Students are responsible for printing and bringing syllabus to class the first day of instruction

FALL 2012

I. COURSE: SPAN 4402: Contemporary Culture
CRN: 81031
PREREQUISITES: SPAN 3304 or SPAN 3305

II. INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ernesto Silva-Zolezzi
OFFICE: SO 2005/2013
HOURS: TH 5-6 PM, or by appointment
E-MAIL: esilva@kennesaw.edu

III. CLASS MEETINGS: TR 6:30-7:45 PM
LOCATION: EB 274

IV. CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Prerequisite: SPAN 3304 or SPAN 3305. SPAN 4402: Contemporary Culture: An examination of the historical, social, and political contexts of the contemporary Hispanic experience through the analysis of different cultural representations such as film, media, plastic arts, music and literature. Readings and discussion in Spanish.

V. SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION: From times immemorial, human beings have made artistic representations of one of the principal activities in their existence. As such, they have created a vast array of artifacts that point to the sexual nature of men and women. In the Western World, Greeks and Romans have left myriad vestiges in their pottery and sculpture; later on, when novels became popular, as well as with the advent of photography and film, artists have endeavored to focus on the topic. Through the close reading of two novels written by the Peruvian writer, Mario Vargas Llosa, recipient of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Literature, students will learn how this literary genre can be used to explore the social realm through issues of intimacy. We will also explore how through the use of eroticism an author is able to throw light on the underside of traditional society and focus on the marginalized and ignored in an effort to problematize what is known as standardized or normal behavior within a particular societal context.
VI. CAVEAT LECTOR/SPECTATOR: Films and reading materials used in this course are part of the current curriculum on representations of Hispanic culture. However, they may contain images, information, ideas, etc. that may be offensive to your personal beliefs or taste. These materials are intended for educational purposes and presuppose a mature audience. If you think it is possible that you may be offended by any of the materials in this course, please talk to me at your earliest convenience.

NOTE: The purpose of watching the films as part of class activities is intended for students to benefit from the explanations from the instructor who, in turn, will talk about themes that will appear in the exams and may also be used for writing the final essay. Consequently, watching films alone in the FLRC, the library, online, or from rental outlets is strongly discouraged. In case of missing an in-class screening, please talk to me ASAP.

VII. REQUIRED TEXTS:

*Elogio de la madrastra*
Author: Mario Vargas Llosa
Paperback: 216 pages
Publisher: TusQuets Editores
Language: Spanish

*Cuadernos de Don Rigoberto*
Author: Mario Vargas Llosa
Paperback: 400 pages
Publisher: Punto de Lectura
Language: Spanish

OPTIONAL TEXT:

*Literatura peruana siglo XVI a siglo XX*
Authors: Antonio Cornejo Polar, Jorge Cornejo Polar
Hardcover: 282 pages
Publisher: CELACCP
Language: Spanish

VIII. SCHEDULE: (Subject to change)

SEMANA 1: AUG 20-23 Introduction
SEMANA 2: AUG 27-30 The Question of Erotic Literature/Art
SEMANA 3: SEP 3-6 *Elogio de la madrastra*
SEMANA 4: SEP 10-13 *Elogio de la madrastra*
SEMANA 5: SEP 17-20 *Elogio de la madrastra*
SEMANA 6: SEP 24-27 *Elogio de la madrastra*
SEMANA 7: OCT 1-4 *Elogio de la madrastra*
SEMANA 8: OCT 8-11 *Cuadernos de Don Rigoberto*
SEMANA 9: OCT 15-18 *Cuadernos de Don Rigoberto*
SEMANA 10: OCT 22-25 *Cuadernos de Don Rigoberto*
IX. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:

1. ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY. The ONLY way to learn and improve your speaking ability is by practicing and becoming engaged in the free exchange of ideas; to do that you must be in class. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes throughout the entire semester. All absences, excused or unexcused, will be counted as absences. Each absence will result in your final grade being lowered by TWO points. If you must be absent from class or come in late, it is your responsibility to find out what the assignment was for that day and to turn your homework in on time. You are also responsible for finding out about any announcements or schedule changes made at the beginning of class. To find out what transpired in class while you were absent, do NOT contact me, contact a classmate:

NAME: _____________________; PHONE: _________________; E-MAIL: __________________
NAME: _____________________; PHONE: _________________; E-MAIL: __________________

2. You must be willing to participate in class discussion. You are expected to study at home as part of your daily preparation. Reading the text assigned for class is your responsibility. If you come unprepared to class or are unwilling to participate, you may be dismissed from class and be counted as absent. Requesting materials shown in class for private viewing is not allowed.

3. Make an effort to check GAView as often as possible for any additional information, invitations to events, and assignments.

4. All assignments are to be finished individually before class begins. No late homework will be accepted under any circumstances. No make-ups of any kind will be given for any assignments or exams. If you miss a test, you will get an F. No assignments will be accepted if sent by email under any circumstances. Emergencies will be handled on an individual basis. There will be no “extra-credit” or substitution of course materials.

5. Before class begins, be sure to turn OFF and PUT AWAY all electronic equipment, including computers, cell phones (may be muted or set on vibrate), MP3s, iPods, video games, and so on. Put away books and homework from other classes, as well as agendas or handouts. No IM-ing or texting will be tolerated under any circumstances. No food will be allowed in the classroom. NOTE: The use of laptops or iPads as well as recording devices for any purpose is strictly prohibited.
X. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy in academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which include either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one-semester suspension requirement.

XI. DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR: It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process. The University has a stringent policy and procedure for dealing with behavior which disrupts the learning environment. Consistent with the belief that disruptive behavior can interrupt the learning of others, behavior which fits the University definition of disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. NOTE: Students are asked to be mindful of their manners when in class, so paying attention to class lecture and being polite is a requirement for being allowed to remain as part of the group.

XII. HUMAN DIGNITY: The University has formulated a policy on human rights which is intended to provide a learning environment which recognized individual worth. The activities of this class will be conducted in both the spirit and the letter of that policy.

XIII. KSU DIVERSITY VISION STATEMENT: It is our vision to create a strong multicultural and diverse educational environment at KSU in order to increase student satisfaction and to promote an understanding and awareness of people from various backgrounds upon graduation. In this way, KSU students will be educated for, and can effectively compete in the global society. (KSU 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog/Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities/Interpersonal Relations and Non-Discrimination Position Statements and Policies)

XIV. DISABILITY POLICY: Kennesaw State University provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons identified as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. A number of services are available to help the disabled. Students must visit the Office of DisAbled Student Support Services or call 770.423.6443 to arrange an individual
assistance plan. In some cases, certification of disability is required. All discussion will be kept confidential.

**XV. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:** This course will contribute to the attainment of the following general (GSLO) and specific (SSLO) student learning outcomes of the B.A. in Modern Language & Culture (ML&C):

**GSLO ML&C 1:** Language, Linguistics, & Comparisons. Learners are proficient in using the target language, are familiar with the target language system, and seek opportunities to further develop their skills and knowledge. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

**SSLO ML&C 1.a.:** Demonstrating Language Proficiency. Learners demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the target language, and they seek opportunities to strengthen their proficiency. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

To address this outcome, learners will improve their speaking skills by participating in ongoing, in-class discussions about pertinent topics dealing with the assigned readings. Upon completion of the major in Modern Language & Culture, learners are expected to have achieved an Advanced-Low level on the ACTFL scale. **Assessment:** Research essay and class participation.

To address this outcome, learners will improve their listening skills by participating in different in-class activities where they will be required to engage in discussions about the assigned readings. **Assessment:** Research essay, and class participation.

To address this outcome, learners will improve their writing ability by completing a series of assignments that will emphasize comparing and contrasting, hypothesizing, analyzing, summarizing the texts read for class. **Assessment:** Two exams, film/cultural critiques, and research essay.

To address this outcome, learners will improve their reading ability by reading from several source materials, including books, internet articles, and their own research work for the final essay. Also, students must reach an understanding of the books and articles read. **Assessment:** Class participation, two exams, and research essay.

**GSLO ML&C 2:** Cultures & Literatures. Learners know the literature and culture of the target language countries. They use this knowledge to interpret and reflect upon the perspectives of the target culture in relation to its practices and products. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

**SSLO ML&C 2.a.:** Demonstrating Cultural Understandings. Learners demonstrate that they understand the connections among the perspectives of a culture and its practices and products. (Knowledge, Skills)
To address this outcome, learners will engage in reading novels written in the original language, theoretical/critical texts, and viewing films. 

Assessment: Class participation, film/cultural critiques, two exams, and research essay.

SSLO ML&C 2.b.: Demonstrating Understanding of Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions.
Learners recognize the value and role of literary and cultural texts and use them to interpret and reflect upon the perspectives of the target cultures over time. (Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes)

To address this outcome, learners will have the opportunity to read, discuss, and do research on novels and films from Latin America. The course is designed to expose students to several texts while having a critical approach by close reading and applied writing.  
Assessment: Class participation, film/cultural critiques, two exams, and research essay.

XVI. FINAL GRADE:

Two Exams, Midterm & Final (25 points each) 50
Research Essay 20
Film/Cultural Critiques (10 points each) 20
Class Participation 10

TOTAL 100

XVII. GRADE SCALE: A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: 0-59%

WARNING: Failure to take the Final Exam or turn in the Research Essay will result in a final course grade of “F.”

XVIII. ASSIGNMENTS:

MIDTERM & FINAL: Each of these exams is geared towards the assessment of knowledge and understanding of the materials covered in class. They will only cover texts discussed up to the moment of the exam. More information about the format and how to study for the exams will be given in class. No make-up exams will be given.

CULTURAL EVENTS: Students are required to attend ONE cultural event. Each week I will invite the class to participate in a number of cultural events taking place on campus or beyond it. Additionally, there will be a flier with information about the event posted on GAView. It isn’t mandatory to attend ALL the events announced, but students MUST make an effort to attend as many cultural event as possible as part of class requirements. NOTE: For proof of attendance, bring the event flier with you and have an organizer sign it. But you must attend for at least one hour!
**FILM EVENTS:** Students are required to attend ONE film screening, which will be sponsored by the American Studies Program (AMST), the Latin American/Latino Studies Program (LALS), the Department of Foreign Languages (DFL), or some other program in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department (ISD). The times and locations of the films presented will be announced in class as soon as they become available.

**CRITIQUES:** After attending the cultural or a film event, students MUST turn in a typed, double-spaced, two-page critique containing well-thought-out reflections relative to the event. When writing, concentrate on your opinions of the event, both the presentation as well as the setting. Please do not describe what the film or event is about unless it is necessary to make your point. This is not a descriptive exercise, but rather one in which you voice your opinion and advance your ideas persuasively. All critiques MUST be written in Spanish. It is important to remember that these critiques are due no later than ONE WEEK after attending the cultural or film event. Since the mandatory total number of events is two, you must turn in two critiques. **NOTE:** NO CRITIQUES will be accepted without having the proof of attendance stapled onto the first page.

**INTERVIEW:** Students will be asked to be prepared to discuss their ideas for the completion of their research essay. For that purpose, having a general idea about what to focus on is essential. After the interview, students should have a clearer understanding about their work, as well as how to go about obtaining information for its completion. Discussions on the essay will also continue via email.

**RESEARCH ESSAY:** Students must write a 5-8-page, double-spaced research essay, which must include at least 3 bibliographical entries. For this purpose, students must become familiar with MLA-style conventions about collecting, reporting, and documenting information in a scholarly fashion, as well as about plagiarism. Specific details about format and other general expectations will be discussed in class and individually. This work will be an ongoing process. The details about the topics for this assignment will be discussed in class. The research essay is due the last day of class. **NOTE:** The research essay is to be written only by the student. Receiving help from other people is considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The use of dictionaries is allowed and encouraged. The use of spell-check programs or any writing assistance programs, such as Atajo, is permitted in the writing process. However, the use of translation software is prohibited. Asking for someone else for help in writing assignments for this class other than the tutors from the FLRC is restricted, and it can only be done by permission. Before allowing your friends, relatives, neighbors, or anyone else to proofread your writing, ask your instructor for permission.

Criteria for Evaluating the Research Essay:

- **CONTENT** (thesis, ideas, length, focus, creativity)
- **VOCABULARY** (range, spelling, appropriateness)
- **ORGANIZATION** (cohesion, interest, punctuation)
- **MORPHOSYNTAX** (time, tenses, aspect, complexity)
- **BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES** (MLA-style citation and documentation of sources)
RESEARCH ANALYSIS (selecting sources for inclusion on research essay)
FORMAT (following the MLA-style for writing research essays)

XIX. KSU STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & CHEATING: From The KSU 2009-2010 Online Undergraduate Catalog: http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=170: “No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit as part of a course (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.).” When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged.

XX. MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION STYLE: Courses in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts follow a specific bibliographical style when citing sources of information while doing research. Most film and literary analyses are written in the present tense, for example. This style is known as MLA and its general characteristics can be found in The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Sixth Edition, by Joseph Garibaldi (2003), or check the following Websites:


XXI. WRITING CENTER: The KSU Writing Center is a free service offered to all KSU students. Experienced, friendly writing assistants work with you on thesis development, organization, research documentation, grammar, mechanics, revision, and more. Although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you, they will be happy to help you improve your paper and teach you strategies to become a better writer on your own. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, stop by Room 242 in the English Building or visit: www.kennesaw.edu/writingcenter. NOTE: Although the help you may get is about English compositions, people at the KSU Writing Center will be able to guide you in arranging your ideas and formatting your work. In addition, they will help you with questions about MLA-style configurations.

XXII. FOREIGN LANGUAGE RESOURCE COLLECTION: Should you feel the need for additional assistance in studying or practicing Spanish please do not hesitate in contacting the FLRC. There is a team of outstanding Spanish tutors waiting for you
and ready to assist you. Also, the FLRC is an excellent place to meet and practice Spanish with people with similar interests. It is located in the Pilcher Building, room 134. If you need any additional information or guidance, contact Ms. Patricia Tilbian, FLRC Coordinator, at 678.797.2197, ptilbian@kennesaw.edu. Hours of operation for the FLRC are posted on the following Webpage: http://www.kennesaw.edu/foreignlanguage/flrc.html. NOTE: The FLRC houses a substantial collection of films and resources in print as well as in other mediums that will prove invaluable when writing the Research Essay. Most materials are available to students during hours of operation as well as for check out.

XXIII. LIBRARY RESOURCES

Get acquainted with the resources available at the KSU Sturgis Library, including online and remote access articles. Explore electronic data offered through Galileo and discover thousands of full text e-books. A workshop bringing library resources to you! Gain the skills to research academic papers. For all that and much more, please visit http://www.kennesaw.edu/library/.

Workshop Series:
Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at 4:00 pm
Thursday, August 30, 2012 at 4:00 pm
Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 4:00 pm

Location:
Lifelong Learning Center, Room 261 in Student Center

XXIV. UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING CENTER (UAC)

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is pleased to offer academic advising to students in the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC). The UAC is located in Pilcher 129, on the first floor near the Foreign Language Resource Center. Their hours are Monday-Thursday 8 am-6 pm, and Friday 8 am-5 pm. Students are strongly encouraged to make appointments using the website, http://www.kennesaw.edu/hssadvising/appointments.php, or by calling the Center during office hours at 770-794-7728. For more information, visit the UAC website: http://www.kennesaw.edu/hssadvising/home.php

You can do it; I will help you!
Let us have a great semester!