SPAN 425
WOMEN WRITERS OF SPAIN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course aims to analyze the role of women in Spanish literature from its origins to our time. We will see how views of women have changed over time in different works and authors, and how women changed from mere objects of reference to protagonists in authorship.

Spanish Literature is particularly rich in female figures and it is interesting to observe how these characters develop in regard to their setting, noting, for example, the differences between from the post-war Catalonian woman who appears in Carmen Laforet's Nada and the provincial woman featured in Carmen Martín Gaite's Entre visillos. Likewise, there are notable contrasts in the treatment of female characters by Baroque writers such as María de Zayas and contemporary writers such as Maruja Torres.

The contrasts and evolution of female characters and authors throughout Spanish Literature will form the content of this course. In the process, students will acquire a broader perspective of Spanish culture from both a social and literary standpoint.

STRUCTURE

Throughout the semester we will read a selection of narrative and poetic texts (starting in the 16th century and ending in the late 20th century) which belong to a long literary tradition featuring women as protagonists and authors.

Classes will focus on a theoretical introduction by the instructor to eras, trends styles and authors. Students must read works carefully in order to enrich the analysis and commentary with their contributions. For each reading and topic, students will be given a list of key questions to aid in comprehension. In addition to the readings, we will view fragments of other texts by these authors in class.

Depending on the theater and cinema programming in Seville during the semester, we hope to attend a work related to the course content. We will also watch films pertinent to the material.

Students must also complete a final essay or research paper no longer than 8 -10 pages (double-spaced in Word, in 12-point Arial font). Before writing, they must hand in a half-page paper proposal so the instructor may orient them and help them to find necessary bibliographical sources in our library. Since this is a research project,

students must consult the library and use complementary sources. Not handing the paper in by the date specified in this syllabus will result in a 5-10 point grade reduction. In cases of plagiarism, papers will receive a 0. For this paper, students must follow MLA format (they will receive a copy of this format in the orientation).

In addition to this task, they will complete an oral presentation on writers or texts from different eras. This individual presentation will last no longer than 10 minutes. Students will choose a topic from the list provided in order to develop it and present it to the class. They may use Powerpoint and other resources they deem appropriate, working under the supervision of the instructors and with the aid of the Writing Center.

There will also be a midterm exam halfway through the course calendar and a final exam its conclusion.

TEXTBOOK

- Laforet, Carmen. Nada. Barcelona: Destino, 1988.

Selection of texts (poetry and prose) by authors from different eras.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Blanco Aguinaga, Carlos. Historia social de la Literatura Española. Madrid: Castalia, 1984.
- Balló, Tánia. Las Sinsombrero. Sin ellas, la historia no está completa. Barcelona: Espasa, 2016.
- Ciplijauskaité, Biruté. La novela femenina contemporánea (1970-1985). Barcelona: Antrophos, 1988.
- De Nora, Eugenio. La novela española contemporánea (1939-67). Madrid: Gredos, 1982.
- Etxebarría, Lucía. Eva futura/ la letra futura. Barcelona: Destino, 2000.
- Freixas, Laura. Literatura y mujeres. Barcelona: Destino, 2000.
- Martín Gaite, Carmen. Desde la ventana. Madrid: Espasa Calpe, 1993.
- Perez, Janet W. Novelistas femeninas de la posguerra española. Madrid: Porrúa, 1983.
- Rico, Francisco. Historia y crítica de la la Literatura Española. Barcelona: Crítica, 1992.
- Sanz Villanueva, Santos. Historia de la Literatura Española. Literatura actual. Barcelona: Ariel, 1984.
- Zavala, Iris, M. (coord.). Breve historia feminista de la literatura española (en lengua castellana). Barcelona: Anthropos, 1998.

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated on their participation, as well as their contributions and willingness to enhance the class's functioning.

1. Participation	25%
2. Mid-term exam	20%
3. Research paper	20%
4. Oral presentation	10%
5. Final exam	25%

Attendance is mandatory and any unexcused absence implies a 5-point reduction to the participation grade. Classes require active participation by students, and their contributions are essential. Participation means spontaneously making contributions and comments in regard to the texts we have read and analyzed beforehand and showing a critical approach to them.

TOPICS COVERED

I. Women in Spanish Literature from the Middle Ages to the Baroque. 1. Introduction to the woman in Spanish Literature from the Middle Ages to the Baroque.
   - Women in the Renaissance: Santa Teresa de Jesús.
   - Women in the Baroque: María de Zayas.

II. Women in 19th century literature: from Romanticism to Naturalism. 1. The emerging consciousness of the female author. Women in the 19th century.
   - Rosalía de Castro's poetry and her reflections on women. The composition of the Carta a Eduarda.
   - Emilia Pardo Bazán: Short stories.

III. Women and literature in the 20th century. Spanish literature since 1939. Proliferation of female authors in the literary landscape.
   - Women in the Generation of '27: Las Sinsombrero
   - The postwar novel: Carmen Laforet and Carmen Martín Gaite.
   - The world through a child's eyes in the stories of Ana María Matute. 4. The Spanish novel after the dictatorship: Rosa Montero, Adelaida García Morales and Almudena Grandes.
   - Journalism by women in recent years: Maruja Torres.

SPECIFIC PLANS

Dates	Topic/ Activity Planned
Week 1	Introductions and course overview. General introduction: women and literature. Women in the Renaissance: Santa Teresa de Jesús.
Week 2	Love, honor and "feminism" in La fuerza del amor by María de Zayas.
Week 3 Week 4	Rosalía de Castro: nationalism and intimism La carta a Eduarda by Rosalía de Castro: woman and writer
Week 5	Emilia Pardo Bazán: short stories. Naturalism and feminism.
Week 6	Women of the Generation of '27: Las Sinsombrero Introduction to postwar literature **Midterm: 26 marzo**
Week 7	The postwar novel. Analysis of Nada by Carmen Laforet.
Week 8	The mid-century generation: society and literature. Carmen Martín Gaite. The world through a child's eyes in the stories of Ana María Matute **Hand in research paper: April 26**
Week 9 Week 10	Women writers of the late 20th century. Almudena Grandes and Rosa Montero.
Week 11	Women in journalism: Maruja Torres. Review for final exam

These specific plans are subject to change depending on the course dynamic.