

Representations of Spain in British and American Literature

3 credits

2nd semester

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Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this course is to examine the representations of Spain in British and American literature from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries. It is not intended as a comprehensive study of the literary relations between Spain and the Anglophone world but as a selective exploration of key texts and themes that will equip students with the knowledge and tools to analyse textual representations of Spain and, by extension, national identities and stereotypes.

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

- Apply the basic concepts and principles of imagology when studying cultural representations and national characters.
- Explain how the idea(s) of Spain has been constructed and reshaped throughout time, identifying the main phases, mechanisms and ideologies underlying the representations of Spanish culture and society in the Anglophone world.
- Interpret the representations of Spain and its culture in connection with the concepts of modernity, Orientalism, otherness, and foreignness.
- Connect specific images of Spain with their historical and cultural context as well as with the stereotypes, tropes, motifs, and commonplaces that may appear in other cultural or literary products.

Course Program

1. Introduction: Imagology, Cultural Representation and the Creation of National Characters
2. A Non-European Europe: Spain's Exclusion from Modernity
3. Land of Romance: Orientalism and the Romantic Image of Spain
4. A Southern Journey: Spain in Travel Literature

5. Ideology, Conflict and Memory: Fiction on Spanish Civil War and Its Aftermath
6. Contemporary Images: Echoes from the Past and New Stereotypes

Methodology

Class meetings will combine both lectures and seminars: the former will provide students with some of the theoretical contents of the course; the latter will be centred on the analysis and discussion of selected texts and will require the active participation of the students.

Reading and textual analysis will be the central tasks of this course. Before each class meeting, students will have to read a series of primary and secondary sources that will be available on Campus Virtual in advance.

Assessment

Students will be evaluated on a combination of class work and a final project:

- Class work (60%). Students are expected to attend lessons regularly, participate actively in class discussions and complete some individual or group activities based on the selected texts.
- Final project (40%). Students are also expected to submit an individual final project. Its guidelines and requirements will be explained at the beginning of the course.

Bibliography and Resources

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Coletes Blanco, Agustín, and Alicia Laspra Rodríguez. 2013. *Libertad frente a tiranía: poesía inglesa de la Guerra de la Independencia (1808-1814)*. *Antología bilingüe*. Madrid and Barcelona: Espasa y Fundación Dos de Mayo, Nación y Libertad.

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- Hoskins, Katherine Bail. 2014. *Today the Struggle: Literature and Politics in England during the Spanish Civil War*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
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- Suárez-Galbán, Eugenio. 2011. *The Last Good Land: Spain in American Literature*. Amsterdam-New York, Rodopi, 2011.

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