

Span 6902
Stereotypes in the Spanish Comedia



Instructor: Melissa Figueroa

Course Information:

Course Number: 11092; Section 100
Tuesday and Thursday; 12:00-1:20 p.m.
302 Gordy Hall

Office Hours

Wednesday 10:00-12:00; 2:00-4:00 p.m.
275 Gordy Hall

Virtual Office Hours

figuero@ohio.edu
Monday and Wednesday 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Course Webpage: Blackboard

Course Description

This graduate seminar is an introduction to the staging of different ethnic groups in early modern Spanish theater. Focused on history, the course examines the construction of the “Other” and its role in the consolidation of Spanish imperialism. Students discuss how differently these communities are portrayed in theater and how these representations respond to the fear and anxieties of the period. Assigned readings include plays about Moors, Jews, Turks, Blacks, and Amerindians.

Some of the questions that this course seeks to address are: How does drama depict aspects of political power implicitly and allegorically? What groups are considered an “Other”? What defines the norm? What do these plays reveal about cultural differences in Spain during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries? Although centered on the early modern period, this course supports Ohio University’s engagement with diversity and inclusion as the study of these representations allows reflecting on elements of culture, community, character, civility, citizenship, and commitment.

Readings will be complemented by some foundational texts of Postcolonial theory. Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class and participate actively in discussions. This course is taught in Spanish.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the Spanish theater from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries through reading, discussions, and text comparisons
- learn and participate in critical debates on the period
- apply concepts related to theater analysis, both orally and in writing
- evaluate secondary sources and apply the main tenets of Postcolonial theory
- write an original critical essay

Texts:

Calderón de la Barca, Pedro. *Amar después de la muerte*

Vega, Lope de. *El niño inocente de la guarda*

Cervantes, Miguel de. *La gran Sultana*

Jiménez de Enciso, Diego. *Juan Latino*.

Vega, Lope de. *El Nuevo Mundo descubierto por Cristóbal Colón*

Grade Factors

	Task	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Participation	Every day	10%
2.	Short Responses	4	40%
3.	Oral Presentation	1	30%
4.	Final Essay	1	20%

Participation and Attendance

Participation and attendance are expected in this course. In addition to the instructor's comments, the participation grade will be calculated taking into account students' contributions to group discussions. Three absences are allowed. After the third absence, one point will be deducted per absence from the final grade. This policy does not distinguish between an excused or unexcused absence. It is important to arrive on time. Under no circumstances are cellphones allowed in the classroom. Their use will cause one point per class to be deducted from the final grade.

Short Responses

In this course, students write four response papers on the readings. The purpose of these short reflections is to apply knowledge of theater analysis to the assigned plays. These responses help students to improve their writing and critical thinking. For more information about the short responses, see the instructions on Blackboard.

Oral Presentation

In this course, collaborative work is important. In small groups, students present on one of the theoretical readings. All students must do the readings and bring two questions in order to contribute to the discussion and clarify any confusing points. The instructor will present the first two theoretical readings in order to give an idea of what is expected on the presentations and to reduce anxiety over reading complex texts. For more information about the presentations, see the instructions on Blackboard.

Final Essay

At the end of the semester, students will write an original critical essay following the conventions of academic writing and that shows evidence of research skill. Selected texts cannot be one of the plays discussed in class in order not to allow previously stated views to interfere with your analyses. To access the more than 800 plays from the sixteenth and seventeenth century, students use the database *Teatro Español del Siglo de Oro* (TESO) through the library system. Students are expected to work on the final essay through the semester. For more information about these steps ("Pasos") and the final essay, see the instructions on Blackboard.

Grades assigned follow the guidelines of Ohio University:

A	4	C+	2.33
A-	3.67	C	2.00
B+	3.33	C-	1.67
B	3.0	D	1.00
B-	2.67	F	0.0

For the purposes of this course, this scale equals the following percentages:

A	93-100	C	73-76.9
A-	90-92.9	C-	70-72.9
B+	87-89.9	D+	67-69.9
B	83-86.9	D	63-66.9
B-	80-82.9	D-	60-62.9
C+	77-79.9	F	0.0

(Note: This conversion was provided by the DML Administrator, Jan Harmon. Please contact the Department if you have questions or concerns.)

Academic Integrity

In this course, academic integrity is important. Academic dishonesty can end in students failing the course. In addition, plagiarism will not be tolerated. For more information, access this link:

<https://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/academic/students.cfm>

Disabilities Policy

Any student who suspects s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student's specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, s/he should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services." For more information, access this link:

<https://www.ohio.edu/uc/sas/>.

Instructor's Effectiveness and Students' Rights

The instructor has the right to use material, photos, or videos of students' work as evidence of his/her professional development (e.g. *dossier* for tenure, conference presentations etc.) If a student wishes to opt out of this practice, a written objection in English should be presented during the first two week of classes.

Schedule

	Date	Assigned Readings	To bring to class
1	August 23	Introduction to the course Introduction to Early Modern Spanish Theater	
2	August 25	<u>Presentation</u> : Bhabha “The Other Question” Students must bring two questions [Note: August, 26-Last day to add a fall semester class without the instructor's approval]	
3	August 30 [L]	Ethnic Group: Moor/ Moriscos	
4	September 1	Pedro Calderón de la Barca; <i>Amar</i> -Act I [Note: September 2-Last day to remove (drop) a fall semester class from the student’s academic record with possible fee adjustment. September 3 – October 28 students may withdraw from one or more fall semester classes, but the course will remain on the student’s academic record with a WP/WF grade and no fee adjustment.]	
5	September 6	Pedro Calderón de la Barca; <i>Amar</i> - Act II	Paso 1
6	September 8	Pedro Calderón de la Barca; <i>Amar</i> - Act III	
7	September 13	<u>Presentation</u> : Said “Introduction” <i>Orientalism</i> Students must bring two questions	
8	September 15 [L]	Ethnic Group: Jews	Response Paper 1
9	September 20	Lope de Vega; <i>El niño inocente</i> - Act I	
10	September 22	Lope de Vega; <i>El niño inocente</i> - Act II	
11	September 27	Lope de Vega; <i>El niño inocente</i> - Act III	Paso 2
12	September 29	<u>Presentation</u> : Hesse “From Colonised to Coloniser” Students must bring two questions	
13	October 4 [L]	Ethnic Group: Turks	Response Paper 2
14	October 6	Miguel de Cervantes; <i>La gran sultana</i> - Act I	
15	October 11	Miguel de Cervantes; <i>La gran sultana</i> - Act II	
16	October 13	Miguel de Cervantes; <i>La gran sultana</i> - Act III	
17	October 18	<u>Presentation</u> : Memmi “Portrait of the Colonizer” Students must bring two questions	
18	October 20 [L]	Ethnic Group: Blacks	Response Paper 3
19	October 25	Jiménez de Enciso; <i>Juan Latino</i> - Act I	Paso 3
20	October 27	Jiménez de Enciso; <i>Juan Latino</i> - Act II [Note: October, 28-Last day to withdraw from (drop) an individual class on your fall semester schedule. Course remains on the student’s academic record with a WP/WF grade and no fee adjustment.]	
21	November 1	Jiménez de Enciso; <i>Juan Latino</i> - Act III	Paso 4
22	November 3	<u>Presentation</u> : Fanon “The Fact of Blackness” Students must bring two questions	
23	November 8 [L]	Ethnic Group: Amerindians	Response Paper 4
24	November 10	Lope de Vega; <i>El Nuevo Mundo</i> - Act I	Paso 5.1
25	November 15	Lope de Vega; <i>El Nuevo Mundo</i> - Act II	

26	November 17	Lope de Vega; <i>El Nuevo Mundo</i> - Act III	Paso 5.2
27	November 22	<u>Presentation</u> : Spivak "Can the Subaltern Speak?" Students must bring two questions	
28	November 24	Thanksgiving Break	
29	November 29	Evaluations Short Presentations on final essay	
30	December 1	Short Presentations on final essay (cont.) Last day of classes [Note: December 2- Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) from the University for fall semester. Courses remain on the student's academic record with a WP/WF grades and no fee adjustment.]	
	Final essay	Thursday, December 8; noon	