TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI

SPAN 4390.001 Topics in Spanish: Spanish Crime Novel

“A corpse on the table is an excuse to talk about other things”
Teresa Solana

Instructor: Prof. Melissa Culver
Office phone number: 825-2580
Email: Melissa.Culver@tamucc.edu
Office number and building: 260 Faculty Center

Office hours: TTH: 11:00-12:00; T: 5:00-6:30
W: 12:00-1:30
***If you are unable to make these office hours, please contact me (preferably by email) to schedule an appointment.

Class meets: T: 7:00-9:30 IN OCNR 133

Course Description: A course that focuses on modern and contemporary Spanish crime literature.

Primary Readings
El duque de Rivas. “Una antigualla de Sevilla”.
Alarcón, Pedro Antonio de. El clavo
Pardo Bazán, Emilia. Lagota de sangre
  “La cita”
  “El gemelo”
  “Santiago el mudo”
  “La cana”
García Pavón, Francisco. Historias de Plinio
Oliver, María Antonia. “¿Dónde estás, Mónica?”
Vázquez Montalbán, Manuel. Los mares del sur
Giménez Bartlett, Alicia. “La voz de la sangre”.
  “Muerte en el gimnasio”.
Ribas, Rosa. Entre dos aguas.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
At the end of this course students will demonstrate ability to:
• understand, synthesize, analyze, and interpret different uses of language, as well as
treatment of culture, history, society, politics, and gender in Spanish crime literature of
the 19th-21st centuries. Assessment will include measures of student learning such as in-
class assignments that evaluate understanding of the language, plot, and theme. It also
includes written assignments/tests in which students must demonstrate the ability to
synthesize, analyze and interpret the different contexts presented by literary texts.
explain, contextualize, and discuss critically the different problems, discourses, and representations found in Spanish crime literature. Measures of student learning will include oral presentations and written assignments where students must demonstrate ability to organize their thoughts and convey their ideas about a literary piece, a character, a theme, and the contexts that generate them.

identify cultural differences and elaborate on their social, historical and political contexts through the study of Spanish crime literature. This will be assessed through oral presentations, and written assignments in which students must demonstrate ability to recognize and contextualize literary texts and the cultures that generate them.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Participation. 10%**. Participation includes asking questions in class, as well as contributing in a meaningful way to the class discussion. Each class will involve the discussion of a different text and your participation is expected. Your syllabus lists the texts assigned for each class of the semester. You must read the material assigned for each day before class thoroughly, so you are prepared to participate in the discussion. 5% points of your participation grade will be awarded before the Midterm, and the remaining 5% before the Final Exam.

- **Attendance.** If you are absent you cannot participate, nor demonstrate that you have read the material. This will inevitably reflect on your understanding of the texts and, eventually, on your final grade. You may be absent once during the semester without penalty. After the first absence, you will lose 3 points (3% of your final grade), which will be deducted from your participation grade and/or your in-class assignment grade for every class you miss, unless you provide official written documentation (medical note, or other official document). Missed assignments will be due the day you return to class with the proper written documentation attached.

  Please note that if you are late by more than 10 minutes, you will be considered absent, unless you provide official written documentation (medical note, or other official document). Please remember that you are responsible for the material covered in class. If you have any questions about the material covered in the class or classes you missed, please stop by my office and I will be happy to help you.

- **Reading Guides. 20%. (10 Reading Guides, 2% each)**. Reading Guides will consist of questions relating to the readings and the article or articles to be discussed in class. Reading Guides will be handed out in class. You will be expected to complete the Reading Guides by the due date. Every Tuesday you will be required to submit your answers to the Reading Guide by email (Melissa.Culver@tamucc.edu) no later than 2 pm. I will compile the best answers (they will be presented to the class anonymously) and we will discuss them during class time. Since In-class assignments and class discussions will be partly based on your answers to the Reading Guides, please bring your answered guides to class. Grading will be based on effort put on completion, i.e., you must make a reasonable effort to answer ALL the questions to the best of your ability.

- **Portfolio.** Twice during the semester you will be required to submit your Reading Guides for revision. The Portfolio (which includes Reading Guides) revision will take place during your Midterm and your Final exams.
- **In-class assignments, 10%**. (10 in-class assignments, 1% each). Each class will end with a brief set of questions about the readings for the day and material covered in the class discussion for that day. This will give you the opportunity to demonstrate in straightforward answers your basic understanding of the texts and the discussion. No make ups will be offered for in-class assignments, if you are absent you will miss the points for the assignment you missed. If you have a documented official excuse for your absence, you can make up the points for the assignment you missed with a 300 word mini-essay on the reading or readings that correspond to the in class reading you missed. Please note that you will have to write a mini-essay for each in-class assignment that you miss. The specific topic of the makeup mini assignment will be determined by the instructor. Grading will be based on effort put on completion, i.e., you must make a reasonable effort to answer ALL the questions to the best of your ability.

- **Presentation, 10%**. During the semester you will pair up with a classmate for a class presentation. Once a semester you and your classmate will present a topic related to the readings for that week and you and your classmate will also lead the subsequent class discussion. The presentation and the following class discussion will represent 10% of your final grade. Please read ADDENDUM #1 for presentation requirements and evaluation criteria.

- **Midterm Exam, 15%**. Your midterm exam will consist of short answer questions (max.2 or 3 lines per answer) and an essay question (2 to 3 handwritten A4 pages, single side or approx. 550-650 words). The Midterm Exam will include 10 short answer questions (10%, 1 point each) and 1 essay question to choose out of 3 essay questions (5%).

- **Final Exam, 20%**. Your final exam will consist of short answer questions (max. 2 or 3 lines per answer) and essay questions (2 to 4 handwritten A4 pages, single side or approx. 650-750 words per essay). The Final Exam will consist of 10 short answer questions (10%, 1 point each) and 2 essay questions (10%, 5 points each) to choose out of 6 essay questions. The Final Exam will include all the material covered in the course, although there will be more emphasis on the material covered from the Midterm date.

  * Please review TAMUCC’s guidelines regarding more than two final exams on the same day and come to see me as soon as possible if you have a problem with the exam dates. I will need at least 30 days advance written notice if you need to reschedule your Final Exam.

- **Essay, 15%**. Your Essay will consist of a paper in Spanish (8-10 pages, including bibliography and notes, if you have them) on a topic related to any of the readings in the course. You will choose the topic of your essay. Your essay should include at least a primary source (a reading from the syllabus) and three secondary sources (academic articles and/or scholarly books). We use MLA style for paper formatting and bibliography. Please read ADDENDUM#2 for Essay requirements, and evaluation criteria.

- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported. Remember that not referencing your sources is plagiarism, as well as using or paraphrasing somebody else’s words or ideas without proper acknowledgement. For quotations, references and bibliography please use MLA style.

**Late work policy**: late work is only accepted if you have a properly documented, official excuse. If you have an excuse, your work will be due the day you return to class. Should you experience technical difficulties (e.g., you are unable to print your work by the due date), please email me your essay immediately (Melissa.Culver@tamucc.edu) so that I can mark
it as “on time”, then print your essay and hand it in to me within 24 hours of the original due date. Please note that I do not grade work submitted by email.

If you submit late work, 3 points per day late will be taken off your grade (starting on the due date/time) until the work is submitted.

Miscellaneous. Please reduce unnecessary distractions to the minimum. Cell phones must be set on vibration mode and put away. Visitors are not allowed in class, unless permitted by the professor in advance. Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct as described by the University Student Handbook and to have an amicable and respectful attitude towards their instructor, language lab staff and fellow students.

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<tr>
<th>GRADE DISTRIBUTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20% Reading Guides (10 Reading Guides, 2% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10% In-class assignments (10 In-class assignments, 1% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>15% Midterm Exam (10% 10 short answer questions, 1point each and 5% 1 essay question).</td>
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<td>20% Final Exam (10% 10 short answer questions, 1 point each and 10% 2 essay questions, 5 points each).</td>
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<td>15% Essay (all four parts of the assignment are mandatory):</td>
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<td>- 2% 1st draft</td>
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<td>- 1% Office Interview</td>
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<td>- 4% 2nd draft</td>
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<td>- 8% Essay</td>
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<td>10% Participation (5% before the Midterm, 5% after the Midterm)</td>
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<td>10% Presentation (scholarly sources 5%; presentation delivery 3%; class discussion 2%).</td>
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Total: 100%

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<th>GRADING POLICY</th>
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<td>60-69 D</td>
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<td>59 or below F</td>
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Dates to remember:
August 15 Faculty Start Date
August 24 Classes begin
August 31 Last day to late register or add a class
September 5 Labor day Holiday
October 3 Last day to apply for December graduation
October 12 Last day of classes for 1st 7-Week Session and final exams
October 13 First day of classes for 2nd 7-Week session
October 17 Grades due for 1st 7-Week Session
November 11 Last day to drop a class
November 22-23 Reading Days-No Classes
November 24-25 Thanksgiving Holidays
December 5 Last day to withdraw from the University
December 6 Last day of classes and Final Exams 2nd 7-Week Session
December 7 Reading Day
December 8-9, December 12-14 Final examinations
December 15-16 Grading days
December 17 Fall Commencement
December 19 Fall grades due

ACADEMIC ADVISING: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466 or log onto http://www.tamucc.edu/~aac.

DISABILITY SERVICES: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

GRADE APPEALS: Students who feel they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website (http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

(Some) Topics for weekly discussion/Tentative Schedule:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic and Reading</th>
<th>Important dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Aug. 30</td>
<td>Introducción I: “Una antiguala de Sevilla”</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Sep 6</td>
<td>Introducción II. El detective privado y la policía I. <em>El clavo.</em></td>
<td>Guía 1</td>
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<td>3. Sep 13</td>
<td>El detective privado y la policía II: La gota de sangre.</td>
<td>Guía 2</td>
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<td>6. Oct 4</td>
<td>La detective privada: “¿Dónde estás, Mónica?”</td>
<td>Guía 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Oct. 11</td>
<td>Examen Midterm</td>
<td>Examen Midterm (Guía 1-5 )</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Nov 22</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
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<td>15. Dec 6</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Dec 13</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam (Guías 6-10)</td>
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Tuesday, Dec 13th 7:15-9:45
ADDENDUM #1: THE PRESENTATION

Presentation requirements:
- This in-class presentation should take no longer than 15-20 minutes.
- You and your classmate should discuss in your presentation at least a scholarly source (an article, a book or a book chapter) related to the reading or readings you are presenting. If you use Power Point for your presentation, you must include the bibliographical information there. If you choose to submit a general outline instead, you must include your bibliography.
- You and your classmate will also be expected to provide the instructor with the talking points for the presentation and a set of questions for the class discussion in writing at least a day in advance of your presentation date.
- Additional audio visual material for your presentation (e.g., PowerPoint slides) is recommended, but not required. If you do decide to use audiovisual material for your presentation, please make sure to have it spell-checked.
- If you miss your presentation, you will lose the points, unless you have an official written excuse, in which case your presentation will be postponed until the day you return to class. Each student will be graded individually, based on work and effort. Please remember that you are responsible for selecting your presentation partner.

Presentation grading criteria:
- Use of scholarly sources (the main source/sources of information is peer reviewed and appropriate to the reading/readings discussed in the presentation): 5 points.
- Presentation delivery (the material is presented in a clear and organized manner): 3 points.
- Class discussion (the question and answer session helps to clarify/amplify the information delivered during the presentation): 2 points.

Total: 10 points, 10% of the final grade.

ADDENDUM #2: THE FINAL ESSAY
• Your essay should be typewritten, double-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1 inch margins on ALL sides.
• Your essay should be written entirely in Spanish and be 8-10 pages long.
• Please remember to spell-check your essay. Grammar, syntax and spelling will be evaluated in your Essay, as well as your use of sources, thesis presentation and thesis development.
• Please do not use a cover sheet/title page for your essay. Include your name, my name and the class number/title (using single space) on the first page of your essay, in the top left margin.
• Please include your bibliography on the last page of your essay, but do not use a separate page. If you have notes (not required), please include them as endnotes after the last paragraph of your essay and before your bibliography. Remember that your essay should include at least a primary source (a reading) and three secondary sources (academic articles and/or scholarly books or book chapters).

The following are part of the required work for your Final essay:

-Submission of a First Draft (2% of the Essay Grade). The format and length of your first draft is variable and it will depend on your writing style. Some acceptable formats are: an outline describing your thesis and the examples you are going to use to prove it, one or two paragraphs detailing your thesis and hypotheses, etc. The First Draft will be discussed in class.
- Office Interview (1% of the Essay Grade) to discuss your project and bibliography. I will have extended office hours, if needed, for the interviews.
-Submission of a Second Draft (4% of the Essay Grade). Your second draft should include at least 75% of the material in your Final Essay as well as quotations from the primary and secondary sources. The Second Draft will be discussed during the Office Interview, prior to its due date.
-Submission of the Essay (8% of the Essay Grade).
Total: 15%

*Please resubmit Draft 1 and 2 with your Essay. The final version of your paper will not be graded until I receive Drafts 1 and 2.

**You are welcome to stop by my office at any time during the writing of your Essay to ask questions or request clarifications. If you cannot make the scheduled office hours, please inform me in class or by email to schedule an appointment.

-Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported. Remember that not referencing your sources is plagiarism, as well as using or paraphrasing somebody else’s words or ideas without proper acknowledgement. For quotations, references and bibliography please use MLA style.