

SPAN 1000 Advanced Spanish

The purpose of this course is twofold: (a) to develop students' communicative abilities in Spanish, that is, speaking, listening, reading and writing, and (b) to increase their awareness and understanding of Hispanic cultures and societies. Homework and classroom activities are designed to help students build their oral proficiency, expand and perfect their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures, improve their reading and writing skills, and develop their critical thinking abilities. The material for this class includes short stories, newspaper articles, poems, songs, cartoons, video clips and a novel, such as Cesar Aira's *La villa*. At the completion of this course, students will feel confident discussing and debating a variety of contemporary issues (cultural and religious practices, family relationships, gender stereotypes, political events, immigration to the USA, etc.). Any questions about placement should be addressed to the Director of the Spanish Language Program or the Course coordinator.

The course is graded as follows: Quizzes make up 40% of the final grade, with 12 quizzes testing grammar, vocabulary, and reading comprehension (the two lowest scores are dropped). Weekly notes, which involve connecting course materials with other content, account for 30%. Text comments on a novel and a final group video presentation make up the remaining 20% of the grade (10% each).

SPAN 3736-401 Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Contemporary Latin American Literature

This course focuses on two key dimensions: it examines the relationship between García Márquez's literary work and its historical and cultural contexts while also exploring his development as a writer. The course places special emphasis on how García Márquez's writing reflects the daily realities of his life, family, and community, while also addressing broader Latin American concerns such as identity, aesthetics, and the conflicts that shaped the region's imagination. Through discussions on magical realism, the Latin American literary boom, and theoretical approaches to race, class, and gender, the course contextualizes his work within the region's cultural and political history.

The course follows a seminar format, where students lead discussions with the professor acting as a moderator. Active participation is essential, as students are expected to complete readings in advance, contribute to discussions, and engage in

various activities, including weekly reading notes, online discussions, and occasional presentations. The grading is based on weekly notes (50%), preparation and participation (10%), text commentaries (20%), and a final paper (20%).