

SPAN 495: SPANISH DETECTIVE FICTIONS

Profesora: Natalia Cousté n.couste@utoronto.ca

Course Description

Detective stories address the topic of police genre in Spain. In this course, we will be detectives attempting to decipher the hidden details of sordid stories, offenses and crimes to be resolved. We will study the origin of the genre and its possible international models. In addition, we will discuss the characteristics of the foundational texts to later address contemporary authors. Each narrative will be accompanied by a brief discussion about the author and the social political context in which the text was written. The end of the course will be focused on the changes in the bases and protagonists of the police model, converting the reader into a possible suspect.

Bibliography

The readings will be in a packet that you can purchase in the copy store.

Book: *El misterio de la cripta embrujada* by Eduardo Mendoza, available in any bookstore.

Structure of Classes

Day 1: Introduction

Day 2: Origins of the detective genre in Spain: characteristics, variations and international models in detective narratives

Reading: "La novela negra actual" by José Pimat (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 3: Foundational Spanish Authors: Emilia Pardo Bazán, P.A Alarcón, M. J. de Larra, and García Pavón

Reading: "Emilia Pardo Bazán ante la novela policiaca" by José F. Colmeiro (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Reading: "La gota de sangre" by Emilia Pardo Bazán (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 4: Reading: "La gota de sangre" by Emilia Pardo Bazán (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 5: Reading: "La gota de sangre" by Emilia Pardo Bazán (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 6: Reading: "El clavo" by P.A Alarcón (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 7: "El clavo" by P.A Alarcón (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 8: Reading: Mariano José de Larra. La policía (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 9: Reading: García Pavón: *Historias de Plinio* (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 10: Reading: García Pavón: *Historias de Plinio* (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 11: Reading: García Pavón: *Historias de Plinio* (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 12: Reading: García Pavón: *Historias de Plinio* (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 13: Review for partial quiz

Day 14: Partial quiz

Day 15: Police Stories of the Present

Reading: *Atraco en los mares del sur* by Xavier Borrel (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 16: Reading: *La gratitud es el secreto* by José Antonio Castro Cebrián (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 17: Reading: “La violencia y el desencanto” by José F. Colmeiro (Cuaderno de Lecturas) Reading: *Trece copas* by Desirée B. Silvage (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 18: Reading: *Redentores de Rosa Rivas* (Cuaderno de Lecturas)

Day 19: Oral presentations.

Day 20: Oral presentations.

Day 21: The Detective Novel Today

Reading: “La novela negra policíaca española” by José F. Colmeiro (Paquete de Lecturas)

Reading: *El misterio de la cripta embrujada* by Eduardo Mendoza

Day 22: Reading: *El misterio de la cripta embrujada* by Eduardo Mendoza

Day 23: Reading: *El misterio de la cripta embrujada* by Eduardo Mendoza

Day 24: Film: *La cripta* (El misterio de la cripta embrujada)

Day 25: Discussion: Adaptation text-film

Day 26: Final exam review

Day 27: Final Exam

Evaluation

The final grade (out of 100 points) will consist of the following components:

15% Active participation in class

15% Oral presentation about a text or film 7-10 minutes

20% Partial exam on the material covered in class

25% Research essay. Between 10-12 pages about a Spanish detective text. The selection of the text will be consulted with the professor.

25% Final exam. Will take place in class and will cover material covered in the course.

Absence Policy

More than 3 unjustified absences is not permitted. After the fourth unjustified absence, one point will be deducted from the final grade after each additional absence.