

The University of Texas at Tyler
Department of Literature and Languages
SPAN 4390, Spring Semester 2023
TR 11:00-12:20
Contemporary Spanish American Novel

Instructor: Gregory Utley, PhD Office: CAS 246 Email: gutley@uttyler.edu Telephone: 903.566.7464 (Department: 903.566.7373) Office Hours: MW: 10:30-11:15; TR 12:45-1:45; F 9:00-10:00 by Zoom (please email for link); or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This upper-division course taught in Spanish focuses on literary contributions of select contemporary/20th-century Spanish American writers. It explores: 1) the ways in which contemporary Latin American literature both shapes and reflects perceptions of self, society, and nation; 2) significant factors that contribute to the sense of fragmentation and alienation that are frequent thematic concerns of the literature of the period; and 3) and evokes specifically the general themes of violence, love, politics, and/or magic/the supernatural as transgressive personal/social forces.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the semester, students should have 1) an increased appreciation for the richness and variety of contemporary Latin American literature; 2) a working knowledge of important writers of the period; 3) a grasp of important formal experiments, thematic concerns, and criticisms of said literature; 4) an awareness of the important role literature plays in ordering ideas and experiences that constitute perceived reality; and 5) an improved ability to interpret and analyze texts from multiple perspectives.

COURSE TEXTS (AVAILABLE AT THE UT TYLER BARNES AND NOBLE BOOKSTORE):

Azuela, Mariano. *Los de abajo*. 1915. Nueva York: Penguin Random House, 1997. ISBN: 9780140266214.

Bioy Casares, Adolfo. *La invención de Morel*. 1941. Nueva York: Penguin, 1989. ISBN: 9780140260847.

Bombal, María Luisa. *La última nieba/La amortajada*. Barcelona: Seix Barral, 1995. ISBN: 9788432230554. ISBN: 9788432230554.

Fuentes, Carlos. *Aura*. Ciudad de México: Ediciones Era, 1962. ISBN: 9789684111813.

Rulfo, Juan. *Pedro Páramo*. 1955. Madrid: Cátedra, 1994. ISBN: 9788437604183.

COURSE PARTICIPATION: At class meetings, your physical presence in class is not enough. Participation means being on time, prepared for class, and consistently willing to thoughtfully discuss the assigned readings and do the required work. We will be counting on each other to make these meetings an exciting and rewarding endeavor for everyone involved.

Attendance: Attending is important to successful completion of the course. Please plan to be present for the entire class period (leaving the class while it is in session counts as ½ of an absence). I will allow four (4) unexcused absences. Subsequent unexcused absences (up to 8) will result in your final grade

(percentage) being lower in the amount of 3 percent per absence. 9 or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.

Grading: The following formula will guide my assessment for your course grade:

Examinations	60%
Homework Questions	40%

Grading Scale:

- A 90% or greater
- B 80 – 89%
- C 70 – 79%
- D 60 – 69%
- F 59-- 00%

Examinations: These will be based on the assigned texts and class discussion. Each exam will cover approximately one third of the term and will consist of short answer questions and identifications.

Homework Questions over the Novels: Many Thursdays I will give homework questions/worksheets to be turned in the following Tuesday.

University Policies and Information

- **Withdrawing from Class** - Students you are allowed to [withdraw Links to an external site.](#)(drop) from this course through the University's [Withdrawal Portal Links to an external site.](#). Texas law prohibits students who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule Links to an external site.](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs Links to an external site.](#)before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.
- **Final Exam Policy:** Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required

to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

- **Incomplete Grade Policy:** If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or to NC if the course was originally taken under the CR/NC grading basis.

- **Grade Appeal Policy:** - UT Tyler's Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of your course. If you do not agree with the decision of the instructor, you may then move your appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If you are still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, you may move the appeal to the Dean of the College offering that course who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The Grade Appeal form is found on the [Registrar's Form Library](#). [Links to an external site.](#)
- **Disability/Accessibility Services:** The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit the [SAR Portal](#) [Links to an external site.](#) (<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> [Links to an external site.](#)) and complete the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the [SAR webpage](#) [Links to an external site.](#) or call 903.566.7079.
- **Military Affiliated Students:** UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with me if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make me aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. I am willing to collaborate with you and, if needed, put

you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military affiliated students are in the [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC Links to an external site.\)](#). The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu, or via phone at 903.565.5972.

- **Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct:** The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the [Student Conduct and Discipline policy Links to an external site.](#) in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).
- **FERPA** - UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in [University Policy 5.2.3 Links to an external site.](#). The course instructor will follow all requirements in protecting your confidential information.
- **COVID Guidance**
 - *Information for Classrooms and Laboratories:* It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing, and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who do not feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get evaluated for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines Links to an external site.](#)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult [existing campus resources Links to an external site.](#) for support.
 - *Recording of Class Sessions:* Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.
- **Absence for Official University Events or Activities:** This course follows the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 -501 Links to an external site.](#)).
- **Absence for Religious Holidays:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second-class meeting of the semester.
- **Campus Carry:** We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

Email: Email for this class will be checked on weekdays between 9 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Email will be responded to within twenty-four hours on weekdays (excluding vacations periods). Email will not be responded to on weekends. On occasion, a faculty meeting, student meeting, or appointment may prevent checking email during the scheduled time; however, email will be checked as soon as possible after the meeting or appointment.

Important Information: This course is enrolled in CANVAS. The instructor will use the site for posting the syllabus, grades and for making announcements. The instructor reserves the right to make slight changes to the syllabus at his discretion and according to how the course develops during the term. Any such changes will be announced in class and posted on CANVAS. Not reading or understanding the syllabus does not excuse a student from course deadlines and obligations. Please direct all questions about the syllabus to the instructor.

Students' academic work will be held to the highest standards of integrity in this course. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be pursued by disciplinary actions. If there is any question about what is explicitly allowed for specific assignments, please do not hesitate to ask. You may consult with your classmates and/or friends about homework and other assignments, but you may not copy someone else's work or have them do any part of it for you. All tests must be completed on your own. All sources in written work must be properly acknowledged.

Tentative (Subject to Change) Course Calendar

January	10, 12	Introduction to the course; <i>Los de abajo</i>
	17, 19	<i>Los de abajo</i>
	24, 26	<i>Los de abajo/La última niebla</i>
	31	<i>La última niebla</i>
February	2	<i>La última niebla</i>
	7	<i>La última niebla</i>
	9	EXAMEN I
	14, 16	“El árbol” (part of <i>La última niebla</i> text)

	21, 23	<i>La invención de Morel</i>
	28	<i>La invención de Morel</i>
March	2	<i>La invención de Morel</i>
	7	<i>La invención de Morel</i>
	9	EXAMEN II
	14, 16	Spring Break
	21, 23	<i>Pedro Páramo</i>
	28, 30	<i>Pedro Páramo</i>
April	4, 6	<i>Aura</i>
	11, 13	<i>Aura</i>
	18	Open
	20	EXAMEN III