



# Arcadia in Mallorca

MALL SPAN 397S Survey of Spanish Literature

## SUMMARY

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This course is designed for foreign students who wish to learn more about Spain's culture and society through its literature. The students will approach the topic through readings and reflection of the most illustrative works. This course will focus mainly on contemporary artistic creation.

## GOALS OF THE COURSE

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- To highlight the importance of literary language as a privileged source for better understanding the past.
- To value the rhetorical expression like a foundation of the human development and as an essential tool for social and cultural integration.
- To explore the different techniques of expression in literature in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- To enrich the language of the student through the different manifestations from the literary expression.
- To reflect on the immediate literary production throughout observation, experimentation and comparison.

## METHODOLOGY

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Theoretical as well as pragmatic aspects are integral parts of the methodology. Classes will be combined with critical contributions and the open debates relating literary works on the part of the students.

Emphasis will be placed on reading of exemplary works in Spanish literature.

- Texts (poetic, dramatic and narrative): texts will be illustrative of each literary movement. Subsequent reflections in the classroom will be facilitated and encouraged. During this course a brief study of Latin-American short stories will be carried out. To this end, students will work in groups of 2 to 3 people. Each member of the group will choose a story, and elaborate a detailed commentary on it. Texts will be then compared in class, considering literary as well as extra-literary aspects.

In order to create an optimal learning environment, active participation of each student is essential. Class will be conducted **in Spanish**.

We will have visits and activities outside of the classroom that will connect students with some of the most relevant aspects of the literary world on the Island:

- Palma: a Medieval City. Ramon Llull
- *Babel's library*: wine and culture

## **ATTENDANCE**

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**Attendance is mandatory.** Those who miss more than 2 sessions without justification will have their **final grade half point reduced** for each extra absence. For instance, if the student has a 8.75 in his final grade and has 3 absences, his grade will be reduced to 8.25. **Arriving to the class more than 10 minutes late, not attendance to fieldtrips or exchange activities will be consider as an absence.** Justified absences must be informed to the instructor so that they can be made up.

## **EVALUATION**

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The system and process of evaluation will consist on partial exams and a final exam.

Furthermore, along the course, a constant and continue evaluation will be done with class activities and task to be done at home, analysis of different reading text.

An oral participation in class will be taking into account.

Remember that it is a course in Spanish and the use of English in class and in the fieldtrips will modify negatively the final grade of the course. Course will be evaluated in the following way:

The evaluation criteria will be the following: Los criterios de evaluación serán:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| • Reading and text commentary | 20% |
| • Final oral exam             | 30% |
| • Final exam                  | 30% |
| • Homework, visits            | 10% |
| • Participation               | 10% |

## **CONTENTS OF THE COURSE**

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### **A. An approach to Spanish literature: the initial journey**

- The Empire: splendor and decadence
- From Cervantes to Generation of 98
- The *esperpento*: *Luces de bohemia* (Ramón María del Valle-Inclán)

### **B. Literature for a new century: a time of transformation**

→ Poetry from 1900 -1936

- Generation of 14: Juan Ramón Jiménez and the *novecentismo*
- The vanguards: Ramón Gómez de la Serna and the *greguerías*
- Generation of 27: tradition and renovation

- *Romancero gitano* of Federico García Lorca
- Novel in the postwar period: 1940-1970
  - *Tremendismo* y existentialism: *Nada* by Carmen Laforet
  - Social realism: *La colmena* by Camilo José Cela
  - Experimentalism: *Tiempo de silencio* by Luis Martín Santos
- Theater of the transition period: 1970
  - Independent theater: *La fura dels baus*, *Els joglars*
- C. An approach to Latin-American literature: the journey back
- The short story:
  - Argentina: Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Ernesto Sábato
  - Colombia: Gabriel García Márquez
  - Cuba: Alejo Carpentier
  - Mexico: Carlos Fuentes
  - Peru: Mario Vargas Llosa, Alfredo Bryce Echenique
  - Uruguay: Mario Benedetti, Juan Carlos Onetti
- *Magical realism*:
  - *Pedro Páramo* by Juan Rulfo
  - *Como agua para chocolate* by Laura Esquivel

## GRADING SYSTEM

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Concept	Value in Spain	Value in USA
Matrícula de Honor	10 – 9,00	A
Sobresaliente	8,99 – 8,75	A-
Notable Alto	8,74 – 8,25	B+
Notable	8,24 – 7,50	B
Bien Alto	7,49 – 7,00	B-
Bien	6,99 – 6,00	C+
Suficiente	5,99 – 5,00	C
Suspensio	4,99 – 4,00	C-
Muy Deficiente	3,99 – 0	D