



JINDAL SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES & LITERATURE

India's Global School of Language & Literature Studies



Women, Memory, and Identity in Spanish Literature

Program Elective and Cross Elective Fall Semester 2026

Course information

Course duration	15 weeks
Credit Hours	4 Credits
Meetings	TBC
Location	TBC

Instructor Information

Prof. Neus Gimeno Gimeno

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Office Hours: TBC

1. Course description

This course examines the contribution of women writers to Spanish literature from the Early Modern period to the present. It explores how literary texts engage with questions of gender, authorship, memory, and historical transformation. Structured around the problem of literary authority, the course traces how women writers negotiate their position within systems that historically restricted their participation. The course emphasizes close reading, theoretical engagement, comparative analysis, and sustained critical argumentation.

2. Learning outcomes:

- Analyze literary texts using appropriate critical and theoretical frameworks
- Understand how gender shapes authorship and literary authority
- Situate texts within their historical and cultural contexts
- Develop comparative approaches across periods and genres
- Produce structured, argument-driven academic writing
- Engage in critical discussion using disciplinary vocabulary

3. Assessment pattern

The continuous summative pattern is as follows:

- Close Reading Essay – 20% (Week 4)
- Comparative Analytical Essay – 20% (Week 7)
- Critical Response Paper – 10% (Week 9)
- Seminar Presentation – 20% (Week 11)
- Final Group Project – 30% (Week 14)



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4. Academic integrity

Students will be held to the university's rules and standards regarding attendance and plagiarism or other forms of academic malpractice. Students with a known or a suspected disability needing academic accommodation and institutional support should register with the Disability Support Committee (dsc@jgu.edu.in). The DSC maintains strict confidentiality in its deliberations and communications.

Students are expected to proactively participate in class. Regular attendance is required.

5. Keyword Syllabus

- Spanish Literary Movements: generation of '98, modernism, surrealism, post-war literature, contemporary literature
- Cultural Contexts: civil war impact on literature, post-civil war repression and censorship, literary exile, cultural identity, literary expression
- Literary Forms and Genres: poetry, drama, narrative fiction, epistolary literature, reflective essays
- Theoretical Approaches: literary criticism, cultural criticism, identity development in literature, political influences on literature.
- Skills and Capabilities: critical reading and interpretation, theatrical adaptation, epistolary writing, literary discussion and debate, anthology creation.
- Interdisciplinary Connections: literature and film adaptations, literature and history, literature and politics, literature and cultural studies
- Assessment Types: reflective essays, theatrical presentations, letters to authors, group discussions, anthology compilation.

6. Course Material.

Note: Only relevant excerpts and sections from the following course materials will be used. Selections will be made later.

Teresa of Ávila, *The Life of Teresa of Jesus*, 1565.

Pardo Bazán, E. *The House of Ulloa*, 1886.

Laforet, C. *Nada*, 1945.

Rodoreda, M. *The Time of the Doves*, 1962.

Zambrano, M. *Delirium and Destiny: A Spaniard in Her Twenties*, 1953.

Roig, M. *The Time of the Cherries*, 1977.

Baltasar, E. *Boulder*, 2020.



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7. Session Plan

1. Week 1 — Canon, Gender, and Authorship
 - The literary canon as a constructed system
 - Gender and exclusion in literary history
 - Introduction to feminist literary criticism
2. Week 2 — Writing Under Constraint (Teresa)
 - Cultural and institutional limits on women's writing
 - Suspicion toward female authority
 - Writing as a negotiated act
3. Week 3 — Voice and Authority (Teresa)
 - Narrative voice as constructed
 - Humility and obedience as rhetorical strategies
 - Authority through performance
4. Week 4 — Writing as Negotiation (Teresa)
 - Authorship as negotiation of legitimacy
 - Instability of voice and authority
 - Assignment Due: Close Reading Essay (20%)
5. Week 5 — Women and the Literary Field (Pardo Bazán)
 - Women entering public intellectual space
 - Literature as debate and intervention
6. Week 6 — Social Structures and Determinism (Pardo Bazán)
 - Naturalism and environment
 - Gender, class, and power
7. Week 7 — Comparative Authorship
 - Teresa vs Pardo Bazán
 - Continuities and shifts in authority
 - Assignment Due: Comparative Analytical Essay (20%)
8. Week 8 — Interior Subjectivity (Laforet)
 - Inner life shaped by repression
 - Tension between external reality and internal experience



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9. Week 9 — Memory and Everyday Life (Rodoreda)

- Trauma and fragmented memory
- The everyday as historical experience
- Assignment Due: Critical Response Paper (10%)

10. Week 10 — Exile and Intellectual Reflection (Zambrano)

- Exile as lived and intellectual condition
- Philosophy and autobiography

11. Week 11 — Memory and Reconstruction (Roig)

- Personal and collective memory
- Return and historical re-evaluation
- Assignment Due: Seminar Presentation (20%)

12. Week 12 — Body and Subjectivity (Baltasar)

- Identity and autonomy
- The body as a site of experience

13. Week 13 — Project Workshop

- Group work and conceptual development
- Structuring arguments and connections

14. Week 14 — Rethinking the Canon

- From constraint to autonomy
- Assignment Due: Final Group Project (30%)