Syllabus/instructions SPAN 2052 Hispanic Culture in Literature and Film Spring 2014 Block 6
Instructor: Mike Wilson (ADM 405, x4302, jmwilson@catawba.edu) Office hours: by appt.
Student Learning Outcomes : Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to describe significant facets of contemporary Peninsular and Ibero-American cultures as represented in selected fiction, drama, and feature films and compare these cultures with mainstream Anglo-American culture.
Texts : Juan Rulfo, *The Plain in Flames* ; Gabriel García Márquez, *Collected Stories* ; Federico García Lorca,*Three Plays* .
Grading:
40% Midterm essay exam; 40% Final essay exam; 20% discussion forum participation. Discussion mark will be lowered 5 points for each failure to meet discussion forum requirements. Essay exams will be judged on the basis of content (appropriateness, sufficiency, correctness, thoughtfulness) 70%, grammar (syntax, spelling, diction) 20%, and style/structure (readability, paragraph formation, etc.) 10%.
Standard grading scale will be used (i.e., A=93-100, A-=90-92, B+=87-89, B=83-86, B-=80-82, etc.)
Please note that the last date to drop this class is March 31.
Midterm exam questions (based on the works of Rulfo) will be posted on this website on or about March 1; essays will be submitted electronically by March 10. Final exam questions (based on the remaining literary works and the films) will be posted on or about May 1; final essay exam will be submitted electronically by May 9.
Structure of Course : You will begin by reading in its entirety *The Plain in Flames* , a collection of short stories by Juan Rulfo. Enter your impressions (typically, about 100 words) of at least ten of the stories in the corresponding Discussion Boards. It is neither necessary nor desirable to recount the plot; I want you to react to the story, compare it to your own vital experience (bearing in mind that sometimes the contrast is most telling), attempt to discern what the author wants to communicate through his art, and react to the comments of fellow students. It is helpful and prudent to go back to forums you have already completed and read additional observations there. Discussion entries on Rulfo will not be accepted after March 10 (i.e., you should complete reading and discussion of Rulfo before writing the midterm).
You should then read all of the stories of García Márquez in the subsection of the text entitled "Big Mama's Funeral" and comment on at least 5 of these works. Then, you will read the three plays by García Lorca and comment on at least two of them. At some time during the term, you should view at least 5 of the following films (available in the Catawba library or via Netflix) and comment on them in their respective discussion forums:
El Norte
Men with Guns (directed by Sayles)
Official Story
Central Station
The Mission
Romero
Maria Full of Grace
Motorcycle Diaries
The Lost City
Son of the Bride
Volver
Pan's Labrynth
Buena Vista Social Club