

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Birth of the Author in Latin-American Novels - 29864

Last update 03-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Spanish & Lat. Amer. Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Spanish

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr Daniel Blaustein

Coordinator Email: daniel.blaustein@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 14-16

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Daniel Blaustein

Course/Module description:

We will study three literary works written by different authors, from different countries: "Bonsái" by Alejandro Zambra (Chile, 2006), "The Empty Book" by Josefina Vicens (México, 1958) and "The Suicides" by Antonio Di Benedetto (Argentina, 1969). We will analyze the varied ways through which these works depict the figure of the Author (or the idea of becoming an Author) in the textual level, and their extra-textual implications. We will approach these literary works both as independent texts (focusing on their main topics and their distinctive narrative devices) and as representations of concrete sociocultural contexts in Latin America.

Course/Module aims:

1. To provide a basic understanding on the main features and the innovative elements in the literary works of Zambra, Vicens and Di Benedetto.
2. To analyze narrative texts, both as autonomic aesthetic products and as representatives of concrete socio-cultural contexts.
3. To provide theoretical notions and tools for analyzing literary works.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad knowledge regarding the Poetics of the literary works that will be studied.
2. Identify the principal textual strategies and the main socio-cultural implications in each literary work.
3. Read literary texts in a more comprehensive and deeper manner.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures

Course/Module Content:

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1. *Introduction: The Birth of the Author / The Writer's Myth*
 2. *Alejandro Zambra: Bonsai*
 3. *Josefina Vicens: El libro vacío*
 4. *Antonio Di Benedetto: Los suicidas*

Required Reading:

Zambra, Alejandro. (2006). *Bonsái*. Barcelona: Anagrama.

Vicens, Josefina. (1958/2006). *El libro vacío*. En: *El libro vacío y Los años falsos*. México, D.F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica; pp. 21-219.

Di Benedetto, Antonio. (1969/2006). *Los suicidas*. Buenos Aires: Adriana Hidalgo Editora.

Additional Reading Material:

Aira, César (2000/2021). "Particularidades absolutas", en: *La ola que lee*. Buenos Aires: Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial; pp. 234-245.

Barthes, Roland. (1970). "The Death of the Author", in: *Image - Text - Music*. New York: Hill and Wang, pp. 142-148. .

Blaustein, Daniel. (2011). *Procedimientos miméticos y antimiméticos en obras del "post-boom"*. Hildesheim/Zurich/New York: Olms Verlag. [Caps. 1 y 2: "Mimesis / Antimimesis", "Boom / Post-boom"].

Fernández, Macedonio. (1929/1966). "Tantalia", en: *Papeles de Recienvenido / Poemas*. Buenos Aires: Centro Editor de América Latina; pp. 196-203.

Néspolo, Jimena (2004). *Ejercicios de pudor. Sujeto y escritura en la narrativa de Antonio Di Benedetto*. Buenos Aires: Adriana Hidalgo Editora.

Pollack, Sarah S. (2011). "La nada y sus contextos: la ausencia de la obra en *El libro vacío* de Josefina Vicens", en: *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, 45, pp. 615-634.

Saer, Juan José (1980/1997). "Una literatura sin atributos", en: *El concepto de ficción*. Buenos Aires: Ariel; pp.272-276.

Saer, Juan José (1995/1997). "Antonio Di Benedetto", en: *El concepto de ficción*. Buenos Aires: Ariel; pp. 55-57.

Zambra, Alejandro (2010). "Árboles cerrados", en: *No leer. Crónicas y ensayos sobre literatura*. Santiago de Chile: Ediciones Universidad Diego Portales; pp. 143-144.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 80 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information:

None