

Valencia Semester Program - AIP **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 - Romanticism 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 Fernández de Moratín,
When a girl says yes (The Maiden's Consent)

The 19th Century: Mariano José de Larra, The Old Castilian; José de Espronceda,
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.