

**The University of Western Ontario**  
**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**  
**Hispanic Studies**

Spanish Fiction of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
**Fall 2009**



Retrato del escritor Benito Pérez Galdós (1894) por Joaquín Sorolla

**Professor:** Dr. Victoria Felice Wolff  
**Email:** WebCT mail

**Office:** UC 158  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays, 1:30-3:30

**Class Code:** Spanish 3333 F  
**Schedule:** Tuesdays, 12:30-2:30;  
Thursdays 12:30-1:30  
**Room:** Tuesdays, VAC 100; Thursdays,  
UC 205

## **I. Course Description and Objectives**

The 19<sup>th</sup> century was a tumultuous, yet important period in Spanish history, beginning with the invasion of Spain by Napoleon and his French troops and ending with the loss of Spain's empire on the other side of the Atlantic. This course will introduce students to important 19<sup>th</sup> century novels with the dual objective of exploring how these works portray the people and times of this period and understanding how aesthetics evolved from neo-classicism to romanticism, naturalism, realism, and culminated with the reevaluation of "hispanism" by the so-called "Generación de 1898."

### **Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to be knowledgeable of the history of 19<sup>th</sup> century novelistic production in Spain with particular emphasis placed on approaching a literary work with an understanding of the context in which it was created. Students will have actively contributed to class discussions and participated in class activities, applied critical reading, analytical, research and writing skills in five different written assignments and a research paper, and synthesized and expressed their understandings of their research and the course material in a presentation. All of these activities will have served to improve students' Spanish comprehension and expression, both orally and in writing.

## II. Prerequisites

Spanish 2202F/G or permission of the department. This course is offered in Spanish and the expectation is that students will be able to communicate both orally and in written form in this language.

**Please Note:** You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

## III. Required Texts

*La gaviota* (1849) by Fernán Caballero (Cecilia Böhl von Faber)

*Pepita Jiménez* (1874) by Juan Valera

*Doña Perfecta* (1876) by Benito Pérez Galdós

*Los pazos de Ulloa* (1886) by Emilia Pardo Bazán

*La barraca* (1898) by Vicente Blasco Ibáñez

These texts are available for purchase at the UWO bookstore.

## IV. Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

### Attendance (5%)

Students are expected to attend every class unless medical circumstances prevent them from doing so (please see section below on Absenteeism). However, because the professor of this course does understand that some valid circumstances beyond medical reasons do sometimes force students to miss class, each student is entitled to miss one class during the semester. An additional, unexcused absence will deduct 2.5 percentage points off the student's overall attendance mark (leaving the student with an attendance grade of "50"). A third unexcused or undocumented absence will cause the student to lose the total value of their attendance mark (leaving the student with an attendance grade of "0").

When absent, it is still the student's responsibility to complete and turn in coursework on time and to get caught up on the material covered in class. Students must inform their professor by email of any absences as soon as possible.

### Preparation of Readings and Class Participation (15%)

Frequent participation is a fundamental part of this course. In order to be able to participate in the course, students must prepare all assigned readings and come to class with comments and questions. Furthermore, students are expected to participate actively in class discussions through expressing their own viewpoints about the readings and the discussion topics, by responding to the professor's questions, commenting on opinions expressed by their classmates, and/or engaging in class activities and group work. In order to assess reading preparation and participation, the professor will give reading comprehension quizzes (2 for each novel) and will assign each student a participation grade for each month that the course is taught (September, October, November, December).

### **Assignments (50%)**

There will be structured written assignments worth 10% of the overall course grade for each novel studied in the course (5 novels total). All assignments must be typewritten. Further detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided.

### **Final Essay (20%)**

Each student will develop a final research essay that will examine the relationship between Spanish society and the novels studied in class. Specific essay topics for each student will be decided in collaboration with the professor and the research and writing process will be broken down into manageable steps. Papers must be prepared according to MLA style as indicated in the most current edition of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. Further detailed instructions will be provided.

**IMPORTANT:** The only acceptable reason for turning in an assignment or essay late is for medical purposes (see section on Absenteeism below). All other late assignments or essays will lose 5 additional points per day. Assignments or Essays turned in a week after the due date (7 days) will not be accepted and will receive a grade of "0".

### **Presentation (10%)**

Each student will present to the class their research and ideas developed in the final essay. Further detailed instructions will be provided.

**Absenteeism:** Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

(<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading.

\*There are no extra-credit or additional activities for this course\*

## **V. Academic Honesty**

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's **verbatim** or **paraphrased** text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

## **VI. Academic Etiquette**

1. Arrive to class on time.
2. Turn cell phones OFF (no texting).
3. If you chose to use your laptop computer in class, make sure that you are using it only to take notes.
4. Students who have questions about a mark should first take time to review the professor's comments carefully and reflect on what could be improved and then speak to the professor during their designated office hours or by appointment. Students only have a two-week period after an assignment, quiz, or test is returned to question their grade.
5. If you have a course-related problem or are having difficulties, you must see the course professor first.
6. This is a university-level literature class. Complaints about "too much reading" have no place in this course.
7. Work to create an environment of mutual respect in the university. There is something to learn from everybody!

<b>September 10</b> (Thursday)	Course Introduction
15 (Tuesday)	Spain in the 19th Century (readings on WebCT)
17 (Thursday)	<i>La gaviota</i>
22 (Tuesday)	<i>La gaviota</i>
24 (Thursday)	<i>La gaviota</i>
29 (Tuesday)	<i>La gaviota</i>
<b>October 1</b> (Thursday)	<i>La gaviota</i> <b>Assignment 1 Due</b>
6 (Tuesday)	<i>La gaviota</i>
8 (Thursday)	<i>La gaviota</i>
13 (Tuesday)	<i>Pepita Jiménez</i>
15 (Thursday)	<i>Pepita Jiménez</i>
20 (Tuesday)	<i>Pepita Jiménez</i> <b>Assignment 2 Due</b>
22 (Thursday)	<i>Doña Perfecta</i>
27 (Tuesday)	<i>Doña Perfecta</i>
29 (Thursday)	<i>Doña Perfecta</i>
<b>November 3</b> (Tuesday)	<i>Doña Perfecta</i> <b>Assignment 3 Due</b>
5 (Thursday)	<i>Los pazos de Ulloa</i>
10 (Tuesday)	<i>Los pazos de Ulloa</i>
12 (Thursday)	<i>Los pazos de Ulloa</i>
17 (Tuesday)	<i>Los pazos de Ulloa</i> <b>Assignment 4 Due</b>
19 (Thursday)	<i>Los pazos de Ulloa</i>
24 (Tuesday)	<i>La barraca</i>
26 (Thursday)	<i>La barraca</i>
<b>December 1</b> (Tuesday)	<i>La barraca</i> <b>Assignment 5 Due</b>
3 (Thursday)	Presentations
8 (Tuesday)	Presentations

The **Final Essay** will be due no later than **Wednesday, December 9, 2009** at **4pm**.