

Humanities Seminar
The Latin American Short Story
Wednesdays 9 a.m.-12 noon
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The short story genre has held a prominent place in Latin American literature for at least two hundred years, but it is only within the past few decades that it has become widely known in translation in English and in many other languages. The short story serves as an excellent introduction to some of Latin America's best known contemporary writers including Nobel Laureates Miguel Angel Asturias (Guatemala), Gabriel García Márquez (Columbia) and Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru), as well as Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina) and Isabel Allende (Chile and the U.S.). Most of these writers are well known to U.S. readers as novelists. Our Humanities Seminar will draw on their short stories as well as those of younger writers including outstanding U.S. Latino and Latina writers. The seminar will also have a visual component. The course will focus on the cultural, artistic, social, and political dimensions of a wide variety of this fascinating and interesting literary form.

Readings:

Roberto González Echevarría, editor. *The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories*. Oxford University Press, 1997.

Carlos Fuentes and Julio Ortega, editors. *The Vintage Book of Latin American Short Stories*. Vintage, 2000.

Roberto González Echevarría. *Modern Latin American Literature: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2012.

Borges, Jorge Luis. *Labyrinths. Selected Short Stories and Other Writings*, most recent edition.

Gabriel García Márquez. *Collected Stories*. Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 1999.

Juan Rulfo. *The Plain in Flames*. University of Texas Press, 2012.

Several additional readings will become available on the Humanities Seminars password-protected website: <http://course.hsp.arizona.edu>. A partial list includes:

Christopher Columbus. "Letter of Discovery"

Edgar Allan Poe. "Poe on Short Fiction"

Mary Louise Pratt. "The Short Story: The Long and Short of It"

Horacio Quiroga's essay on the short story

Julio Cortázar. "Some Aspects of the Short Story"

Elena Garro. "It's the Fault of the Tlaxcaltecas"

Selection of U.S. Latina and Latino short stories

Films:

Blow Up (Michelangelo Antonioni, director). Based on the short story “Blowup” by Julio Cortázar

Death and the Compass. Based on a short story by the same title by Jorge Luis Borges

El muerto (English subtitles). Based on a short story by the same title by Borges.

Gabriel García Márquez. *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* (English subtitles). Based on a short story by the same name by Gabriel García Márquez

The Place Without Limits (English subtitles). Based on a novella by José Donoso

La fiesta del chivo (English subtitles). Based on a novel by the same title by Mario Vargas Llosa

Borges. Profile of a Writer.

Gabriel García Márquez. *A Witch Writing. A Biography in His Own Words*

Schedule:

Week 1: January 28

Christopher Columbus. “Letter of Discovery”

Introduction to the short story as a literary genre: readings by Edgar Allan Poe, Mary

Louise

Pratt, and Horacio Quiroga

The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories, pages 3-22

Week 2: February 4

Modern Latin American Literature. A Very Short Introduction, Chapters One and Three

The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Fiction: short stories by Ricardo Palma,

Machado de Assis, Rubén Darío, Horacio Quiroga, Rafael Arévalo Martínez

Horacio Quiroga’s essay on the short story

Week 3: February 11

Modern Latin American Literature: A Very Short Introduction, Chapter Five

The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories: Alejo Carpentier, João Guimarães

Rosa, María Luisa Bombal, Rosario Castellanos

Week 4: February 18

Juan Rulfo. *The Plain in Flames*: Introduction, “They gave us the land,”

“We’re Very Poor,” “The Burning Plain,” “Tell them not to kill me,” “Luvina,” “No

Dogs

Bark,” “Paso del norte,” “Anacleto Morones”

Week 5: February 25

Borges: Profile of a Writer (film)

“Borges and I”

Jorge Luis Borges. *Labyrinths. Selected Stories and Other Writings*: “The Argentine

Writer and Tradition,” “The Garden of the Forking Paths,” “The Circular Ruins,”

“Death and the Compass,” “Deutsches Requiem,”
The Vintage Book of Latin American Short Stories: “The Aleph”

Week 6: March 4

Blow Up (film)

Julio Cortázar

The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories: “The Night Face Up”

The Vintage Book of Latin American Stores: “Blow Up”

<http://course.hsp.arizona.edu>:

“Axolotl,” “End of the Game”

The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories: Juan José Arreola: “The Switchman”

Week 7: March 11

Gabriel García Márquez. A Witch Writing. A Biography in His Own Words

Gabriel García Márquez. *Collected Stories*: “The Woman Who Came at Six

O’Clock,” “Tuesday Siesta,” “There Are no Thieves in This Town,”

“Balthazar’s Marvelous Afternoon,” “Montiel’s Widow”

Week 8: March 25

A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings (film)

Gabriel García Márquez. *Collected Stories*: “A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings,” “Big Mama’s Funeral,”

Week 9: April 1

Modern Latin American Literature: A Very Short Introduction, Chapter Six

The Vintage Book of Latin American Stores: short stories by Clarice Lispector,

Inés Arredondo, Luisa Valenzuela, Nérida Piñón, María Luisa Puga,

The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories: short stories by: Cristina

Peri Rossi and Rosario Ferré

Week 10: April 8

<http://course.hsp.arizona.edu> Selection of U.S. Latina and Latino short stories

Final discussion of the course.