

## Graduate Courses - Fall 2024

### SPAN 6100 – LITERARY THEORY

(in Spanish)

Idelber Avelar [iavelar@tulane.edu](mailto:iavelar@tulane.edu)

Tuesdays / 6.00-8.30

The course offers an intensive introduction to the main currents of literary theory in the 20th century by accompanying the thinking that went into the production of the discipline's major concepts. We therefore read, for class, selected primary texts that established each tradition, leaving up to each student the work of consulting manuals and introductions. People have been writing for 25 centuries about the corpus of texts that since the late 18th century we have called literature. This course considers that it was toward the second decade of 1900s, with the Russian Formalists, that literary theory emerged as a discipline separate from rhetoric, the history of literature, the commentary, philosophical writings on aesthetics, journalistic reviewing, etc. That is, then, where we start reading, although later in the course, in order to understand important trends in 20th century literary theory, we do go back to 18th and 19th century thinkers (Kant, Hegel, Marx etc.). We review formalism, structuralism, stylistics, hermeneutics and reader-response criticism, Marxism, feminism, post-colonial / critical race theories, deconstruction, post-structuralism, and cultural studies.

### SPAN 6730 - WOMEN WRITERS IN SPAIN AND SPANISH AMERICA: 1500-1700 (in Spanish)

Dale Shuger [dshuger@tulane.edu](mailto:dshuger@tulane.edu)

Mondays / 3.30-6.00

Until fairly recently the list of early modern women writers in Spanish consisted of three names: Teresa of Ávila, Juana Inés de la Cruz, and María de Zayas. Recent work has brought to light countless other female writers in all the genres of literature of the period. This class gives students the opportunity to read both better and lesser-known women's writing, to appreciate them as works of literature and also for the new perspectives they shed on early modern Spanish and Spanish-American society. Furthermore, the study of these works can provide new theoretical models for understanding intersections of class, race, gender, national, and confessional identity: questions that remain pertinent in the present.

### PORT 6910 – GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN BRAZILIAN LITERATURE

(in Portuguese)

Rebecca Atencio [ratencio@tulane.edu](mailto:ratencio@tulane.edu)

Thursdays / 3.30-6.00

This seminar will explore literary works that engage with the social construction of gender, heteronormativity (and other sexual norms), and their intersection with race and other social categories. We will read established and emerging classics from the colonial period to the present, alongside theoretical readings representing various perspectives (feminist, queer, intersectional, decolonial, etc.). The reading list is in progress, but it could include works such as *Carta de Caminha*; *Dom Casmurro* by Machado de Assis; *Bom Crioulo* by Adolfo Caminha (the first Brazilian novel to address the issue of homosexuality); *Parque industrial* by Patrícia Galvão; *O beijo no asfalto* by Nelson Rodrigues; *Deixei ele lá e vim* by Elvira Vigna; *Metade cara, metade máscara* by Eliane Potiguara; and short stories by Maria Firmina dos Reis, João do Rio, Carolina Maria de Jesus, Clarice Lispector, Conceição Evaristo, Caio Fernando Abreu, and Natália Borges Poleoso.

## SPAN 7920 – CARIBBEAN MIGRATIONS

(in Spanish)

Marilyn Miller [mgmiller@tulane.edu](mailto:mgmiller@tulane.edu)

Tuesdays / 3.30-6.00

This course examines diverse forms of migration to, from, and within the Caribbean region. Though this survey will start with the Spanish “discovery” period and its subsequent large-scale human movements, both voluntary and forced, the primary focus will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Considering legal documents as well as works of fiction, memoir, poetry, *testimonio*, drama, film, art, and music, we will address individual and collective human movement as expulsion, displacement, human trafficking, *cimarronaje*, exile, flight, errancy, quest and *concientización*. We will also explore related concepts such as *destierro*, sanctuary, borders, contact zones, assimilation, transculturation, imagined communities, enclaves, solidarity, retromigration as well as linguistic consequences such as code-switching and life-on-the-hyphen. Authors and filmmakers include José María Heredia, Juan Francisco Manzano, José Martí, Nicolás Guillén, Fernando Ortiz, Alejo Carpentier, Esteban Montejo, Julia de Burgos, René Marqués, Nancy Morejón, Tomás Gutiérrez Alea, José Luis González, Achy Obejas, and others.

## SPAN 7960 – PHD PREPARATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (in English)

Antonio Gómez [agomez@tulane.edu](mailto:agomez@tulane.edu)

Thursdays / 3.30-6.00

This course is designed to prepare students for the profession. It will cover topics such as choosing a dissertation subject, designing course syllabi, developing professional writing skills, understanding the job market and preparing personal materials for a job search. Throughout the semester, students will write, submit, and discuss their PhD exam lists. Final submission of the lists by the end of the course is a key component of the grade.

*N.B. – this course is mandatory for S&P students taking PhD exams in spring 2024, but open to all graduate students in the humanities at Tulane.*

(updated April 2024)