

Spanish 347
19th Century Latin American Literature

COURSE OUTLINE

Paper Description

During the 1990's, Experts on Latin American Literature showed great interest in re-reading some of the discourses of the 19th century. This re-reading invited the questioning of nationalisms, literary genres, notions of modernization, the function of the intellectual learned, historiography, etc. This interest emerged from the idea of studying these processes with theoretic tools not possessed by traditional criticism. Likewise, this inclination for the Nineteenth Century is explained by the hypothesis that current problems in Latin America are intimately related to a past in which the continent stopped being an appendage to Spain in order to become diverse autonomous nations. The re-reading of 19th discourses involves analyzing the thematic axis Civilization-Barbarism that opposes substantial changes in the physiognomy of the urban body and the customs of its citizens to a rural world of home retreat and farm life. For that reason, we posit that this rural society described in the texts becomes displaced by a foreignized city, giving place to great tensions among the different ideological tendencies. We situate our work on Venezuelan Costumbrismo within the framework of these transformations of these transformations. Obviously, this genre is nurtured by the processes mentioned, and inaugurates – with a rich journalistic body – the national literary cannon. However, the valuation that traditional criticism makes of this production, in spite of constituting the first demonstration of literature in the country, does not correspond to its foundational status. In response to this situation, we will see how contemporary criticism has proposed to recover this body of work.

Course objectives

- Study the daily life of the Nineteenth Century as a result of a series of phenomena of change -- social, political and cultural, taking into account the relationships between a colonial past and modern urban culture.
- Analyse the appearance of literary nationalism as expressed through the discourses that exalt the Latin American nature.
- Understand the development and contribution of the journalism to the Latin American society.
- Analyze the didactic content of *costumbristas* texts.

Teaching Staff

Paper Coordinator

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Course Learning Resources

- Mariano Picón Salas. *Antología de costumbristas venezolanos del siglo XIX*, Monte Avila Editores, 1980.
- Beatriz González S. (ed) *Esplendores y miserias del siglo XIX*. Caracas: Monte Avila, 1995.
- Adolfo Yáñez. *El recurso a la sátira en la literatura costumbrista de Venezuela*. 2009.
- Ramos, Julio. *Desencuentros de la Modernidad en América Latina*. Literatura y política en el siglo XIX. México: Fondo de Cultura económica, 1989.

Assessment

All material presented is examinable (except where stated otherwise) by assignments and the final examination. All important assessment information such as due dates and times, content, guidelines and so on will be discussed at lectures and, where appropriate, detailed on Blackboard. *Students are responsible for ensuring that they are aware of this information, keeping track of their own progress, and catching up on any missed classes.*

Assessment	% of final grade
Reading control N.1, N.2, N.3	30%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
1 Oral Presentation	15%
Final Essay 2500 words	35%