If you are thinking about a major or minor in Spanish, please see Professor Lucía Reyes de Deu, the Undergraduate Advising Head, as soon as possible to fill out the appropriate paperwork and to make sure you understand the prerequisites and requirements.

Topics in Twentieth- and Twenty-First Century Spanish Literature

La ficción policiaca española

TTh 3:30pm to 4:50pm
Shiffman 125

Professor James Mandrell
Office: Rabb 130
Office telephone: x63215
E-mail address: mandrell@brandeis.edu
Office hours: T and Th 5:00pm to 6:00pm, and by appointment

about the course

In this course we will look at four different moments in the development of detective fiction in modern Spain. We will pay particular attention to the relationship between questions of genre (what is a fiction of detection? where does it come from and why? how is it translated into the Spanish literary tradition?), gender and sexuality (who does what in these novels?), and historical moment. Our reading will begin with one author’s representation of a male and a female sleuth, Agatha Christie, before we start our discussion of Spanish avatars of the private eye. Our goal will be to try to discern the ways in which the Spanish detective allows us a glimpse of Spanish society and culture as well as to see if, and if so how, the life of the author influences the way in which s/he approaches questions of literary genre.

General goals for the course are to

- continue to develop and refine Spanish language skills;
- continue to develop and refine writing skills;
- continue to develop and refine analytical skills in the context of Hispanic culture;
- continue to develop a familiarity with specific aspects of cultural production in the hispanic world;
- develop skills in drawing connections between and among various texts and kinds of texts;
- and to continue to explore cultural difference as a meaningful area of study.
Particular goals are to

- develop an understanding of the elements and vocabulary of fictions of detection as a literary genre;
- develop a broader understanding of the vicissitudes of Spanish history as it relates to detective fiction;
- develop insight to questions of gender as they relate to literary expression;
- to develop a deeper understanding of and comfort with the writing of analytical papers.

texts

3. Lourdes Ortiz, *Picadura mortal* [1979]

All texts are available in LATTE.

course materials

If you are having difficulty purchasing course materials, please make an appointment with your Student Financial Services or Academic Services advisor to discuss possible funding options and/or textbook alternatives.

mechanics

This class is a seminar, a shared learning experience that entails specific obligations. Your primary obligation is social in nature: your commitment is to the class and to making it work well. This means that you must come to class having completed and then puzzled over the assigned reading and/or viewing; that you must come to class having completed all homework and/or other assignments; that you must come to class prepared to discuss the texts, to share your ideas with the class, and to move discussions forward in meaningful ways; that you must come to class not only willing but eager to hear what others have to say and to respond to it in a collegial fashion.

Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that you will spend a minimum of 4.5 hours per class session, if not more, preparing for our discussions (readings, viewings), completing homework assignments, and writing papers, etc.
Because your alert attendance and participatory spirit are essential, you will need to put away all electronics, including laptops and smartphones, along with foodstuffs for the duration of the class.

Note that there are no excused absences in this course with the possible exception of a documented personal or medical emergency. Since you chose to enroll in this course which meets two times a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:30pm to 4:50pm, I presume that the schedule is a convenient one for you. Any absence that cannot be documented as being caused by a medical or personal emergency will result in a lower final course grade; each absence has the potential to lower the final course grade by one “notch” (from A- to B+).

All written work must be turned in to me by email or in person during class. Late work will be accepted at my discretion and, if accepted, will be penalized by a grade that is at least a full letter lower (e.g., an A paper will receive a grade of B).

papers

You will write three short — four to six page/1000 to 1500 word — papers for the course. You may turn the papers in at any time according to the following schedule: paper 1, no later than 8 October 2019, paper 2 no later than 12 November 2019, and paper 3 no later than 10 December 2019. See the handout on the papers for more information.

Papers may be rewritten. If you choose to rewrite a paper, you must meet with me first so that we can discuss the first draft.

Please keep in mind that a revision of any paper must be precisely that: a re-vision, a re-seeing that entails serious rethinking and rewriting of the original paper: language, stylistics, and content. Thus, the grade on a revised paper may go up, may not change at all, and, indeed, may even go down.

Rewrites must be turned in as follows: with the first paper, on or before the deadline for the second paper; with the second paper, on or before the deadline for the third paper; or, in the case of the third paper, no later than the beginning of the final examination.

final examination

There will be a final examination in this class. Final examinations are scheduled by the Registrar; the day, date, and time of the final examination for this class will be announced later in the semester. Since the official final examination period runs through 19 December 2019, you should not plan your holiday travel until we know when the final exam for this course will be held. Please note this information from the Registrar’s webpage:

Students are required to be on campus to take all scheduled final exams. Travel plans are not considered a valid excuse for rescheduling final exams. No exceptions to this policy will be made. (http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/finals/)
evaluation

The class will decide as a group the formula for the calculation of the final course grade. Elements may include, but aren’t limited to: preparation and participation; the three papers; and/or the final examination.

grading scale

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<td>50-49</td>
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the bottom line

All written work must be typewritten, double-spaced. No late work will be accepted. No incompletes will be given for the course. If you have a question or a problem, you need to make me aware of it.

academic integrity — to be updated

Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student’s own effort. Infringement of academic honesty by a student subjects that student to serious penalties, which may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University, or other sanctions). A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic honesty as they apply to a specific course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. Students may not drop or withdraw from a course while an allegation of academic dishonesty is pending. Instructors may require students to submit work to turnitin.com (plagiarism detection software).

A student’s name on any written exercise (such as an examination, report, thesis, theme, notebook, laboratory report, or computer program) or provided in association with an oral presentation constitutes a representation that the work is the result of that student’s own thought and study. Any such work shall be stated in the student’s own words and produced without the assistance of others, except where quotation marks, references, or footnotes accurately acknowledge the use of sources, including sources found on the Internet. Selling copies of exams, reports, or information relating to a course is not permitted. Sharing exams, exam or quiz questions and answers, or other materials produced from a previous course, for use other than for study assistance in connection with a current course, may be considered an infringement of academic integrity.

Talking during an examination or possession or use of unauthorized materials or equipment, including but not limited to notes, cell phones, or calculators, during an examination constitutes an infringement of academic honesty. Attempting to receive credit for work not originally submitted also constitutes an infringement of academic honesty. Accepting assistance from others with or without their knowledge constitutes an infringement of academic honesty. All policies regarding examinations apply to take-home and open-book examinations.
In some instances, a student may be authorized by a faculty member to work jointly with another student or with other students in solving problems or completing projects. Students may not collaborate on assignments, however, without explicit permission from the instructor. To provide one’s own work to assist another student in satisfying a course requirement, either knowingly or through negligence, constitutes an infringement of academic honesty. Assistance from personnel associated with University-sanctioned tutoring services is acceptable.

Unless permission is received in advance from the faculty member in charge of the course, a student may not submit, in identical or similar form, work for one course that has been used to fulfill any academic requirement associated with another course at Brandeis or any other institution. A student who perceives the possibility of overlapping assignments in his or her courses should consult with the appropriate faculty members before presuming that a single effort will fulfill the requirements of both courses.

Rights and Responsibilities 2019 - 2020

student accessibility support

I welcome and include all students, and I want to support you. If you need accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, please talk with me and present your letter of accommodation as soon as you can.

In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively.

If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting accommodations, please contact Student Accessibility Support (SAS) at 781.736.3470 or access@brandeis.edu.

programa de estudio

agosto 29 introducción al curso

¿qué es el género?

septiembre 3 Hacia una historia de la novela policiaca / española

Christie, The A.B.C.Murders y The Murder at the Vicarage
Van Dine, “Twenty Rules for Writing Detective Stories”
Estruch, “Apéndice: El relato policial en España” [pp 159 - 164]

5 Lacruz, El inocente [pp - 60]

10 Lacruz, El inocente [pp 61 - 127]

12 Lacruz, El inocente [pp 129 - 202]
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diciembre 3 Hill, El verano de los juguetes muertos [pp 219 - 292]
5 Hill, El verano de los juguetes muertos [pp 293 - 363]

10 ¿conclusiones?

fecha límite para la entrega del tercer trabajo

examen final