

Point Loma Nazarene University  
Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing, Languages, and Environmental Studies  
**Literature & Culture**  
**Special Topic: Nobel Prizes from the Spanish-speaking World**  
**LIT 2000 (2 units)**

**Section: 03**  
**Time: TR, 9:00 a.m. – 10:50 p.m.**

**Spring 2023 (Quad 1) 1/10→ 2/28**  
**Location: Evans Hall 114**

Instructor: Dr. Margarita Pintado Burgos, mpintado@pointloma.edu  
Office: Bond 120  
Office Hours: Thursdays 11: 1:0o, and by appointment  
Final Exam: February 28

---

**Catalog Entry:** A study of representative works of literature and cultural contexts.

**Course Description:** This class focuses on the work of 5 major writers from the Spanish-speaking world who received the Nobel Prize for Literature between 1945 and 1990. Besides engaging in literary analysis and criticism, we will also explore and consider the lives and circumstances of these authors, as well as the poetics, and politics of their work. One of the goals of this class is to reflect about what constitutes a classic. Is it possible to identify a pattern among these writers? How did they “produced the most outstanding work in an idealistic direction”, as expressed by Alfred Nobel, founder of the Nobel?

**Required Materials:** A reading package is available in Canvas.

**Diversity Statement:** Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to diversity in the classroom, in its publications and in its various organizations and components. Faculty and staff recognize that the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of their colleagues and students are best served through respect toward gender, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, and other personal characteristics. In addition, the Department of Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages is committed to taking a leadership position that calls for promoting a commitment to diversity in and out of the classroom and in the practices of writing, journalism, and the study of literature and languages.

### **Digital Statement**

Neuroscience confirms that students process and retain information better and are less easily distracted when handwriting notes than with using a screen. However, if students have a demonstrable need to take notes digitally, they may make special arrangements with the instructor.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

*Students who complete LIT2000 will be able to:*

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in translation.
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts.
3. Analyze the social, cultural, ethnic, gendered, and/or historical contexts of the works and their authors, and connect the texts with their own lives.
4. Create detailed and informed textual analysis of literary works that examine several of the fundamental concepts of literary study.

CLASS POLICIES

Grade Distribution: To receive credit for the course, you will complete the following:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Response papers (6) -----               | <b>30%</b> |
| Reading comprehension quizzes (4) ----- | <b>20%</b> |
| Creative workshop 10% -----             | <b>10%</b> |
| Midterm Exam 20% -----                  | <b>20%</b> |
| Final Exam 20% -----                    | <b>20%</b> |

Grading Scale & Definitions:

|            |           |             |
|------------|-----------|-------------|
| A: 93-100% | C+: 77-79 | D-: 60-62   |
| A-: 90-92  | C: 73-76  | F: below 60 |
| B+: 87-89  | C-: 70-72 |             |
| B: 83-86   | D+: 67-69 |             |
| B-: 80-82  | D: 63-66  |             |

A = Phenomenal work that far exceeds the minimum requirements of the assignment; excellent logic, structure, and organization; virtually no grammar and punctuation errors.

B = Good work that exceeds the minimum requirements of the assignment; no major problems with logic, structure, and organization; very few grammar and punctuation errors.

C = Average work that meets the minimum requirements of the assignment; may have minor problems with logic, structure, and organization; may have some grammar and punctuation errors.

D = Poor work that does not fully meet the minimum requirements of the assignment; may have some problems with logic, structure, and organization; grammar and punctuation errors may hinder meaning.

F = Poor work that does not fulfill the assignment; may have serious problems with logic, structure, and organization; grammar and punctuation errors may obscure meaning.

Attendance & Participation: Because discussion will be an important part of our class, your regular attendance and participation are required for you to be successful. Your first two absences will not count against your grade but use them wisely. For each additional absence, your total grade will be lowered by 5%; if you miss class more than 6 times (over 2 weeks), you will automatically fail this course. Coming to class unprepared, staring at a screen, or being disruptive in class will also count as an absence. If you already know that you'll be missing many classes due to some pre-existing schedule conflict, you should not take this course at this

time. Also, since arriving late to class is distracting to your classmates (and to me), you are expected to arrive on time. Two late arrivals will count as one absence.

Readings: Readings are due on the date they're listed in the course outline.

Reading Quizzes: On days when reading assignments are due, I will give brief quizzes at the very beginning of class. They will often require short answers to a few questions, but they might occasionally require a longer answer to one question. They might ask about poems or terms. This will motivate you to do the assigned reading, and it is extra incentive to get to class on time. These quizzes cannot be made up.

Exams: You will take a midterm exam and a final exam to demonstrate your knowledge of important authors, works, terms, and ideas covered in our class. If you read poems closely, study terms, and take notes in class regularly, you should have no problem passing. If you do not take both of these exams, you will automatically fail the course.

Due Dates: Dates when assignments are due are listed on the attached course outline; all written assignments are due at the beginning of class. I highly encourage you to visit with me one-on-one during office hours to run topics, thesis statements, or drafts by me. Once an assignment receives a grade, there will be no further opportunities to revise for a new grade. **Late work is not acceptable.** If unusual circumstances will keep you from completing an assignment on time, please make arrangements with me for an extension BEFORE the due date (or if you wake up sick, please email me ASAP with your assignment so it will not be counted late). Special arrangements can only be made in advance, not after a due date, except in the case of a real emergency. Please complete all readings on time as well. All coursework must be completed by the end of our final exam period.

*This syllabus is a contract. If you continue in this course,  
then you agree to comply with the class policies as stated here.*

## Class Schedule

*\*The year following the author's names indicates when they became Nobel Laurates\**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Tuesday 10</b> (Monday, no classes)   | <b>Thursday 12</b> (first class)<br>Introduction to the course.   |
| 17/ Gabriela Mistral's (Chile, <b>1945</b> ), poems:<br>"Art," "Pine Forest", "Bread," "The Stranger,"<br>"Anniversary," "The Sunflower," "Decalogue of<br>the Artist."<br><b>*Response paper (500 words) due Monday by 9<br/>pm.</b><br><i>Reading available in Canvas.</i>             | 19/ Juan Ramón Jiménez (Spain, <b>1956</b> )<br>"Oceans," "I Am Not I," "Poem," "Who<br>Knows What Is Going On."<br><br><b>*Reading comprehension QUIZ in the<br/>classroom.</b><br><i>Reading available in Canvas.</i> |
| 24/ Pablo Neruda's (Chile, <b>1971</b> ) poems:<br>"Poetry," "Ode to the book," "I can write the<br>saddest verses," "Fable of the Mermaid and the<br>Drunks," "Poet's Obligation."<br><i>Reading available in Canvas.</i><br><b>*Response paper (500 words) due Monday by 9<br/>pm.</b> | 26/ Pablo Neruda- selected poems will be<br>printed out by the professor.<br><br>Creative workshop in the classroom.  |
| 31/ Octavio Paz's (Mexico, <b>1990</b> ) "As Ones<br>Listens to the Rain," "No More Clichés,"<br>"Between Coming and Going," "Counterparts,"<br>"Brotherhood."<br><i>Readings available in Canvas.</i><br><b>*Response paper (500 words) due Monday by 9<br/>pm.</b>                     | <b>2/ Exam</b>  |
| 7/ Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia, <b>1982</b> );<br>short stories "Tuesday's Siesta" and "A Very Old<br>Man with Enormous Wings."<br><i>Readings available in Canvas.</i><br><b>*Response paper (500 words) due Monday by 9<br/>pm.</b>   | 9/ Gabriel García Márquez 2<br>"The Handsomest Drowned Man in The<br>World."<br><br><b>*Reading comprehension QUIZ in the<br/>classroom.</b>  |
| 14/ Jorge Luis Borge's "The Lottery of Babylon."<br><b>*Response paper (500 words) due Monday by 9<br/>pm.</b><br><i>Readings available in Canvas.</i>   | 16/ Alfonsina Storni's "Little, little man,"<br>"So it is," "Lighthouse in the Night,"<br>"They've come."<br><b>*Reading comprehension QUIZ in the<br/>classroom.</b>   |
| 21/ Nicanor Parra's "Chronos," "The Individual's<br>Soliloquy," "Before I go."   | 23/ Nicanor Parra- TBD  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>*Response paper (500 words) due Monday by 9 pm.<br/><i>Readings available in Canvas.</i></p> |  |
| <p>28/ <b>(Last day- FINAL EXAM)</b></p>  |  |