

## LIT 367 Nobel Prizes in Spanish and Latin American Literature: A Critical Approach

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**Course Information:**  
Spring 2018  
Mondays & y Wednesdays:  
10:30-11:50hs

**Office hour:** By appointment

### 1. Course Description

Annually since its foundation, the Nobel Prize in literature has awarded the contributions of men and women from many different languages and cultures. However, its history is one of controversy: major authors have been ignored by the Swedish Academy. The aim of this course is to analyze the life and the works of the Spanish and Latin American Literature Nobel Prize Winners and the Academy's reasons for its choices. The study will be carried out from a critical and comparative perspective within a historical and literary context. The Generation of 1927, Post-Spanish Civil War narrative or Magical Realism among other great literary tendencies will be included.

### 2. Prerequisites

None.

### 3. Course Goals and Methodology

Lectures will have both a theoretical component and a practical component. On one hand, a set of lectures from the professor and on the other hand, in-class debates and activities about the readings that will be carried out by students. For this reason it is very important to read the texts before classes begin (if you don't, you may feel *lost* and/or may be doing your classmates a disservice by not being sufficiently familiar with a text so as to effectively contribute to discussions). After each unit, students will take a quiz (multiple choice) about the corresponding texts, in which they must demonstrate their acquired understanding of the subject matter (approx. every two or three classes). If for some reason, you will be absent on the day of the quiz, you should make arrangements with the professor to do it on the official quiz day and not after.

At the end of the semester, students must turn in an essay about the following topic: "Nobel Academy Member for a Day". Essays must be turned in typewritten, double-space, Times New Roman, font size 12, with a length of 7– 8 pages (including bibliography).

The professor will explain the rules and policies of the essay at the beginning of the course.

Spelling errors in submitted essays will not be permitted. Regarding the students' bibliography, all sources should be specified with total clarity. The use of Wikipedia as a source will not be permitted. If there is any doubt how to attribute or cite sources, please consult with the professor. The use of the "author-date" system or footnotes at the bottom of the page will be acceptable.

#### 4. Required Texts

All materials will be provided by the professor during the course (selections of texts, theory, videos, power points, websites etc.). However, **each student is responsible for getting his/her own copy of the following books (we recommend that you get and bring the following editions before the start of the course):**

\*Benavente, Jacinto, *Los intereses creados/The Bonds of Interest (A Dual-Language Book)*, Dover, NY, 2004.

Cela, Camilo José, *The Hive*, Dalkey Archive Pr. Library Binding edition, 2001.

Jiménez, Juan Ramón, *Platero y yo / Platero and I (ed. bilingüe español-inglés)*, Dover, NY, 2004.

\*We will be looking at this text at the start of the course, so please make sure you have this copy by then.

#### WEBS

Links and recommended sources on the official website: [www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org)

Echegaray José, *The Great Galeoto. A Drama in Three Acts and a Prologue*, Boston: Richard G. Badger, 1914:

<https://archive.org/stream/greatgaleotodram00eche#page/12/mode/2up>

#### 5. General Course Policies

-Please keep your cell phones turned off during class.

-No food allowed in class.

-Use your computer for academic purposes only. Otherwise, your participation grade will be lowered.

#### 6. Course Requirements and Grading

Oral participation will be very important for success in this course. The goal is that every student actively participates in every class meeting. Students' attendance will be checked daily.

The final grade is broken down as follows:

\*Participation 30%:

Final Essay 25%

Mid-term Exam 20%

Final Exam 25%

Late submissions of homework, activities, or essays will not be allowed. If for some reason, a student cannot turn in the written homework by the due date, s/he should turn it in before, but never after. Submitting homework by email is not allowed (except for obvious and justifiable reasons, i.e. medical problems).

**\*The participation grade will include:**

-The on-time submission of all written assignments and active involvement in class discussions (15%). **One of them will be a mini essay on the article by M.P. Predmore, "The Structure of Platero and I"**

- The sum of your grades from the quizzes and extra reading homework (15%)

\*Very important: students who do not turn in their homework on time cannot receive a "10" (A+) in the participation grade.

**\*There will be optional oral presentations for extra credits. Instructions will be submit at the beginning of the course.**

Important dates:

- **Midterm Exam:** 21 March (Wednesday).
  - **Final Exam:** To Be Determined (21-24 May).
  - **Essay:** Students must turn in rough drafts to the professor.
1. **2 May (Wednesday).** Last day to turn in rough drafts to the professor. Students are to notify the professor of the author they have selected before submitting their rough drafts.
  2. **9 May (Wednesday).** All rough drafts will be returned to the students. They will be assigned a grade but this grade will serve only so as to give you an idea of the professor's assessment of your essay at this stage. This grade will not be final.
  3. **16 May (Wednesday).** Last day to submit final essays. The professor will return them on the final exam day.

### **Exams will have the following structure:**

The midterm exam and final exam will consist of multiple choice, questions about material presented in the lectures which is summarized in the power points and questions to develop related to authors and readings from the lessons.

### **Grading Rubric**

#### **(10-9)**

Student displays a thorough knowledge of the most important information and there are no errors. Many details are provided. Organization is coherent.

#### **(8.99-8.25)**

Student displays a good knowledge of the most important information and there may be a few minor errors. Many details are provided. Organization is coherent.

\*Minor errors: your grade will be lowered 0.5 points (aprox.)

For example: "Alfred Nobel was fascinated by literature, especially by English poems. His favorite writers were\* Mary Shelley and Lord Byron (romantic poets)".

\*Percy

#### **(8.24-7.5)**

Student displays a good knowledge of the most important information but there are several minor errors and/or one major error. Some details are provided. Organization is coherent.

\*Major error: your grade will be lowered 2.5 points (aprox.)

For example: "Alfred Nobel trusted collectivity and government to change the world "\*\*  
(\*He trusted individuals)

#### **(7.4- 6)**

Student displays an acceptable knowledge of the most important information and there are several minor errors and/or two major errors. Some details are provided. Sometimes organization is confused.

#### **(5.9 - 5)**

Student displays some familiarization with the most important information but there are many minor errors and/or two major errors. Organization is confused.

### **7. Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance is mandatory. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in the lowering of the final grade. Students with more than 2 such absences may not challenge the final grade received. Punctuality is required – lateness will be penalised by 0.5 (over 15 mins) or 1 absence (over 30mins). Students who were absent for medical reasons, must submit a physician's note upon their return to class. Students who miss class, regardless of the reason, must contact their professor in order to find out which material they have missed.

### **8. Missed or Late Work**

Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be typed according to the guidelines given and must be submitted at the beginning of each class. No late assignments will be graded unless it is due to an excused absence (usually medical). Missed or late work will be automatically given a zero.

### **9. Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly (using footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography).

### **10. Students with Disabilities**

If you require special accommodations, you must stop by the International Center to speak to Rubén to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is February 16th. Rubén will explain the options available to you.

## 11. Behavior Policy

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.

## 12. Course Schedule

**\*Very important: The following schedule is an ideal proposal.** The professor will always take into account students' learning speed and their opinions. Therefore, the schedule will be susceptible of change in benefit of students except for the exam dates.

### 1. Introduction to the Nobel Prize.

### 2. Nobel Prizes in Spanish Literature: Selection. Followers and detractors. Life and works.

-José Echegaray y Jacinto Benavente: The forgotten. The Spanish Theater in the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Readings: *The Great Galeoto and The Bond of Interests*.

-Juan Ramón Jiménez: The universal Andalusian. From Modernism to *God Desired and Desiring*. Readings: *Platero and I*.

-Vicente Aleixandre and the Generation of 27. The Spanish Surrealism. Readings: *Destruction or Love*, among others (selected poems).

-Camilo José Cela: Post-Spanish Civil War narrative: *The Hive*.

### 3. Nobel Prizes in Latin American Literature: Selection. Followers and detractors. Life and works.

#### -The Latin American poetry and essay:

-Gabriela Mistral: The First Latin American Nobel: "What the soul is to the body, so is the artist to his people". Readings: *Sonnets of Death, Despair, Tenderness*, among other (selected poems).

-Pablo Neruda. From *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* to *Canto general*, among others (selected poems).

-Octavio Paz. Sensuality and humanism. *Sun Stone* (selected poems) and *The Labyrinth of Solitude and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz or The Traps of Faith* (selection).

#### -The Latin American Novel:

-Magical Realism: Miguel Ángel Asturias. The indigenous world (myths and reality). Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (selection of chapters)

-Mario Vargas Llosa. Innovation and commitment. Readings: *The Time of the Hero, The War of the End of the World, The Feast of the Goat*, among others (selection).

## 13. Calendar:

- Midterm Exam: 21 March (Wednesday)
- Final Exam: To Be Determined (21-24 May).
- 16 May (Wednesday). Last day to submit final essays.

**\*Festivos (No classes will be held on these days):**

***Wednesday, February 28 – Día de Andalucía***

***Monday, March 26 – Friday, March 30 - Semana Santa (Holy Week)***

***Monday, April 16-Friday, April 20 – Feria de Abril (Seville´s April Fair)***

***Tuesday, May 1 - Labor Day***