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UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
WINTER 2021

SPAN*4410: Senior Seminar on Latin America Post-1950/
LACS*6040: Novel and Nation in Latin America

Note: This course counts for either 1.0 credits towards an undergraduate degree or 0.5 credits towards a graduate degree.

Undergraduates should plan to accommodate a workload that will be as heavy as those for two courses worth 0.5 credits each.

Graduates are expected to produce work whose insight and analytical sophistication distinguishes it from that habitually seen in undergraduate essays.

Objectives: The seminar provides in-depth study of contemporary Spanish America through its literature. The topic for Winter 2021 is **“Autobiography in Spanish America.”**

This course will investigate the meaning of writing one’s life story in a Spanish American context and examine the multiplicity of literary forms autobiography can take. Questions to be discussed include the issue of an educated author adapting the autobiographical form to narrate the life story of a non-literate subaltern, autobiography as the mourning of a deceased family member, and the role played by private life in national history. In addition to the required texts below, readings will include relevant theoretical essays on the autobiography as a form.

Required Reading

- Miguel Barnet: *Biografía de un cimarrón* (1966) [Cuba]
Elisabeth Burgos-Debray, *Me llamo Rigoberta Menchú y así me nació la conciencia* (1982) [Guatemala]
Mario Vargas Llosa, *El pez en el agua* (1993) [Peru]
Isabel Allende, *Paula* (1994) [Chile]
Gioconda Belli, *El país bajo mi piel* (2001) [Nicaragua]
Héctor Abad Faciolince, *El olvido que seremos* (2006) [Colombia]

Delivery method: Seminar-style online discussions held on MicroSoft Teams.

Method of Evaluation:

- Essay (10 pages).....25%
Expanded Revision of Essay (20 pages)40%
Reading quizzes (6 x 2.5%).....15%
Quality of class participation.....20%

Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The School of Languages and Literatures reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.