Illinois Wesleyan University
Literature and Culture (LC) 135 ~ May Term 2009
Latin American Short Story

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Reading Material:
Ames Library E-reserves – password Anthology

Objectives:
This course will acquaint students with the Latin American short story focusing on Modernism, Avant-Garde and Boom literatures. In addition to readings grounded in “innovation and fantasy” and “magic realism”, selections purposefully reflect areas of conflict in Latin America - isolation and rejection, gender, race, religion, social class, and economic and political issues. Readings include shorts story translations by Dario, Borges, Cortazar, Fuentes and Garro in English. Lectures, readings and discussions will be conducted in English. Short story writers have developed a style without limits, defying categorization or a neatly defined history. Short stories have always played an important role in Latin American literary history as provocative little mirrors reflecting important cultural traits distinctive to Latin America. The form is widely practiced by Latin American writers who often have devoted their entire careers to it and the form is greatly appreciated by critics and the reading public alike.

Grading System:
Participation: 10%
Short Story 10%
Presentation (1): 20%
Research Paper (1): 20%
Midterm 20%
Final Exam 20%

Final letter grades are assigned according to the following percentages:

A 93% C+ 770-799
A- 90% - 92.9% C 73% - 76.9%
B+ 87% - 89.9% C- 70% - 72.9%
B 83% - 86.9% D 60% - 69.9%
B- 80% - 82.9% F 0 – 59.9%

Participation:
Students are expected to attend class and participate individually and in groups. The goal is for students to demonstrate that they are well prepared for classroom discussion and to actively contribute with questions. While it is true that at times some students tend to dominate classroom discussions, I will be calling on all students as frequently as possible, and observing the quality of group work.
Presentation:
Students are required to present and explain the reading assignment for one section. Students will have 30 minutes for their presentation. To assist in class presentations and discussions students must prepare a handout outlining their presentation themes or topics including a list of discussion questions. Visual aids, photographs, drawings, music or anything that helps convey the message to the audience is helpful.

Short Story:
Students will write one short story due May 28\textsuperscript{th}.

Research Paper:
Students will write one research paper (MLA Style 5 pages, typed, double-spaced, 12” font). The research paper will be evaluated on information conveyed (content), organization, grammar, and the appropriate use of MLA formatting. The research paper is due May 26\textsuperscript{th}.

Midterm Exam:
We will have one midterm exam the May 21\textsuperscript{st}.

Final Exam:
The final exam will cover topics discussed in class and will be on May 29\textsuperscript{th}.

Policies:
Papers turned in late will have points deducted. Students with disabilities: Before course accommodations will be made, students may be required to provide documentation to the Associate Provost, 211 Holmes Hall, 556-3107.

Calendar: May
6. Introduction: What is Art? What is the Short Story Genre?
7. Readings: Carlos Fuentes, Walter Benjamin
8. Readings: Manuel Gutierrez Najera, Ruben Dario
11. Readings: Ricardo James Freyre, Leopoldo Lugones
12 Readings: Mariano Azuela, Horacio Quiroga
13 Readings: Lidia Cabrera Alejo Carpentier, Juan Bosch
14. Readings: Miguel Angel Asturias, Jorge Luis Borges, Adolfo Bioy Casares
15. Readings: Silvina Ocampo, Maria Luisa Bombal, Luisa Mercedes Levinson
18. Readings: Jose Revueltas Juan Carlos Onetti Juan Rulfo
19. Readings: Juan Jose Arreola, Rosario Castellanos, Elena Garro
20. Readings: Carlos Fuentes, Jose Donoso, Augusto Roa Bastos
21. Readings: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Vargas Llosa, Julio Cortazar, Midterm Exam
22. Readings: Elena Poniatowska, Cristina Peri Rossi, Margo Glantz
25. No Class
26. Readings: Elvira Orphee, Carmen Naranjo, Marta Traba, Research Paper due
27. Readings: Angeles Mastretta, Laura Esquivel, Jose Augustin,
28. Readings: Reinaldo Arenas, Rosario Ferre, Short Story due
29. Final Exam