

The Foreign Languages Newsletter

Clark University · Worcester, Massachusetts

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FROM THE CHAIR

This has been an especially active month for many in our department. New courses are being proposed; conversation groups are in full swing and our students and colleagues are participating in a diverse range of off-campus activities.

Of special note is our Comparative Literature Colloquium. As part of the Department's on-going engagement in the National Imagination initiative, time is provided at our monthly Department meetings for a Colloquium on themes related to the National Imagination course. This is part of the extended conversations that have engaged colleagues over the past year around questions of national identity and the relation of language to cultural practices. If you would like join us at our November "Colloquium," please contact me. Also, note the announcement of next semester's edition of "Studies in the National Imagination," described below.

Marvin D'Lugo

OLD NUMBERS, 'NEW' COURSES

Even though catalog numbers remain the same, various courses offered for the Spring semester will have a new look and content. These include: **CMLT130 Studies in the National Imagination.** The team for the next edition of the Department's signature course includes Alice Valentine (Japanese), María Acosta Cruz (Spanish) and Beth Gale (French).

Required for all Foreign Languages majors, CMLT130 explores the concept of a national community as constructed and critiqued through literary and cinematic narratives. Special emphasis is given to the ways in which national languages have been used to promote the sense of cultural continuity and identity for various national communities.

Next semester's focus will be on questions of gender and the nation, allegories of family, heroic constructions of the national, "learning" the nation, coming of age and national rites of passage.

SPANISH 133: Hispanic Themes: "Velázquez, Goya y Picasso: Tres Pintores, Tres épocas de la Historia de España." Instructor: TERESA RUANO. The focus will be on these three painters and their influence on other Spanish artists, as well as on the political and social contexts from the XVII to the XX centuries.

SPANISH 140: Spanish Dramatic Expression Structured as a "workshop experience," the course emphasizes using language in context to expand self-expression through a variety of activities: poetry recitation, dialogues, role playing and presentation of dramatic works. Activities will include extensive "modeling" from a variety of media: TV, film, music videos, etc. Please note: the prerequisite for this course is Spanish 127 or equivalent.

SPANISH 249: Hispanic and Latino Cinema: Gender, Nation and Ethnicity. Instructor: Prof. INMACULADA ÁLVAREZ. Conducted in Spanish, the course will focus on a transnational and comparative perspective, examining film production in Spain, Latin America and Latino cultures in the US. Topics include: migration, exile, gender and sexuality representation, urban cultures, family and generational conflicts, race and ethnicity struggles. Films will reflect major genres (drama, comedy, documentary), relevant directors (Almodóvar, Iñárritu, Alea, Robert Rodríguez) and Hispanic cinematic icons (Banderas, Salma Hayek, Gael García, Penélope Cruz).

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE MINOR

We are delighted to announce a new comparative minor option. As recently approved by the Undergraduate Academic Board, the minor consists of:

1. Two courses in a foreign language at the intermediate level or above,
2. Five courses in literature, film or related arts, selected in consultation with a department advisor, one of which must be CMLT 130: *Studies in the National Imagination*. These five courses may be selected from offerings in several de-

partments and programs including FL&L, English, and V&PA. No more than one foreign language course above the intermediate level taken to fulfill requirement 1. may be double-counted for fulfillment of requirement 2.

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

On Thursday, November 8, 2007 our colleague, MARÍA ACOSTA CRUZ, Associate Professor of Spanish, will be the keynote speaker for the prestigious Annual George J. Sommer Lecture on Literature, sponsored by Marist College's Modern Languages and Cultures department. The title of her talk will be "On Becoming a Puerto Rican: Post-national Literature for Latinos." The talk will take place at the Nelly Goletti Theater on the Poughkeepsie, NY campus.

FACULTY NOTES

Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish INMACULADA ÁLVAREZ is the invited speaker on November 15 at Speakers Series at University of Massachusetts, Boston. The title of her talk is "Cuban Cinema in Transnation (ICAIC-Ibermedia): Global Aesthetics and Urban Cultures."

Professor of Spanish MARVIN D'LUGO will deliver a talk and visual presentation entitled: "Pedro Almodóvar, Sara Montiel and the 'Crisis of Memory'" at Assumption College on November 14th at 1:30 in the Alden Trust Auditorium K112.

On May 24 this year Associate Professor of French MICHAEL SPINGLER delivered a paper, "Word-Made Thing: French Language and American Cultural Memory," at the Association Française d'Etudes Américaines held at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

Associate Professor of French BETH GALE chaired a panel on "Queer Visibility" as part of the Northeast Popular Culture Association (NEPCA)

annual meeting held at Clark at the end of October. NEPCA is a regional affiliate of the American Culture Association and the Popular Culture Association of scholars in New England and New York which brings together scholars from various disciplines to foster interdisciplinary research and learning.

LIFE IN FRANCE AFTER CLARK

A large number of our recent study-abroad students in Dijon enjoyed their experience so much that they returned to spend another year in "La Douce France." They took advantage of our Department's exchange with the University of Versailles and the French Government's program for Americans to teach English as an "assistant" in a French lycée. Some of these "expats" include: VICTORIA IROVANDO ('05), MICHAEL PALIZZOLO ('06), MARY KATE PAGANO ('06), BECKY MICHAEL ('06), CHRISTINE TURKOVICH ('03), AMANDA DÍAZ ('05), JAMIE WRUBEL ('05) and ZACHARY RUDES ('07).

TERTULIAS CONTINUE

Students from all levels of Spanish are invited to attend this improvised and relaxing "fiesta" and bring along their Spanish-speaking friends. The popular Spanish conversation hour, "La tertulia" takes place each Wednesday from 3:00—4:00 p.m. in Estabrook 310. Topics are free-flowing. As always, refreshments are served.

PORTUGUESE AT ASSUMPTION

Assumption College will offer Portuguese II in Spring 2008 at 10:30-11:20 MWF, taught by Prof. Eliani Benaion, a native of Rio de Janeiro. Students interested in Latin American Studies should consider this option. Assumption College plans to offer Portuguese I again in Fall 2009, and hopefully Portuguese III as well.

THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES NEWSLETTER is published by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Estabrook Hall 301, Clark University, Worcester, MA 01610. Please send news items and announcements of coming events to Newsletter Editor, care of the Department, or call us at (508) 793-7342, 793-7234 (e-mail: jberg@clarku.edu). If you are not yet on our mailing list, please fill out this coupon and return it to us so that we can keep you fully informed of Foreign Languages Department activities.

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