

SPAN 9022A
Hispanic American Theater and Discourses of the Nation
Tuesdays 7-10PM
UC 3305



Instructor: Prof. Felipe Quintanilla

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Office Hours: Tues 2PM-4PM & Wed 12PM-2PM and by apt.

Course Description:

Being both a textual as well as performative artifact, theater offers a construct of the world, an imaginary that is often revelatory of the enveloping culture. As a cultural phenomenon in constant transformation, theater demands of us an analytic gaze taking into consideration its literary textuality as much as its dramatic artifice, as well as its stage design and other inter-modalities. In this course we will study the conceptualization of the nation in light of a number of Hispanic American plays, literary, theoretical, and audio-visual texts, permitting us, in turn, to identify theater as a process of signification in the implicit and explicit configuration of the nation. The construct of the nation, as we will see, is of fictional and performative character, and it is precisely through a series of theatricalities, *mises-en-scènes*, that the national ideal is articulated in the context of a stage where agents, spaces and ceremonies come to present competing discourses.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able:

- 1) To learn about and identify the links to be drawn between political processes and political cultures of the hegemonic and legitimizing institutions of the national constructs of identity.
- 2) To analyze the types of discourses used in accordance to various intended audiences and cultural communities and the codes of cultural and aesthetic legitimization in each of the works to be seen in class.
- 3) To understand the social imaginary or the world vision of dramatic works in relation to the national ideal.
- 4) To analyze the text and theatrical works in order to identify the strategies of representation for the different theatrical performances and visual practices.

Grading Policy

Class participation	15%
Tarea/pop quizzes	15%
Oral presentation	10%
Paper proposal and annotated bib.	20%
Final Paper	25%
Performance/guión	15%

Total:	100%

The following scale will be used to determine grades in the course:

GRADING SCALE	
GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A+	90-100%
A	80-89%
B	70-79%
C	60-69%
D	50-59%
F	Below 50% or assigned when course is dropped with academic penalty.

Assignments

Students must complete all assignments by the designated date. **No late homework will be accepted.** In case of absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact a classmate or the instructor and obtain the necessary information.

Class Participation

As in any literature/theater course, class participation is crucial. The class participation grade (15%) will be based on both the quantity and quality of student contribution. Students are expected to **come prepared to class**.

Tarea/pop quizzes

Based on a theater analysis sheet (which will be handed out and reviewed on the second day of classes), students are expected to make detailed notes, in full sentences, on every play read for class. These sheets are due before every class (via Dropbox) for which a play has been assigned. On days on which the professor feels that the students have not done the appropriate level of reading/analysis, there might also be pop quizzes assigned during class time.

Oral presentation

Every student must choose a particular day of the semester to lead a 30-40 min class lecture/discussion based on the assigned readings for the session. The presentation can include audio visual components such as PPT and relevant video clips. Students must choose their week of presentation by Sept 25th.

Paper proposal and annotated bibliography

In collaboration with the professor, students will choose a topic from a list of options in order to eventually write a 3000 word final essay (excluding bibliography). Before embarking on writing this essay, however, every student must submit a paper proposal and annotated bibliography (due on Oct 23rd). The proposal should be between 2 and 3 pages long (MLA style format) and it must provide an introduction to the topic and texts as well as a well crafted thesis statement and essay outline. The annotated bibliography, in turn, must properly cite and comment on the relevance of at least 10 sources, 7 of which must be scholarly sources not listed on the syllabus.

Final paper

The 3000 word final essay must show coherence, a good thesis, organization in the arguments that are being presented, critical thinking skills, a rational conclusion and no spelling mistakes. It must include 12 bibliography entries as a minimum requirement. Of these 8 must be academic secondary sources not listed on the syllabus. Due last day of classes (Dec 4th).

Performance/guión

After having been inspired by the texts of the class, students are expected to write their own short plays or scenes. Students are also expected to perform/exhibit/read a part of their work on the last day of classes (Dec 4th). More info on this assignment to follow.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is **mandatory**. Regular class attendance is essential for successful completion of the course. Students are allowed **one (1)** absence per semester. For any absences beyond this, a student's FINAL GRADE will be lowered by 2%.

Every **three (3)** tardies will be counted as **one (1)** absence. In order to receive full credit for daily attendance, students must stay in class for the entire duration of the class period.

Absences will only be EXCUSED by showing proof of EMERGENCY MEDICAL ATTENTION or by presenting a letter from the Dean. There are no exceptions. This class requires that the student invest a great deal of time and energy preparing the readings and materials. You are expected to attend all weekly classes.

Statement on Use Of Laptops/Mobile Device In The Classroom

Laptops or mobile devices can support your learning in this class, but they can also be a source of distraction for you and other students around you. Please turn off all sound notifications before you enter the classroom. You are welcome to use your devices for course-related activities such as taking notes, researching lecture topics, collaborating on group projects, viewing documents in OWL, and communicating with other students about the course material. You are not permitted to use these devices for any non-course-related activities. Students who wish to use laptops or mobile devices are asked to sit in the laptop-designated area of the class. During activities that do not require these devices, such as group discussions, you will be asked to close or put them away. If you have concerns or comments about how the use of laptops or mobile devices is affecting your learning during the course, please make an appointment to talk with the instructor.

OWL

OWL will be used to send out group messages, post announcements, and make **class documents** easily available to everybody. Students are responsible for checking their e-mail and UWO regularly, and **print out the necessary documents on time**.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to maintain high standards at UWO. Cheating is not tolerated on either exams or homework. Anyone caught cheating, copying from others, or allowing others to copy their work is subject to receiving an "F".

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated

Plagiarism is the presentation as one's own, the ideas and writing of another. Plagiarism is academically dishonest and subjects the offending student to penalties up to and including expulsion. Students must make appropriate acknowledgements of the original source where material written or compiled by another is used.

Plagiarism Checking: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com

(<http://www.turnitin.com>). Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf A student guilty of a scholastic offence may be subject to the imposition of one or more penalties, ranging from reprimand to expulsion from the university.

Support Services

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 ext. 82147 if you have questions regarding accommodation.

The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found here: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_disabilities.pdf

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be found here: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

NB:

This is an abbreviated version of the syllabus. The full version will be presented on the first day of class and it will be uploaded on the course's OWL site prior to that date.