AN INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH LITERATURE

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English (for students at the beginning/intermediate levels) OR Spanish at the advanced level

DESCRIPTION: The main objective of this course is to examine and discuss specific authors and topics in peninsular Spanish literature from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century. Special consideration will be given to significant cultural and historical events that have helped to shape modern Spain.

TOPICS: The course is designed to cover specific authors and topics in peninsular Spanish literature. The writer and historical perspective will be defined according to the students’ interest and previous knowledge of the subjects addressed (i.e. El Cid and Moorish culture, Lazarillo de Tormes and the rogue, Cervantes and Don Quijote, etc.). The writers will include, but are not limited to those listed in the recommended readings given below.

The selected reading material will be analyzed by students before class so as to answer questions and participate in class discussion of the period, literary trends, cultural and historical events. The aim is that the students become more familiar with the most representative aspects of modern Spanish society.

The reading material has been divided into seven units that address the major eras of Spanish literary history. The required reading (one author/piece per era/unit) will be complemented by other selections from the recommended reading list. Different authors will be addressed in the fall and spring semesters, so the course may be repeated for credit.

Unit 1: The Middle Ages
This unit will acquaint students with the social, linguistic and cultural situation of the Middle Ages, studying various works of that time and paying special attention to the different styles of writing. Readings:
1. Historical introduction to the Medieval society
2. Structure of the Medieval Spanish language, art and culture
3. Description of the different literary genders: Lyric poetry of traditional character Mester de juglaría; Mester de clerecía; the Allegory

Unit 2: The Renaissance
This unit will acquaint students with the social, linguistic and cultural situation of the Renaissance, studying various works of that time and paying special attention to the different styles of writing.
1. Historical introduction to the Renaissance society
2. Renaissance and Humanism
3. The Spanish Renaissance: Structure of the Spanish language, art and culture
4. Description of the different literary genders: new directions

**Unit 3: Cervantes**
This unit will acquaint students with the social, linguistic and cultural situation of Cervantes’ era, studying various works of Cervantes and paying special attention to his different styles of writing.
1. His life: Introduction to society in his time
2. Cervantes’ works: Novels, poetry, theatre plays
3. “Don Quixote”: Influences, Theme, Structure and Parts

**Unit 4: The Golden Age**
This unit will acquaint students with the social, linguistic and cultural situation of the Golden Age, studying various works of the Baroque and paying special attention to the different styles of writing.
1. The Spanish Baroque: Spain and Europe in the 17th Century
2. The Baroque style
3. A new concept of literary work: Conceptism and Culteranism

**Unit 5: The 18th Century**
This unit will acquaint students with the social, linguistic and cultural situation of the 18th Century, studying various works of the Neoclassicism and paying special attention to the different styles of writing.
1. The crisis of the European conscience: Rationalism and Criticism
2. The Spanish Enlightenment: Historical, social and cultural context
3. Spanish language in the 18th century

**Unit 6: The 19th Century**
This unit will acquaint students with the social, linguistic and cultural situation of the 19th Century, studying various works of the Romanticism and paying special attention to the different styles of writing.
1. Political, economical and social changes in Europe
2. Ideological crisis and aesthetics of the Romanticism
3. Themes and changes of the Romantic literature

**Unit 7: The 20th Century**
This unit will acquaint students with the social, linguistic and cultural situation of the 20th Century, studying various works of the time and paying special attention to the different styles of writing.
1. Historical, social and cultural introduction
2. Generation of the 98
3. Generation of the 27
4. Spanish literature after the Civil War

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

**Fall**
The Middle Ages: Anonymous, The Poem of the Cid
The Renaissance: Fernando de Rojas, The Celestina
Cervantes: Miguel de Cervantes, Don Quixote
The Golden Age: Francisco de Quevedo - El Buscón
Post-war and Modern Times: Camilo José Cela, Pascual Duarte, Arturo Pérez Reverte
- La Tabla de Flandes

Spring
The Middle Ages: Juan Manuel, Count Lucanor
The Renaissance: Anonymous, Lazarillo de Tormes
The 18th Century - Neoclassicism: José Cadalso - Moroccan Letters
The 19th Century - Romantism and Realism: José de Espronceda - The Pirate's Song, Juan Valera - Pepita Jiménez
The Generation of 1898: Miguel de Unamuno - Mist
The Generation of 1927: Federico García Lorca - Poems, The House of Bernarda Alba
Post-War and Modern Times: Camilo José Cela - Pascual Duarte, Arturo Pérez Reverte - La Tabla de Flandes

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
The Middle Ages: Gonzalo de Berceo, The Miracle of Our Lady; Alfonso X, The Seven Parts; Archpriest of Hita, The Book of Good Love
The Renaissance: Marques de Santanilla, Mountain Songs; Jorge Manrique, Ode on the Death of His Father; Garcilaso de la Vega, Sonnets
The Golden Age: San Juan de la Cruz, Songs of the Soul; Lope de Vega, Fuente Ovejuna, Sonnets, Justice without Revenge; Tirso de Molina, The Love-Rogue (The Rogue of Seville); Pedro Calderón de la Barca, Life is a Dream
The 18th Century: José Cadalso, Moroccan Letters; Leandro Femández de Moratín, When a girl says yes (The Maiden's Consent)
The 19th Century: Mariano José de Larra, The Old Castilian; José de Espronceda, The Pirate's Song, The Student from Salamanca; José Zorrilla, Boabdil; Benito Pérez Galdos, Doña Perfecta, Tristana
The 20th Century: Vicente Blasco Ibáñez, The Cabin; Ramón del Valle-Inclán, Sonata of Spring, Bohemian Lights; Jacinto Benavente, The Bonds of Interest, The Passion Flower; Antonio Machado, Fields of Soria; Rafael Alberti, The Good Angel; Federico García Lorca, Rider's Song, The Guitar; Luis Martín Santos, Time of Silence; Camilo José Cela, San Camilo, 1936, Mazurka for Two Dead Men

EVALUATION:
Students are expected to actively participate in class (20%). The exams will be related to the subjects covered in class during the semester. The first test will be worth 25% and the final exam will be worth 25% of the final grade. Students will submit essays related to the subjects covered in class during the semester. The teacher will then go through corrections of each essay and the completion of this work will contribute towards the final grade (30%). Class attendance is regarded as an obligation as well as a privilege, and all students are expected to attend regularly and punctually all classes in which they are enrolled. Three absences will decrease the final grade by 10% and three tardies will be considered as one absence.