UNO-COURSE OFFERINGS-SUMMER 2012

DIRECTED STUDY

Contemporary French Civilization-Current Events

FRENCH 6397- 001  CLASS #40374  DR. ELIZA M. GHIL  3 CREDITS

This course is restricted: special departmental permission is required to enroll.

Only students in need of it to fulfill a special requirement or to complete their degree will be allowed to enroll.

Subjects treated in recent times: “Current events in France through the readings of the media”; “The legend of Tirstan and Iseut in Medieval French Literature”, etc...
THIS COURSE MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT
This course will explore the thematic or stylistic proximity between love and violence in early modern Romance cultures. Our study will take us in time from the XII-th to the XVII-th century, and in space from Occitania (medieval Southern France) to France, Italy and ultimately Spain. We will follow several directions of inquiry: 1) in lyrical imagery, i.e., metaphors of captivity, hunting and war as used by the lover to articulate the intensity of his devotion, e.g., by the troubadour Bernart de Ventadorn (active 1150-1180), and by the trouvère Thibaut de Champagne (1201-1253); 2) in narrative plots, e.g., in a "lai" by Marie de France ("Guigemar") in which the hero in love, a knight, is used to fighting and spreading violence as second nature (the 1180's); 3) in the lyrico-narrative shaping of a contemporary incident by Dante Alighieri, in his "Inferno" - Canto V: i.e., the story of Francesca da Rimini and Paolo Malatesta ("L'Inferno" is part of "La Divina Commedia," authored at the beginning of the XIV-th century); 4) in the poetical reuse of Biblical myths of sex and violence, e.g., in a sonnet from the Spanish Golden Age by Lope de Vega (1562-1635).

The course will be conducted in English. Readings will be mostly from bilingual editions with the students' official responsibility limited to the English version.

REQUIREMENTS: 1) active participation on the Discussion Board (Moodle); 2) 3 written assignments; 3) The Final Exam that will include a textual analysis.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
This course aims at increasing oral proficiency in Spanish, and thereby the level of confidence by the student in communicating ideas. The class, thus, will be conducted in Spanish. With our textbook as a starting point, we will engage in a wild range of conversational topics (tourism and airports, restaurants and entertainment, family, politics and social life, sports and cars, education, communications, music and art...).

Oral presentations will be required. There will be a written midterm examination and an oral final exam. Graduate students will give two oral presentations in order to receive graduate credit (duration, 12-20 min.). Additional grammatical exercises will also be required of them. Attendance in this class is essential.

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This course will be taught in Spanish.

Topics treated in recent semesters: Golden Age Literature including Cervantes; Early Spanish Civilization; the short narrative in Spanish and Latin-American literatures; etc.