

Graduate Courses - Fall 2026

SPAN 6180 – CONTEMPORARY SPANISH AMERICAN SHORT STORY

(in Spanish)

Marilyn Miller mgmiller@tulane.edu

Tuesdays / 3.30-6.00

In this course, we will read short works of fiction and short story theory by some of Latin America's best-known writers, including works by Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Horacio Quiroga, Juan Rulfo, Gabriel García Márquez, Rosario Castellanos, Juan Bosch, and others from the 20th century, together with more contemporary authors such as Ricardo Piglia, Ana María Shua, Eduardo Halfon, and Samanta Schweblin. We will also explore phenomena such as the *microrrelato* and autofiction, as well as the use of the *relato* format in film and other media.

SPAN 6200 – ANTIFASCIST LITERATURE IN LATIN AMERICA

(in Spanish)

Yuri Herrera Gutiérrez yherrera@tulane.edu

Tuesdays / 6.00-8.30

This course will survey an array of antifascist 20th and 21st century Latin American literature, focused on novels, but including poetry, short story and manifestos. We will discuss the context in which these texts were created and how they are still speaking to us, in our present-day political convulsion. We will also analyze the rhetorical tools that each artist used in each time to produce the desire effect, and how these works influenced the debates in their, and our, public sphere.

PORT 6290 – POLARIZATION AND CONFLICT IN BRAZILIAN CULTURE

(in Portuguese)

Idelber Avelar idelberavelar@gmail.com

Tuesdays & Thursdays / 2.00 – 3.15pm

This course is a survey of selected polarizations in Brazilian culture over the past century. We will examine various moments in which Brazilians were polarized in literature, social thought, music, politics, economics, cinema, juridical discourse, and soccer. Debates to be studied include: in 1920s literary modernism, avant-garde versus tradition; in social thought, integrationist perspectives on race by Gilberto Freyre versus difference-affirming discourses by Abdias do Nascimento; in the popular music of the 1960s, Geraldo Vandré and José Ramos Tinhorão's folk nationalism versus Caetano Veloso and Gilberto Gil's cosmopolitan Tropicalism; in economics, Guido Mantega and Dilma Rousseff's heterodox price-fixing or indexation plans versus Pêrsio Arida and Marcos Lisboa's orthodox economics policies such as Plano Real or Bolsa Família; in soccer, presentists, often cast as "modern football," versus traditionalists, often cast as "art football;" in penal law, guarantists versus punitivists and the different shapes taken by that opposition according to the crime and the offender; the binary structure of presidential elections in the post-dictatorial republic, between Lula's leftist Workers Party (PT) and Fernando Henrique Cardoso's social democratic center-right (PSDB), and later between the former and Bolsonaro's emergent far-right; the consolidation of identity politics through Lélia Gonzalez, Itamar Vieira Júnior and others versus the criticism leveled against it by thinkers such as Antonio Risério; the various ways in which 21st century Brazilian films (notably *Cidade de Deus*, *Tropa de Elite*, *Bacurau* and *O Agente Secreto*) have been received along political lines that split the audience. These cultural oppositions will be examined in the light of the recent bibliography on "affective polarization," which studies how cultural and political partisans increasingly dislike and distrust the opposing party, thereby turning cultural debates into social divisions based on identity.

SPAN 6950 – THEATER, PERFORMANCE, REBELLION 1500-1700

(in Spanish)

Dale Shuger dshuger@tulane.edu**Mondays / 3.30-6.00**

This course will consider the relationships between political and theatrical representation in the period 1500-1700 in Spain and the Spanish empire. We will read comedias, accounts of popular and elite fiestas, diplomatic pageantry, and rebellions, etc. as varied manifestations of political engagement in the early modern period. The course will combine early modern political theory with tools from contemporary performance studies, and will consider both early modern representations as well as 20th and 21st century productions of early modern texts that redeploy these works to engage with issues of representation in the present.

SPAN 7920 – LITERARY THEORY

(in Spanish)

Idelber Avelar idelberavelar@gmail.com**Thursdays / 6.00 – 8.30pm**

This course examines the major schools of thought that have informed literary theory and criticism in the past century. We will read a selection of primary texts by the main thinkers of each school, with a view to understanding how literature has been analyzed by each of them. Critical approaches to be studied include formalism, structuralism, psychoanalysis, marxism, feminism, deconstruction, ecocriticism, cultural studies, critical race theory, and postcolonial studies. Authors to be read include Viktor Shklovsky, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Roman Jakobson, Simone de Beauvoir, Jacques Derrida, Roland Barthes, Julia Kristeva, Judith Butler, Edward Said, Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault, Barbara Herrnstein Smith, Eve Sedgwick, Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, among others. We will occasionally go back and revisit modern and pre-modern philosophers who have inspired literary theory, so students will also be introduced to landmarks of the philosophical tradition, such as Plato, Kant, Hegel, and Marx.

SPAN 7960 – PHD PREPARATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(in English)

Antonio Gómez agomez@tulane.edu**Thursdays / 3.30-6.00**

This course is designed to prepare students for the profession. It will cover topics such as choosing a dissertation topic, designing course syllabi, developing professional writing skills, understanding the job market and preparing personal materials for a job search. Throughout the semester, students will write, submit, and discuss their PhD exam lists. Final submission of the lists by the end of the course is a key component of the grade.

N.B. – this course is mandatory for S&P students taking PhD exams in spring 2025, but open to all graduate students in the humanities at Tulane.

(updated April 2026)