

SPAN 5140/7140–001
Iberian Babel:
Multilingualism, Translation, and Literary Networks in the Mediterranean
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
University of Colorado at Boulder
Syllabus
Graduate Seminar
Fall 2019

This is a provisional syllabus and may change at the discretion of the Professor

Schedule of classes:

Mondays 3:30 – 6 pm, Rose Room, McKenna 103.

Instruction begins on August 26th and ends on December 9th

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Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, McKenna, office 232.

Office hours: Mondays 1:30 to 2:30 pm and Wednesdays 1 to 2 pm and by appointment.

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Course Description and Objectives:

Iberian Babel: Multilingualism, Translation, and Literary Networks in the Mediterranean

The Iberian Middle Ages was multilingual and polyglossic. Castilian or Spanish was the language of the Crown of Castile, Asturleonés was spoken in León and Asturias, Catalan and Aragonese were the languages of the Crown of Aragon, and Galician/Portuguese were the languages of Galicia and Portugal, while Euskera was spoken in an area in the North. There was, of course, also Latin, Hebrew, and Arabic – languages associated with the Jewish and Muslim communities. The former eventually gave rise to Judezmo or Ladino and the latter to *aljamiado*. In addition, some literary genres were written in a specific language. Until almost the fifteenth century, Castilian writers chose to compose poetry in Galician/Portuguese, and Catalan poets wrote in Occitan. Moreover, it was common for a single medieval author to write in more than one language, to read more than one language, or to engage in literary debates and write in one language, but be answered in a different one, and certainly to have some familiarity with more than one Iberian/Mediterranean/European literary tradition. Texts were also translated. Translation has been an integral part of the medieval and early modern Iberian past and has shaped its literary traditions and cultural production for centuries.

In sum, in this seminar we will study the cultural borrowing that defines the history of any culture, and particularly that of the Iberian Peninsula: focusing on multilingualism, translation, and literary networks, but also on a series of topics and concepts relevant to understanding this time and period such as gender, power/authority, violence, virtue,

ethnicity, race, religion, social structure, misogyny, love, sexuality, emotions, and acceptability/unacceptability, as seen in both canonical and non-canonical genres and texts of the three main Iberian religious and cultural traditions – Christianity, Islam, and Judaism – and using the Mediterranean as the frame of reference. We will mostly read texts written in Spanish, however, in consideration of the linguistic diversity of Medieval Iberia, we will also examine works in other peninsular languages, as well as texts belonging to other literary traditions that are fundamental to understanding Iberian cultural production.

REQUIRED READINGS: Some required readings are posted as pdf files on CANVAS; you can purchase the rest at the CU bookstore, or get them from Norlin Library, or online. [Detailed listing posted on Canvas]

Optional Readings [Detailed listing posted on Canvas]

Recommended Dictionaries:

Diccionario de la Real Academia Española (www.rae.es)

WordReference (www.wordreference.com)

Gutiérrez Tuñón, Manuel, *Diccionario de castellano antiguo: Léxico español medieval y del Siglo de Oro* (Madrid: 2002)

Jauralde, Pablo, *Diccionario filológico de Literatura del Siglo de Oro* (Madrid: 2009)

CALENDAR of CLASSES and READINGS [Posted on Canvas]

Course Requirements:

Lectures and Participation: Attendance is required (if you have unexcused absences your final grade will be lowered). Participation in class is mandatory and will be graded, along with the written questions/responses to readings posted on weekly bases and the long and short presentations (50% of the final grade).

Assignments:

* **Readings:** Readings are assigned on weekly basis. Students should have them done before they come to class. They are expected to bring the readings to class so we can discuss them in detail.

* **Weekly discussions/presentations:** Students have to participate in the weekly discussions and prepare a long formal presentation (a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation) and several short presentations focusing on the readings. It is required to meet with the professor to prepare for the long presentation.

* **Discussion themes:** Students will identify a series of topics for the discussions. A day before the class (on Sunday before 8 pm) they will post on CANVAS a response to the readings and/or questions for discussion. The professor will bring those responses to class so we can use them to start our conversation.

* **Research Essay:** This will be a research paper based on reading materials from the class: twenty pages in length (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12, 1-inch margins), plus work cited. It should be based on texts, authors, and themes discussed in the course. Students must meet with the professor at least once to discuss their paper.

1. Due date for submitting the research project (title, abstract, argument, annotated bibliography, etc.): October 28th. Detailed instructions will be given in class. Students will briefly present their research papers to the class.
2. Due date to submit the final paper: December 9th (our last class). In our final class the students will give short presentations based on their final papers.

Please note that extensions are only granted for documented illness or similar circumstances. Papers must be handed in on time or late penalties will be applied.

Evaluation:

Class Work [participation in class, responses to the readings, and presentations]: 50%
Final Research Essay [research project, **research paper**, and final presentation]: 50%

CANVAS (<https://oit.colorado.edu/services/teaching-learning-tools/Canvas>): intra-net system used to post course information, announcements and materials, and submit assignments (weekly postings). **Sign-Up Instructions:** Canvas can be accessed by CU Boulder students at any computer with internet access on or off campus. Your login and password are the same as your university account login (IdentiKey).

University and Department Policies

(1) Add / Drop / Waitlist - If you are waitlisted for this class, it is IMPERATIVE that you familiarize yourself with departmental policies and deadlines. For this, please visit <http://www.colorado.edu/spanish/resources/dropadd-policy>

(2) Prerequisites not met - If your instructor informs you that the system has flagged you because you do not meet the pre-requisites for this course, you should meet in person with Esther Brown, the associate chair for undergraduate studies, or the coordinator for your class level. If you fail to do so, you may be dropped from the class. Your instructor will inform you of the date and time to meet with the associate chair or the coordinator for your class.

(3) Honor Code – All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to [the academic integrity policy](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy) (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy>). Violations of the policy may include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. For details on these violations, students must go to <http://honorcode.colorado.edu/student-information> and read the links "What is a

violation?" "Standards of Academic Integrity," "Understanding and preventing plagiarism," and "Citation guide and plagiarism information." All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to non-academic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy is found at <http://www.colorado.edu/honorcode>

(4) Final Exams - Final exams are taken on the day determined by the university and the department. No excuse such as family meetings, employment, or travel will grant an exception to this. If you have three or more final exams on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. If you have two final exams scheduled to meet at the same time, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the later course offered that day or week. To be eligible to reschedule a final exam, you must provide evidence of either of these situations and make arrangements with your instructor no later than Friday, November 1, 2019. For the complete final examination policy, see <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy>

(5) Use of electronic devices in the classroom - While some course content may be accessible in electronic format, use of electronic devices such as cell phones, tablets or laptop computers is permitted only to access course readings and other materials or to take class notes, and only with the instructor's consent. Failure to request permission or to comply with these rules of use will result in your instructor counting the date of occurrence as an unexcused absence. If you feel you need to use any electronic device during class for any other purpose outside these parameters, please speak with your instructor.

(6) Classroom Behavior - Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important concerning individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters provide the instructor with the student's legal name. They will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise them of this preference early in the semester so they may make appropriate changes to their records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior> and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr) at <http://www.colorado.edu/osccr>.

(7) Disability Services - If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your instructor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. For exam accommodations, provide your letter at least one week before the exam. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students>. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions> and discuss your needs with your instructor.

(8) Religious Observances - Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See details at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams>. Please contact your Instructor during the first two weeks of class to let her/him know of any possible conflicts to make the necessary arrangements.

(9) Discrimination and Harassment - The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should

contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

(10) Policy on Enrollment in Undergraduate Language Courses - Undergraduate introductory 1000 and 2000-level language courses are designed for non-native speakers. Fluent speakers of that language are not allowed to enroll in these courses and can be dropped from these courses by the department or the course instructor. Fluent speakers should consult the department website and the catalog as well as the course instructor or department language coordinator about their eligibility to enroll in upper-division 3000 and 4000-level language courses. Departments can exclude fluent speakers from upper-division language courses based on course content and instructional resources. Speakers who have not formally studied the language but have spoken the language in their home should consult with the associate chair of the language department or the department language coordinator about appropriate placement before enrolling in a language course.

(11) Subject Librarian - Your Subject Librarian, [Kathia Ibacache](#), specializes in research in the Romance Languages at CU. She can help you with learning search skills, managing citations, scholarly activities like publishing, and other information needs. You contact her by phone (303-492-3134), email (kathia.ibacache@colorado.edu), or request an appointment online: <http://colorado.libcal.com/appointments/Kathia-Ibacache>. Kathia also updates and maintains the libraries' physical and electronic resources related to French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, & Catalan. You are welcome to suggest a library purchase through our website <https://www.colorado.edu/libraries/services/suggest-library-purchase> or contact her directly.