

Nationalism and the Novel in Latin America

Spring 2007

Masaryk University

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Office Hours: 6-7 PM Wednesdays (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

It is often forgotten that novel is, in and of itself, a political and cultural document. The literary works of Latin America's premier novelists articulate modern cultural identities by narrating the imaginary lives of iconic figures and persistent ideologies from both the colonial past and contemporary era. In Latin America in particular, the rise of the modern novel is intrinsically tied to political debates on national identity, inspiring radical experiments with narrative form among modernist writers. Far from abandoning political concerns, the genre of novel writing in Latin America emphasizes individual consciousness to explore ways in which the modern nation-state shapes the psyches of its subjects. Thus, the goal of this course is to examine Latin American literature within the cultural constructions of: nation, identity (i.e. ethnicity, race, gender), authority, and tradition.

- Secondary literature covering debates on nationalism and fiction-writing will be interwoven with two primary novels by Gabriel García Márquez: ***One Hundred Years of Solitude*** and ***Love in the Time of Cholera***

COURSE READINGS

Primary Texts (Novels)

- ***One Hundred Years of Solitude***
- ***Love in the Time of Cholera***

Selections from Secondary Sources:

- ***Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism***, By Benedict Anderson
- ***Latin American Fiction: A Short Introduction***, By Philip Swanson
- ***Foundational Fictions: The National Romances of Latin America***, By Doris Sommer
- ***Myth and Archive***, By Roberto González Echevarría

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must produce TWO 4-5 page essays based upon the reading and class discussions.

Instructor will assign essay questions in advance of due dates. Student are also required to write TWO 1 page response papers.

COURSE RULES

Students are expected to come to class having already read the readings cited on the syllabus for that day. **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY, ROLE WILL BE TAKEN IN EVERY CLASS.** Students are allowed only TWO undocumented absences. Any student missing more than 3 classes without a documented (i.e. medical or family) emergency will be dropped from the class without exception. (Students observing religious holidays are excused from class, but please inform instructor in advance).

This course is intended as a seminar, rather than a lecture course. Students' work consists of intensive reading of required texts and active participation in the class discussions. Students are graded on the basis of their performance in class, the quality of their oral presentation, and the writing of assigned essays.

COURSE GRADING POLICY

50% Essay Assignments
50% Class Attendance

COURSE READINGS & OUTLINE

All reading is available online through the university system, please come to class with a copy of the reading materials printed for discussion.

WEEK 1	INTRODUCTION
WEEK 2	Latin American Fiction pgs. 1-81 Unfinished Communities, pgs. 1-23 One Hundred Years of Solitude
WEEK 3	Latin American Fiction, pgs. 82-126 Nationalism's Dirty Linen, pgs. 1-23 One Hundred Years of Solitude
WEEK 4	<u>FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS</u> Foundational Fictions, pgs. 1-30 One Hundred Years of Solitude
WEEK 5	Foundations Fictions, pgs. 30-51 One Hundred Years of Solitude
WEEK 6	NO CLASS <u>FIRST ESSAY QUESTION ON IS</u>
WEEK 7	NO CLASS READING WEEK
WEEK 8	NO CLASS <u>EASTER MONDAY</u>
WEEK 9	<u>FIRST ESSAY DUE IN CLASS</u> Foundational Fictions, pgs. 83-113 One Hundred Years of Solitude
WEEK 10	Foundational Fictions, pgs. 172-203 Love in the Time of Cholera
WEEK 11	Myth and Archive, pgs. 1-42 Love in the Time of Cholera

WEEK 12 **SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

Myth and Archive, pgs. 43-92
Love in the Time of Cholera

WEEK 13 Myth and Archive, pgs. 93-141
Love in the Time of Cholera

WEEK 14 **SECOND ESSAY QUESTION HANDED OUT**

Myth and Archive, pgs. 142-186
Love in the Time of Cholera

SECOND ESSAY DUE AT END OF EXAMINE PERIOD