

SPAN/IT 597C
The Body Politics of the Avant-Garde
Pennsylvania State University
Spring 2013

INSTRUCTORS	Dr. Nicolás Fernández-Medina	Dr. Maria Truglio
OFFICE	N357	N353
OFFICE HOURS	By appointment	By appointment
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A. Classes

Tuesday 4:00-5:00 pm
234 Burrowes Building

B. Course Description

This **one-credit** graduate seminar will provide students with a set of theoretical tools with which to engage Avant-garde culture as it developed in Spain and Italy. As a complement the university initiative “Embodying the Avant-garde: Corporeal Visions in Spain and Italy,” it will give students the chance to interact with some of the most innovative and influential scholars in the field. Students will have the opportunity to study seminal Spanish and Italian texts from the early 20th century, with attention to contemporary philosophical, scientific, political and social changes. In particular, the seminar will explore the manner in which the historical Avant-garde movements theorized, problematized, and thoroughly engaged with the body as a bearer of aesthetic, sociopolitical, poetic, or symbolic value.

C. Pre-requisites

Graduate standing or permission of instructor. Reading knowledge of Spanish and/or Italian is beneficial but not required.

D. Language of instruction

English

E. Course materials

Assigned readings will be provided via the Angel site.

F. Requirements

1. Participation – Students are expected to arrive to class having read the assigned material in advance and prepared to engage actively in analysis and discussion. In addition to the regular one-hour class sessions, students are expected to attend special sessions (announced on course calendar) held at the museum as well the presentations by four visiting scholars.
2. Three-page analysis paper – Students will submit a focused interpretive essay on any one of the primary texts (literary or visual) from the syllabus.

3. Two-page review paper – Students will select one recent critical article from a list provided, and prepare an assessment of it. The two-page paper should summarize the article’s thesis, describe the methodology employed, and assess the argument’s main strengths and weaknesses.

4. Two-page reaction paper – Students will submit a written response paper to any **one** of the four presentations given by the guest scholars.

Grade Breakdown:

Participation:	50%
Three-page analysis paper:	20%
Two-page reaction paper:	20%
Two-page review paper:	10%

G. Academic Integrity

Span/It 597C encourages discussion of course content both in and out of class. However, written work submitted for a grade must result from individual effort. All sources consulted for papers, whether printed or electronic, must be appropriately cited. Noncompliance will be considered a violation of the Pennsylvania State University Honor Code for which appropriate measures will be taken.

H. Disability Access Statement

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments, contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807 (V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit the Office for Disability Services website at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/>. In order to receive consideration for course accommodations, you must contact ODS and provide documentation (visit <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/guidelines/documentation-guidelines>). If the documentation supports the need for academic adjustments, ODS will provide a letter identifying appropriate academic adjustments. Please share this letter and discuss the adjustments with your instructor as early in the course as possible. You must contact ODS and request academic adjustment letters at the beginning of each semester.

Students are required to check regularly the course website on Angel for updates and announcements.

I. Calendar

Tues. Jan. 8: Introduction to the course.

Tues. Jan. 15: Peter Gay – *Modernism* – “A Climate for Modernism,” p. 1-30; Selection of *Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius X* – p.8-51, Paul Wood, *The Challenge of the Avant-Garde*, “The historical avant-garde,” p. 23-31.

Tues. Jan. 22: Cesare Lombroso, selection of *The Delinquent Woman*; Sigmund Freud,

The Ego and the Id, p. 4-21.

- Tues. Jan. 29: Peter Bürger – *Theory of the Avant-Garde* – Chapters 2 – “Theory of the Avant-Garde and Critical Literary Science,” p.15-34; Chapter 3 – “On the Problem of the Autonomy of Art in Bourgeois Society,” p.35-54.
- Tues. Feb. 5: Rainey, “Introduction: F. T. Marinetti and the Development of Futurism,” p. 1-39; Marinetti, “Proclamation to the Spaniards,” “Tactilism: A Futurist Manifesto,” p.370-376, “Tactilism: Toward the Discovery of New Senses,” p. 377-382.
- Tues. Feb. 12: ***Coloquio – Meet at 5.30pm***
Christopher Green, “An Introduction to Picasso’s *Les Femmes d’Alger*,” p. 1-11; Picasso’s “Night Fishing at Antibes” – Lawrence D. Steefel – “Body Imagery in Picasso’s ‘Night Fishing at Antibes,’” p. 356-76.
- Tues. Feb. 19: Massimo Bontempelli *A Son of Two Mothers* (1929); Giorgio de Chirico, Selection of paintings.
- Tues. Feb. 26: Federico García Lorca, Selection of poems from *Poet in New York*; Rafael Alberti, Selection of poems from *Concerning the Angels*; Felten, “Fragmentation of the Body in Spanish Surrealism,” p. 241-251.

March 3-9 – Spring Break

- Tue. Mar. 12: ***Coloquio – Meet at 5.30pm***
Luigi Pirandello – *It is so! (if you think so)* (1917).
**Hand in three-page analysis paper*
- Thurs. Mar. 14 Lucia Re lecture (Pattee Library – Foster Auditorium @ 2pm)
Topic of lecture: “War, Women, Sexuality and the Body in the Futurist Avant-Garde.”
- Tue. April 2: ***Coloquio – Meet at 5.30pm***
Selection of avant-garde film viewed in class; Michael O’Pray – *Avant-garde Film – Forms, Themes, and Passions* – “The 1920s: The European Avant-gardes,” p. 19-25.
- Tue. April 9: Shirley Mangini lecture (402 Burrowes @ 2pm).
“The Gender Games: The Life and Art of Maruja Mallo.”

-Class meets at regular 4pm time – Shirley Mangini guest

**Hand in two-page review paper*

Tue. April 16: Workshop on review papers

Tue. April 23: Luca Somigli lecture (Pattee Library – Foster Auditorium @ 2pm)

“Nature and the Madman: Modernism and Mysticism in Pirandello’s Fiction.”

-Class meets at regular 4pm time –Luca Somigli guest.

April 26 – Classes end

Thur. May 2: **Hand in two-page reaction paper*