

FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
Department of Humanities
SPA 401 Hispanic Novel: Isabel Allende
Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. Zoila Clark

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Classes: Thursday - 5:00pm-7:30pm

Room: SABH15 107

Required Textbooks: *La isla bajo el mar, Afrodita, Eva Luna, Cuentos de Eva Luna, La ciudad de las bestias.*

Non-Required Textbooks: *La casa de los espíritus.*

Goals and Teaching Method:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the works of Isabel Allende. Her novels present black, indigenous, mestizo, oriental, women, children, and gay characters that have agency and strength. She has become an international best-selling writer who is creating a new image of Latin American Women. What is that new identity? What part has “dictatorship” played in helping to shape this identity, both positively and negatively? How does journalism become a tool for women’s voice and agency in rewriting history? In this seminar, we will have discussions to analyze Allende's texts in order to explore her use of humor, story-telling, magical realism, history, testimony, social justice pursuits, memoir, *bildungsroman*, "picaresca", exile, romanticism, popular culture, eroticism, film and photography, surrealism, and post-modernism.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Talk about the African-Spanish past in the Dominican Republic as portrayed in the novel: *La isla bajo el mar*. This is part of the African-American Heritage month activity in the Spring semester.
- Learn about this internationally acclaimed Latin American best-selling writer: her start as a journalist, her exile because of a dictatorship, and the creation of a new identity.
- Learn about Allende as spokesperson for Latin American females' views of the world as shown in writing: their interests, styles, and ideologies.
- Explore the social milieu portrayed in the novels and short stories.
- Learn to analyze literary symbolism in imagery and language.
- Explore past and present reactions to these texts
- Analyze literary components of the plots, together with humor, story-telling, magical realism, history, testimony, social justice pursuits, memoir, *bildungsroman*, "picaresca", exile, romanticism, popular culture, eroticism, film and photography, surrealism, and post-modernism.

IMPORTANT:

-You need to turn off your telephones during our classes.

-Attendance is mandatory. You need to check your email or call (305) 626-3600 to know if classes have been cancelled because of a hurricane watch or warning.

Evaluation: The final grade will be based on the following:

Attendance & “Active Oral Participation in WebCT forum”:	20%
Homework	20%
Midterm Written Exam in class:	20%
Final Oral Presentation in class:	20%
Final Research Paper:	20%

Course Grades:

93- 100=A	77-79=C+
90- 92=A-	73-76=C
87- 89=B+	70-72=C-
83- 86=B	67-69=D+
80- 82=B-	63-66=D
	60-62=D-
	00-59=F

Attendance, participation, and homework:

Regular attendance is mandatory. In order for students to progress in their ability to understand and speak the language, they must be exposed to hearing and speaking it on a regular basis. “No more than three absences will be permitted”. **Three late arrivals** (that is, 10 minutes after the start of class) equals **ONE ABSENCE**. **Every absence above the permitted will result in the lowering of the “final grade” because you need to be in class to participate.** The student must have a valid reason for missing class and not have it count as an absence (e.g. serious illness, family emergency, etc. by a written document to prove it). Merely notifying the instructor by phone or email that you will be absent just shows respect to your instructor, but that still counts as an absence).

Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate actively. A participation grade is assigned daily. Students are expected to be in class and also to participate; to attempt to speak Spanish regardless of any mistakes they may make. Errors are to be expected and are viewed as a natural part of language learning.

Policy on Native Spanish Speakers or Bilingual Students in Miami:

SPA 401 is a course that is offered bilingually because the novels are sold in translations at the bookstore. Students can present and interact in English or Spanish. Final papers are accepted in English or Spanish.

Incomplete Grades:

A grade of “I” is only given when there is a valid, documented reason that prevents the student from finishing the class. This means that the student attended classes regularly and just missed the last part of the course. If such reason arises, please advise your instructor immediately.

Academic dishonesty:

The university does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or forgery. Final exams, homework, or any graded exercises ought to be individual work; otherwise, it is cheating.

Oral Evaluation: Students present orally their analysis of one of the novels. They can use a novel read in class or a text that was not required for the course, as long as it is a novel by Isabel Allende.

Midterm Written Exam: This is an essay type exam in class about what has been covered in class.

Final paper: Students write 8 pages about a research a topic of their interest using at least 4 books or articles apart from the main novel in the bibliography.

Note: There are no extra credits for oral, midterm, and the final paper. No exceptions!

SEQUENCE BREAKDOWN

(Subject to be changed if needed).

Reminder: It is “your responsibility” to check with your classmates if there is homework and you have been absent.

Introduction to the course.

Lección 1: Definition of the Novel

Lección 2: Biography of the Author & The Post-Boom in Postmodernism

Lección 3: Elements of the Novel & Types of novels

Lección 4: How to write the final paper

Lección 5-10: *La isla bajo el mar*

Historical Context, Characters, Setting, Plot, Analysis.

Mid-term exam

Lección 11-12: *Eva Luna*

Historical Context, Characters, Setting, Plot, Analysis.

Lección 13-14: *Los cuentos de Eva Luna*
Historical Context, Characters, Setting, Plot, Analysis.

Lección 15-16: *Afrodita*
Historical Context, Characters, Setting, Plot, Analysis.

Lección 17-18: *La ciudad de las bestias*
Historical Context, Characters, Setting, Plot, Analysis.

Final Oral Exam

Final Written Exam

Bibliography:

Books:

Clark, Zoila. *La sexualidad femenina: reconceptualización surrealista y postmoderna por Cristina Escofet e Isabel Allende*. University Press of America. [In Press].

Hart, Patricia. *Narrative Magic in the Fiction of Isabel Allende*. London : Associated University Presses, 1989.

Hart, Stephen. *Allende: Eva Luna and Cuentos De Eva Luna (Critical Guides to Spanish & Latin American Texts and Films)*. Grant & Cutler (December 31, 2003)

Kristal, Efraín. *The Cambridge Companion to the Latin American Novel*. New York : Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Ramblado-Minero, María de la Cinta. *Isabel Allende's Writing of the Self Trespassing the Boundaries of Fiction and Autobiography*. Lewiston, NY : E. Mellen Press, 2003.

Riquelme Rojas, Sonia and Edna Aguirre Rehbein. *Critical Approaches to Isabel Allende's Novels*. New York : P. Lang, 1991.

Rosemary Geisdorfer Feal; Yvette E Miller. *Isabel Allende Today : An Anthology of Essays*. Pittsburgh: Latin American Literary Review Press, 2002.

Articles:

Coll, Julia. "De la narrative a lo cinematic en la obra de Isabel Allende." *Selected Proceedings of the Pennsylvania Foreign Language Conference*, 2005; 7-12.

Colomines, Gabrielle. "Convergencias y divergencias: De Gabriel García Márquez a Isabel Allende." Castillo de Berchenko, Adriana (ed.); Berchenko, Pablo (ed.); *La narrativa de Isabel Allende: Claves de una marginalidad*. Perpignan, France: Centre de Recherches Ibériques & Lat.-Amér. Univ. de Perpignan; 1990. pp. 39-68.

Frenk, Susan. "The Wandering text: situating the narratives of Isabel Allende." *Latin American Women's Writing: Feminist Readings in Theory and Crisis*. Anny Brooksbank Jones and

Catherine Davies. New York : Oxford UP, 1996.

Kovach, Claudia Marie. "Mask and mirror: Isabel Allende's mechanism for justice in The house of the spirits." *Postcolonial Literature and the Biblical call for Justice*. Susan V Gallagher. Jackson: UP of Mississippi, 1994.

Laurila, Marketta. "Isabel Allende and the discourse of exile." *International Women's Writing: New Landscapes of Identity*. Anne E Brown and Marjanne Elaine Goozé. Westport, Conn. : Greenwood Press, 1995.

Dates and activities are subject to be changed so that you need to check for updates in your WebCt email and in your class instructions.

I, (Name of the student) _____ accept the terms and conditions given in this document.

Signature: _____

Date: _____