

**UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH  
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES  
SPANISH AND HISPANIC STUDIES**

**SPAN\*3230 Literature and Arts II**

**Instructor: S. Henighan  
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**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Topic for Fall 2020:** *Mexico Through the Short Novel*

**Objectives:** Mexico is characterized by its long, turbulent history, large population, complex cultural mix, and rich and varied Spanish vocabulary. Numerous Mexican writers, such as Carlos Fuentes, Fernando del Paso, Elena Poniatowska and Jorge Volpi have responded to these realities by writing very long novels. This course will look at writers who have adopted the opposite tactic by attempting to distill Mexican experience into short novels of fewer than 200 –and sometimes fewer than 150—pages. By studying these novels, in particular the literary and aesthetic choices they make, we will trace Mexican life, thought and imagination from the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920 to the Narco Wars of the 2010s

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

--Interpret, evaluate and criticize texts of different genres by important Mexican writers from the 20th or early 21st centuries: **Literacy.**

--Formulate a position and build an argument supported by appropriate evidence in the text: **Critical and Creative Thinking.**

--Increase artistic and intellectual appreciation of Latin American literature, Mexican literary and cultural tradition, and the trajectory of Mexican history: **Global Understanding.**

--Improve reading skills in Spanish, in addition to speaking skills: **Communicating.**

**Method of Teaching:** Synchronous “in-class” discussion on Teams.

**Method of Evaluation:**

5-page literary analyses (2 x 15%).....30%  
8-page comparative paper.....20%  
Reading quizzes (6 x 5%).....30%  
Quality of class participation.....15%  
In-class presentation.....5%

## **Required Texts:**

1. Mariano Azuela: *Los de abajo* (1916)
2. Nellie Campobello: *Cartucho* (1931)
3. Juan Rulfo: *Pedro Páramo* (1955)
4. Yuri Herrera: *Trabajos del reino* (2004)
5. Valeria Luiselli: *Los Ingrávidos* (2012)
6. Mateo García Elizondo: *Una cita con la Lady* (2020)

**\*\*\*Students are required to acquire, and bring to class, print copies of the required texts.**

## **Electronic Etiquette:**

In order to support the learning outcomes stated above, note-taking should be done by hand. (**An exception may be made in the case of a student who is registered with Student Accessibility Services**, though the usual procedure in this case would be to appoint a note-taker rather than to use a computer.)

This policy exists to **improve your learning experience**, as scientific studies demonstrate that note-taking by hand produces enhanced cognitive development and a thorough grasp of the course material; by contrast, taking notes on a laptop **“impairs learning.”** See, for example,

<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/04/22/0956797614524581.abstract>[http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/elements/2014/06/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom.html?utm\\_source=www&utm\\_medium=tw&utm\\_campaign=20140606](http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/elements/2014/06/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom.html?utm_source=www&utm_medium=tw&utm_campaign=20140606)

## **RESUMEN DETALLADO**

### **Semana Preliminar (11 de septiembre)**

Introducción

### **Semana 1 (14-18 de septiembre)**

\* 14 de septiembre: **Prueba de lectura I: *Los de abajo***

\* *Los de abajo*

### **Semana 3 (21-25 de septiembre)**

\**Los de abajo*

### **Semana 4 (28 de septiembre - 2 de octubre)**

5 de octubre: **Prueba de lectura II: *Cartucho***

\**Cartucho*

**Semana 5 (5-9 de octubre)**

*\*Cartucho*

**9 de octubre: Debe entregarse el primer ensayo de 5 páginas**

**\*\*\*10-13 octubre: VACACIONES DE OTOÑO No hay clases\*\*\***

**Semana 5 (14-16 de octubre)**

*\*Pedro Páramo*

**14 de octubre: Prueba de lectura III: Pedro Páramo**

**Semana 6 (19-23 de octubre)**

*\*Pedro Páramo*

**Semana 7 (26-30 de octubre)**

**\*26 de noviembre: Prueba de lectura IV: Trabajos del reino**

*\* Trabajos del reino*

**Semana 8 (2-6 de noviembre)**

*\*Trabajos del reino*

**Semana 9 (9-13 de noviembre)**

**\*9 de noviembre: Prueba de lectura V: Los ingrátidos**

*\*Los ingrátidos*

**20 de noviembre: Debe entregarse el segundo ensayo de 5 páginas**

**Semana 10 (16-20 de noviembre)**

*\*Los ingrátidos*

**20 de noviembre: Debe entregarse el segundo ensayo de 5 páginas**

**Semana 11 (23-27 de noviembre)**

**\*23 de noviembre: Prueba de lectura VI: Una cita con la Lady**

*\*Una cita con la Lady*

**Semana 12 (30 de noviembre- 4 de diciembre)**

*\*Una cita con la Lady*

**el 8 de diciembre: debe entregarse el último ensayo de 8 páginas**

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