Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Tulane University

Graduate Courses – Spring 2027

SPAN 6780 – Narrative Theory and Subjectivity

(in Spanish)

Fernando Rivera-Díaz friverad@tulane.edu

Mondays / 6.30-8.00

This course examines the construction, structural organization, and semantic modeling of narrative discourse. It analyzes the development of subjectivity and objectivity in Modernity, with particular emphasis on narrative point of view and objectivity. Furthermore, the course explores the philosophical dimensions of the construction of subjectivity in relation to narrative capacity, alongside the political and ethical dimensions of narrative identity and the recognition of the Other. Selected readings include texts by Arendt, Arguedas, Bakhtin, Barthes, Benjamin, Bolaño, Borges, Cavarero, Crary, Dughi, Faverón, Genette, Han, Hegel, Piglia, Puig, Ricoeur, Vargas Llosa, and Wiener.

SPAN 6790 – *Kiss of the Spider Woman* Across Media

(in Spanish)

Antonio Gómez agomez@tulane.edu

Thursdays / 3.30-6.00

This course follows the extraordinary afterlife of Manuel Puig's 1976 novel *Kiss of the Spider Woman* across theatre, cinema, and musical performance. Beginning with the novel in its original Spanish, we will examine how its prison-cell conversations, borrowed film plots, melodramatic sensibility, and reflections on gender, desire, and political commitment have been transformed for new media, languages, and audiences. Readings will be paired with selected films that inform Puig's cinematic imagination, Puig's own stage adaptation, Héctor Babenco's celebrated 1985 film, the Kander, Ebb, and McNally musical, and Bill Condon's recent film version. Rather than treating adaptation as a matter of fidelity to an original, the course asks what each version makes newly visible. Topics include intermediality, translation, performance, camp, star personae, censorship, reception, and transnational circulation.

SPAN 6810 – Reading Medieval Iberia

(in Spanish)

Rebecca de Souza desouza@tulane.edu

Tuesdays / 3.30-6.00

What made Iberia such a special place in the Middle Ages? Many would answer this question with the term "convivencia." And they would be correct, but only partially. In this course we will explore the indelible mark left on medieval literature by exchanges between the three cultures of Muslims, Jews, and Christians, as well as other stories and rumours that are less well known but nevertheless fascinating, from monsters to witches and fluid identities. Possible readings could include *La Celestina*, frame tales such as *El Conde Lucanor*, and Andalusi poetry. We will read closely and allow premodernity to teach us something about our turbulent present.

SPAN 7910 – SPANISH ORIENTALISM: (in Spanish)
FROM AFRICANISMO TO THE NEOCOLONIAL (19TH -21ST CENTURY)

Yasmina Aidi yaidi@tulane.edu *Mondays / 3.30-6.00*

This course traces the long, often neglected arc of Spanish Orientalism from the nineteenth-century invention of africanismo to the neocolonial present. We examine how Spain imagined, painted, narrated, and governed "the Moor" across the Africanista campaigns, the Protectorate, and the Franco regime, and how those images persist in contemporary media, migration discourse, and cultural policy. Readings move between the colonial archive and its afterlives: Galdós, Bécquer, and the Generation of '98 alongside Goytisolo, Laila Karrouch, Najat El Hachmi, and the cinema of the Strait. Framed by Said, Fanon, and Martín-Márquez the seminar asks what makes Spanish Orientalism distinct (its proximity, its al-Andalus nostalgia, its denial of empire) and how Moroccan and diasporic writers have written back. Students leave able to read race, empire, and representation across two centuries of Iberian and Maghrebi culture.

(updated October 2026)