Fall 2015

SPAN 6397

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University of New Orleans

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Welcome to this Independent Class. I had you before and I know you are very good students and that you will do your best.

Books: On Reserve at UNO Library:

**El abuelo** by Benito Pérez Galdós

**Marianela** by Benito Pérez Galdós

**Rosita la Soltera** by García Lorca

**Platero y Yo** by Juan Ramón Jiménez

**Nada** by Carmen Laforet

You can borrow the books as many time as you wish during the semester and they will allowed you to borrow overnight. You are 2 students and I am sure you will have no problem in sharing books.

**Student Learning Outcome:**

You will have great benefits in this independent class since will give you time to read as many times you wish books and then you must write an essay about each one of them.

However, I want you to keep in weekly contact with me on your reading. 1-You should star with **El abuelo**. This book will describe in a wonderful narration the life of a Spanish family at the end of the 19th century. Grandparents meant a lot to any Spanish speaking family and you will be able to appreciate not only the sophistication of the language, but family relations as well.
You will read **Marianela**. You will be able to comprehend the social and historical problems that caused a great disintegration at the turn of the 19th century. The author is kind and very accessible. You will not have any problem in reading it. However, you will evaluate the society social classes and the problems that Spain had at the turn of the century and the social and cultural revolutions that changed Spain forever. The author has great descriptions of the country and cities and the social division of the society.

**3 Rosita, la Soltera** is a magnificent book that will help you to understand the situation of women in 20 century Spain. A single woman, Rosita, was unable to find a suitor and she tried her best to explain her situation of an unmarried maid to her neighbors.

Garcia Lorca was a defender of woman. Most of all his work are dedicated to this topic.

**4 Platero y Yo** will delight you. Juan Ramón Jiménez was a Nobel Price Winner and a great poet. His love for animals, nature, and life is an example to us.

**5 Nada** by Carmen Laforet shows the social class differences before, after and during Spanish Civil War. A young girl visits her relatives in a poor area of Barcelona and was overwhelmed by her relatives.

The description of the City of Barcelona is priceless. You will learn how people lived in Barcelona in mid-20th century. The relationship of families, friends, neighbors will help you understand the life of a lower middle class that had not too many things and they had to live pretending that they were well to do to the outside world.

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I would like you to communicate weekly with me and with the other student in this Independent Study. I need your comments in order to grade you. It has to be one weekly paragraph. I will guide you through your reading and add to your comments.
After you finish a reading, you must write at least five pages for each book with your comments and with comments from at least 5 critics (you will have no problem finding critics of the above authors).

Grades: Reading, discussing topics over Moodle, written paper for each author.

Your weekly reading and commentary

I would like to have all papers by December 4, 2015.

The Administration of University of New Orleans wants you to be aware of the following:

Students should try to be in class all the time (for you will be the weekly reading and paragraph). Do the homework, take notes and participate. Students should keep academic integrity at all time, respect students and faculty. Courteous behavior is expected.

The university will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, tempering with records and falsifying identity. Consult the UNO Judicial Code if you need further information. You will find it on the university web page. Students should never make comments that offend other students or their professors.

Students with Disability will be accommodated. If you have any problem regarding your class or your studies, you should contact the Disability Center at Milneburg Hall 159. They will help you to resolve any problem.

Have a wonderful semester and I am very confident you will like your readings very much and will learn through the authors the Spanish civilization and life.