Title: Senior Thesis I: Spanish

Abbreviation and Number: SPAN498

AB Paper No.: 13-98

School: Communication and Creative Arts

Department: Foreign Languages

Credits: 3

Course Sequence: (x) Fall ( ) Spring ( ) Fall and Spring

Hours Per Week: ( ) Lecture (3) Seminar ( ) Laboratory ( ) Studio ( ) Kitchen

( ) Other (Specify)

Pre-requisite(s): SPAN320 and SPAN357 or permission of Chair/Instructor

Co-requisite(s): None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course emphasizes critical thinking, research and communication skills and provides students with the opportunity to explore an area of personal interest in the field of Hispanic studies. Students conduct a literature review and develop a research proposal.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. compile and assess primary and secondary source material on a specific area of Hispanic studies;
2. critique scholarly articles and books relevant to their area of research;
3. develop critical approaches by using a variety of research tools and strategies;
4. communicate their findings and perspectives orally and in writing in Spanish; and
5. develop a research proposal.

COURSE CONTENT

I. Choosing a Suitable Topic
   A. Identifying an area of interest
   B. Identifying primary and secondary sources
   C. Identifying audience
   D. Raising key questions about the work
   E. Surveying existing scholarship
   F. Recognising limitations (time, length, availability of resource materials)

II. Choosing a Critical Approach
   A. Biographical
   B. Reader-response and reception
   C. Feminist
   D. Post-colonial
   E. Psychological
   F. Other

III. Analysing Sources
   A. Readings and discussions
      i. Evaluating primary and secondary sources
      ii. Determining relevance of material
      iii. Understanding socio-cultural and political context
      iv. Creating annotated bibliographies
B. Creating Focused and Significant Research Questions
   i. Formulating objectives/a research question
   ii. Constructing a research outline
   iii. Constructing a thesis
   iv. Formulating a title

IV. Oral Presentations
   A. Engaging with an audience comprising student peers and faculty
   B. Communicating the essence of the research project
   C. Outlining the process and conclusions
   D. Addressing relevant issues or questions raised

ASSESSMENT
Weekly readings and critical responses .................... 30%
Oral presentations .............................................. 15%
Draft of research proposal .................................. 15%
Research proposal ............................................... 40%
Total ................................................................. 100%

REQUIRED TEXT

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS/MATERIALS
Course Outline

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JOURNALS
Afro-Hispanic Review
Confluencia
Hispania
Latin American Literary Review
Palara

WEBSITES
www.hispanic-culture-online.com
hispanic7.com/hispanic_culture.htm
www.donquijote.org/culture/