7 Test 2

R- Apr. 9 *Course Packet* Selected poetry of Nicomedes Santa Cruz (“Black Rhythms of Peru”) and Nancy Morejón (“Black Man,” “Black Woman”)

Week 12

T- Apr. 14 *Course Packet* Selected poetry of Nancy Morejón (“I Love my Master”) Cuba: “A Barrier for Cuba’s Blacks”

R-Apr. 16 *Course Packet* Dominican Republic “Black Denial” Selected poetry of Blas Jiménez (“I Have”, “Africa No. 1”)

Week 13

T- Apr. 21 *Course Packet* Selected poetry of Blas Jiménez (“Demands from a Maroon”, “There is a Violent Sea Pregnant with Promises,” “Sing to Me, Black Poet”, “My Lament,” “Number 4”)

R- Apr. 23 *Course Packet* Selected short stories of Carlos “Cubena” Guillermo Wilson (“The Flour Boy,” “Honeymoon”) *Sirena Selena* (Chapters 1-8)

Week 14

T- Apr. 28 *Sirena Selena* (Chapters 9-20)

R- Apr. 30 *Sirena Selena* (Chapters 21-35)
Essay 2 due

Week 15

T- May 5 *Sirena Selena* (Chapters 36-49)

R-May 7 Review for the final exam

Final Exam Thursday May 14, 2008 11:00-1:30