

**SPN 4303 - The Spanish American Novel
Course Syllabus**

Term: Fall 2014
Location/Day/Time: RGC Eagle Pass Room D-111 Tue 6pm-8:45pm
Instructor: Dr. Gregory Stone
Office: RGC-Del Rio
Office Hours: Del Rio: Tue Thu 9am-12pm
Eagle Pass: Tue 5pm-6pm
and by appointment
Phone: (830)703-4835
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Course Webpage: <http://bbsrsu.sulross.edu/>

DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the modern novel in Spanish America through an in-depth study of representative works, their authors, and the pertinent literary criticism of the novels. This course will follow a lecture format with adequate attention given to in-class and online discussions of the works to be read.

TEXTS:

Benedetti, Mario. *La tregua*. México:Punto de Lectura. ISBN 970710003

Mastretta, Ángeles. *Arráncame la vida*. New York:Vintage Español. ISBN 0375701990

Vásquez, Juan Gabriel. *El ruido de las cosas al caer*. Madrid:Punto de Lectura. ISBN 9788466325967

Mendoza, Elmer. *Balas de plata*. Barcelona:Tusquets. ISBN: 9788483830574

Vargas Llosa, Mario. *La fiesta del chivo*. Madrid:Punto de Lectura. ISBN 9788466318709

NOTE: Any edition of these texts will be acceptable if you cannot find the edition shown above.

OBJECTIVES: The following are the learning objectives for this course:

In this course, the student will:

1. Apply literal reading skills for understanding written materials, including stated main idea, topic sentence, sequence of events, supporting details, and summarized information.

2. Apply interpretive reading skills for understanding written materials, including implied the main idea or theme, cause-effect relationships, outcomes, and conclusions.
3. Understand the use of literary conventions, including author's point of view or purpose, the interpretation of figurative language, and the contribution of grammatical structures to the meaning of various passages.
4. Apply vocabulary skills, including the use of context clues to define ambiguous words, identification of words to fit various contexts, and cultural and conceptual characteristics of literary language.
5. Apply knowledge of idiomatic usage, including distinctions among the possible interpretations of words and phrases in different idiomatic contexts.

PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

PLO 1 – The student will demonstrate advanced level of proficiency in reading Spanish.

PLO 2 - The student will demonstrate advanced level of proficiency in writing Spanish.

PLO 3 - The student will demonstrate advanced level of proficiency in speaking Spanish.

EVALUATION:

The degree to which the student masters the course objectives will be evaluated according to the following:

Exams	50%
Participation.....	10%
Book Reviews (**).....	30%
Oral Report(***).....	10%
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TOTAL:	100%

****Students will prepare a 2-3 page book review of each of the novels to be read in this class. The format for these reviews will be discussed in class. The reviews should represent the thoughts and impressions of the student ONLY, not the work of authorities in the field or of other students. All submissions will be done in electronic format using the "Assignments" area of Blackboard.**

***** Each student will prepare a 3-5 minutes oral report on one of the book reviews they are required to submit. This report should be an oral summary of the points made in the written review.**

POLICIES:

The attendance policy outlined in the SRSU-Rio Grande College General Bulletin will be followed in this class, and the student is responsible for being familiar with that policy.

NO MAKEUP EXAMS will be given. If a scheduled exam is missed, the student will be responsible for the missed material on the next exam. In all cases the student must notify the instructor beforehand if an exam is to be missed.

****CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND OUT OF SIGHT DURING CLASS AND WHILE EXAMS ARE IN PROGRESS.****

NOTE:

Students with a disability which may affect their performance in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor so that appropriate changes in methods and materials may be made in order to ensure the student an equal opportunity for success.

COURSE CALENDAR

- AUG 26: Introduction to course; Characteristics of the novel
- SEP 2: Mario Benedetti, *La tregua*
- 9: *La tregua*
- Book review 1 (La tregua) due by Sept. 14**
- 16: Ángeles Mastretta, *Arráncame la vida*
- 23: *Arráncame la vida*
- 30: *Arráncame la vida*; Juan Gabriel Vásquez, *El ruido de las cosas al caer*
- Book review 2 (Arráncame la vida) due by October 5**
- OCT 7: *El ruido de las cosas al caer*
- 14: *El ruido de las cosas al caer*
- Book review 3 (El ruido de las cosas al caer) due by October 19**
- 21: **Exam I**
- 28: Elmer Mendoza, *Balas de plata*
- NOV 4: *Balas de plata*
- 11: *Balas de plata*
- Book review 4 (Balas de plata) due by Nov. 16**
- 18: Mario Vargas Llosa, *La fiesta del chivo*
- 25: *La fiesta del chivo*
- DEC 2: *La fiesta del chivo*
- Book review 5 (Travesuras de la niña mala) due by Dec 7**
- 9: **EXAM II**