

SEMINAR IN LITERARY STUDIES METHODOLOGY
Argentine Universities Program, Buenos Aires

Suggested US semester credit hours: 3

Contact hours: 45

IFSA-Butler Course Code: SP401-14

Language of instruction: Spanish

Delivery method: Face to Face

Host institution affiliation: Universidad de Buenos Aires

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students enrolled in the IFSA-Butler Literature concentration on the Argentine Universities Program undergo a practical work experience in literature, creative writing, editing and journalism fields. Two options are available to students: hands-on training through a fieldwork experience (in a publishing company or a cultural magazine) or attending a writing workshop with local Argentine authors. In both cases, the practical work in the workshop or fieldwork experience is supported by a methodological reflection aimed at contextualizing and supporting the practical experience and the preparation of a final paper where students analyze their experiences, the goals they were planning to achieve, the challenges they faced and their achievements.

This course offers students the categories and theoretical tools, as well as the methodological basis complementing the practical experience in the fieldwork experience and writing workshops. Hence, the course has been prepared in a seminar format, with some expository classes by the professor but with intensive student participation through individual presentations, in-class discussions and individual meetings with the professor to monitor work progress and final paper preparation. This course is required for students on this concentration.

COURSE GOALS

The seminar has two main goals. First, it aims at introducing students to basic theoretical and methodological concepts of literary studies. Second, it has the purpose of providing students with theoretical and methodological tools and assisting them in the preparation of a final paper where they will describe their learning experience at the writing workshop or in the fieldwork experience developed at a publishing house or in a literary magazine.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Apply the literary studies specific theoretical and methodological tools, learned during the seminar, to the critical analysis of literary texts.
- Understand the specific problem areas of literary studies, the *specificity* notions of literary works and the immanence of textual analysis.
- Learn and practice different specific literary research writing forms: reading critical essay, work plan, work report, thesis, etc.
- 70 participation hours for either the writing workshop or a fieldwork experience at a publishing house or cultural magazine.

- Prepare and submit an initial work plan to define the goals expected to be met in the practical experience.
- Prepare and submit a final work report with a thorough description of the practical work performed and specifying the extent expected goals have been met and how experience led to a reformulation of the student's initial goals.
- Become aware of resources for further study of this discipline.
- Strengthen critical thinking skills.
- Strengthen academic writing skills.
- Make cognitive connections between this course and other courses on the Argentine Universities Program.

MANDATORY BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barthes, Roland, "Criticism and Truth" ("*Crítica and verdad*"), Buenos Aires, Siglo XXI, 1972 (selection of fragments from the book).

Barthes, Roland, "Where to begin?" ("*¿Por dónde comenzar?*"), in "*El grado cero de la escritura seguido de nuevos ensayos críticos*", Madrid, Siglo XXI, 2005.

Culler, Jonathan, "2. What is literature and what should it be? ("*2. ¿Qué es la literatura y qué importa lo que sea?*"), in "*Breve introducción a la teoría literaria*", Barcelona, Crítica, 2000.

Dalmaroni, Miguel (dir.), "*La investigación literaria. Problemas iniciales de una práctica*", Santa Fe, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, 2009 (selection of fragments from the book).

Giordano, Alberto, "La supersticiosa ética del lector (notas para comenzar una polémica)", in "*Razones de la crítica*", Buenos Aires, Colihue, 1999.

Link, Daniel, "How should we read?" ("*¿Cómo se lee?*"), in "*Cómo se lee y otras intervenciones críticas*", Buenos Aires, Grupo Editorial Norma, 2003.

Vaccarini, Cristian, "1 /"Literatura" ("*Literatura*") in: Amícola, José and De Diego, José Luis (directors), "*La Teoría Literaria hoy. Conceptos, enfoques, debates*", La Plata, Ediciones Al Margen, 2008.

SUPPORTING BIBLIOGRAPHY (OPTIONAL)

Altamirano, Carlos and Sarlo, Beatriz, "*Conceptos de sociología literaria*", Buenos Aires, CEAL, 1980.

Altamirano, Carlos and Sarlo, Beatriz, "*Literatura/sociedad*", Buenos Aires, Hachette, 1983.

Amícola, José and De Diego, José Luis (directors), "*La Teoría Literaria hoy. Conceptos, enfoques, debates*", La Plata, Ediciones Al Margen, 2008.

Bachelard, G., "*La formación del espíritu científico*", Siglo XXI Publishing House, Bs. As., 1974.

Bal, Mieke, "*Teoría de la narrativa (Una introducción a la narratología)*", Madrid, Cátedra, 1998. Barthes, Roland, "*Crítica and verdad*", Buenos Aires, Siglo XXI, 1972.

Barthes, Roland, "¿Por dónde comenzar?", in "*El grado cero de la escritura seguido de nuevos ensayos críticos*", Madrid, Siglo XXI, 2005.

Culler, Jonathan, "*Breve introducción a la teoría literaria*", Barcelona, Crítica, 2000.

Dalmaroni, Miguel (dir.), "*La investigación literaria. Problemas iniciales de una práctica*", Santa Fe, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, 2009.

Di Girolamo, Costanzo, "*Teoría crítica de la literatura*", Barcelona, Crítica, 2001.

- Eagleton, Terry, *"Una introducción a la teoría literaria"*, México, FCE, 1988.
- Eco, Umberto, *"¿Cómo se hace una tesis?"*, Barcelona, Gedisa, 2008.
- Giordano, Alberto, *"Razones de la crítica"*, Buenos Aires, Colihue, 1999.
- Gómez Redondo, Fernando, *"Manual de crítica literaria contemporánea"*, Madrid, Castalia Universidad, 2008.
- Klein, Irene (coord.) et al., *"El taller del escritor universitario"*, Buenos Aires: Prometeo Libros, 2007.
- Letourneau, Joselyn, *"La caja de herramientas del joven investigador. Guía de iniciación al trabajo intelectual"*, La carreta editores, Medellín, 2007.
- Link, Daniel, *"¿Cómo se lee?"*, in *"Cómo se lee y otras intervenciones críticas"*, Buenos Aires, Grupo Editorial Norma, 2003.
- Lodge, David, *"El arte de la ficción"*, Barcelona, Península, 1998.
- Selden, Raman, *"La teoría literaria contemporánea"*, Barcelona, Ariel, 1987.
- Todorov, Tzvetan, *"Teoría de la literatura de los formalistas rusos"*, México, Siglo XXI, 2002.

COURSE RULES AND WORK METHODOLOGY

Attendance: 80% attendance to the seminar classes and 70 hours of participation in the writing workshop or the fieldwork experience will be required.

Preparation: Students must read the corresponding mandatory bibliography before attending class, as they must be able to participate actively in the class discussions.

Participation: The course will have the form of a theoretical-practical seminar with the students' active participation.

Academic Honesty: IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your professor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a fail for the course and disciplinary action may occur. The incident will be reported to the resident director as well as your home university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic misconduct, as definitions vary by culture.

Grading Scale:	Argentine/ U.S.
95%-100% = 10	10= A
94% - 85%= 9	9= A
84%-75%= 8	8= A-
74%-65%= 7	7= B+
64%-55%= 6	6= B
54%-45%= 5	5= B-
44%-35%=4	4= C
34%-25%= 3	3= D
24%-15%=2	2= F
14%-0%=1	1= F

*Note: Grades that end that are .49 and lower are rounded down.

in .5 or higher will be rounded up. Grades

Course Review:

In the first meetings, the professor will expose the main steps and the basic theoretical and methodological tools that are used to prepare a work in the field of literary studies. The students will participate with presentations and individual and group assignments. Each meeting will be referred to a particular stage of the research process in the literary studies, so that the students will have the possibility to clarify any specific doubts at each juncture of their final research paper preparation and writing.

The last meetings will have the form of tutorials with the purpose of providing students with personalized assistance for the development and completion of their final research papers (structuring, writing, analysis and conclusions). Each student will have a personal interview with the professor to discuss the state of his/her work and receive advice and guidance feedback.

Literary Workshop and Fieldwork Experience Program Selection: At the beginning of the semester, each student will have an individual meeting with the IFSA-Butler literature concentration coordinator to decide in which workshop or fieldwork experience he/she choose to enroll. The following are just some of the options:

- Literary Workshops: Story Workshop, Creative Writing Workshop, Writing Techniques, Editorial Writing Workshop, Report Writing Workshop, etc.
- Fieldwork Experience: Editorial LEA (LEA Publishing House), Editorial Santiago Arcos (Santiago Arcos Publishing House), Revista de Artes y Letras *Otra Parte* ("*Otra Parte*" Arts and Letters Magazine), Revista de Artes *Ramona* ("*Ramona*" Arts magazine), etc.

Workshops and fieldwork experiences start one months after the semester starts and last three months. In the case of fieldwork experience, students should complete 60 working hours. For the writing workshops, at least 40 of those 60 hours are class contact hours, and the remaining hours correspond to the time required by students to prepare the assignments to be presented during the workshop.

ASSESSMENT

Once students have finished their 60-hour practical experience, those responsible for the selected workshop or fieldwork experience will present a written report evaluating the student's performance.

Students will submit a final report analyzing their practical experience and using the methodology principles acquired during the course of the seminar.

The final evaluation will take into account the attendance and active participation in the seminar theoretical classes (35% of the final grade), the final evaluation of the person responsible for the workshop or fieldwork experience (30% of the final grade) and the final written report submitted by the student (35% of the final grade).

Formal Guidelines for the Final Written Report:

The report length will be seven to eight pages, double-spaced (excluding appendix pages). The report will be divided into two parts. The first part will be of a descriptive-quantitative nature and students will describe, in a very accurate and detailed manner, all the activities performed during the literary workshop/fieldwork experience in which they participated. The second part will be an articulating essay

in which students will present a brief description of their learning experience, their initial expectations, the challenges that appeared along the way, and their achievements and their reflections. Finally, there will be a third section, referred to as appendix that will include a copy of the entire student's written production during the writing workshop/fieldwork experience. The length of the appendix may vary, depending on each particular case.

Readings and Activities Schedule:

Class	Readings and Activities
1	An introduction to the course. Explanation of assignments and evaluation guidelines.
2	Collective discussion of Vaccarini, Cristian: " <i>Literatura</i> " (" <i>Literature</i> ").
3	Collective discussion of Culler, Jonathan: " <i>¿Qué es la literatura y qué importa lo que sea?</i> " (" <i>What is literature, and what does it matter what it is?</i> ").
4	Week in which the workshops and seminars start. Individual advisory meetings for the work plan preparation.
5	Individual advisory meetings for the work plan preparation.
6	Written and oral presentation of the Work Plan
7	Collective discussion of Link, Daniel: " <i>¿Cómo se lee?</i> " (" <i>How do you read?</i> ").
8	Collective discussion of Giordano, Alberto: " <i>La supersticiosa ética del lector</i> " (" <i>The reader's superstitious ethics</i> ").
9	Collective discussion of Barthes, Roland, <i>Criticism and Truth</i> (selection) and " <i>¿Por dónde comenzar?</i> " (" <i>Where to begin?</i> ").
10	Collective discussion of Barthes, Roland, <i>Criticism and Truth</i> (selection) and " <i>¿Por dónde comenzar?</i> " (" <i>Where to begin?</i> ").
11	Collective discussion of Dalmaroni, Miguel (dir.): " <i>La investigación literaria. Problemas iniciales de una práctica</i> " (" <i>Literary research. Initial problems of a practice</i> ") (selection).
12	Collective discussion of Dalmaroni, Miguel (dir.): " <i>La investigación literaria. Problemas iniciales de una práctica</i> " (" <i>Literary research. Initial problems of a practice</i> ") (selection).
13	Individual advisory meetings for the final work report preparation.
14	Individual advisory meetings for the final work report preparation.
15	Written and Oral Presentation of the Final Work Report

TIMELY SUBMISSIONS

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be accepted at the discretion of the course instructor and generally only in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any academic endeavor must be based upon a foundation of honesty and integrity. Students are expected to abide by principles of academic integrity and must be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work while studying abroad. Any academic work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating,

fabrication, forgery, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty, will subject a student to disciplinary action.

IFSA-Butler takes academic integrity very seriously. Students must not accept outside assistance without permission from the instructor. Additionally, students must document all sources according to the instructions of the professor. Should your instructor suspect you of plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty, you may receive a failing grade for the course and disciplinary action may result. The incident will be reported to the IFSA-Butler resident director as well as your home institution.