

Special Topics: Contemporary Spanish-American Literature (A004224)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024

A (semester 1)	Spanish	Gent	seminar lecture independent work
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Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024

Schoups, Marie	LW07	staff member
Logie, Ilse	LW07	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Linguistics and Literature)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Dutch - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject English - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject French - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject German - Spanish)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Iberian-Romance Languages)	5	A
Master of Arts in Linguistics and Literature(main subject Latin - Spanish)	5	A
Exchange Programme Linguistics and Literature	5	A

Teaching languages

Spanish

Keywords

Literature, society, Latin-American, contemporary, multilingualism, text analysis.

Position of the course

The acquisition of advanced, theory-based insights in contemporary Latin American literature, with a special emphasis on textual analysis and literary sociology.

Exchange students can follow this course. Knowledge of Spanish is required; no knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

Multilingualism and translation in contemporary Latin American literature (1980-present).

This course focusses on the importance of multilingualism and translation in contemporary Latin American literature. It is known that the colonisation that was at the heart of present day Latin America was accompanied by an extensive translation operation of indigenous languages and cultures. But also in the work of modern authors such as Borges, Arguedas, Cortázar or Puig, the self-evidence of the mother tongue has been problematized and translation plays a decisive role as a technique or as a metaphor. Since 1980, processes such as exile, migration and advanced globalisation have significantly increased the relevance of multilingualism and translation, as evidenced by the itineraries of prominent writers such as Roberto Bolaño, Valeria Luiselli or Cristina Rivera Garza. Does Latin American literature evolve towards a 'postmonolingual paradigm' (Yildiz) in this transnational context? Or does structural multilingualism conflict with the rules of the literary market? And how - in which key scenes and motives, through which stylistic and rhetorical patterns - are the relations between language and identity construction on the one hand and language and affect on the other implemented?

The conceptual introduction is followed by a typology of the manner in which, during the

last decades, multilingualism has manifested itself in texts from Latin American authors or authors with Latin American roots. A distinction is made between:

- Multilingualism as a result of a political fracture (exile after the Cuban Revolution or the military dictatorships (first and second generation), migration); translation and trauma - Gustavo Pérez Firmat, Laura Alcoba, Paloma Vidal, etc.
- Multilingualism within the framework of asymmetrical power relations in which Spanish can be the colonial language - among authors from indigenous communities (such as Daniela Catrileo) - or otherwise can undergo the imperialism of English - more specifically in the hybrid writings of the Latino Writers in the US - Gloria Anzaldúa, Junot Díaz etc.
- Multilingualism as a sign of cosmopolitanism and a tool for World Literature – Roberto Bolaño, Valeria Luiselli, etc.

The case studies (narrative, essays, poetry) will be imbedded in a specific social context and in the personal poetics of the selected authors. The role of related phenomena like self-translation and pseudo-translation could also be addressed.

Initial competences

Students must be highly proficient in Spanish (at least level B2). They must be familiar with the Latin American context, with the most important contemporary Latin American authors and with literary-analytical methods.

Final competences

- 1 to have excellent knowledge of (several varieties of) Spanish and the ability to fluently apply this language in various situations (level C1).
- 2 to have in-depth academic understanding of the characteristics of literary texts and of the way literature operates, more particularly, contemporary Latin American literature; to gain insight in certain topics of multilingualism and translation.
- 3 to gain insight in the cultural and social context of the analyzed Latin writers and their poetics; to problematize and broaden the very notion of 'Latin American literature'.
- 4 be able to actively and critically evaluate literary theories and methods and to begin to use them in addressing new problems.
- 5 be able to formulate and to answer independently original research questions relating to contemporary Latin American literature
- 6 to have an intellectual curiosity and a lifelong commitment to learning
- 7 to be able to present research orally and in writing in an academically responsible form.
- 8 to be able to discuss complex problems, related to contemporary literature, in fluent spoken and written Spanish.
- 9 To use digital methods to collect and manage analogue or digital research objects in a structured way.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

On campus classes. Concepts can be offered by short audio/video clips. The students are encouraged to search for answers to the research questions that are presented at the beginning of the course and to participate in discussions in the (physical or virtual) classroom. They are expected to come to class having done the assigned reading and are also supposed to track the questions and problems that the texts arise in online interaction on Ufora. The students may have to attend lectures on Latin America and/or Contemporary Literature and/or multilingualism related to the course topics.

Learning materials and price

Reader available on Ufora

Reading list, to be announced on Ufora (max. 30,00 €)

Powerpoint presentations, audiovisual sources

Cost: max. 30,00 €

References

The bibliography is included in the reader.

Course content-related study coaching

Communication on aims and assignments via Ufora.
Individual feedback during presentations and by appointment.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period****Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Presentation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Non-periodic evaluation: All students participate actively in the course. They participate in the online interaction on Ufora (= they post questions, discuss, write mini-papers) and in the class. In the final paper, each student selects and analyses a text not discussed in class (after consultation with the instructor) engaging with key concepts and ideas from the course. This also includes the oral presentation of the first draft of the final essay on which feedback is provided. Non-participation will result in a fail for this part of the evaluation. Insufficient oral or written language skills can cause the student to fail. Students who fail can rework their paper between the first and the second exam periods. There is no second chance for 'participation'.

Calculation of the examination mark

80% of the final mark depends on the exam and 20% on the permanent evaluation.

Facilities for Working Students

Facilities:

- 1 Student attendance of at least half of the lectures is required
- 2 Individual feedback can be given