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Turnitin.com Course ID: 2559772  
Password (lower case): baroque

## THE NEW WORLD BAROQUE and CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN FICTION

SPRING 2009

ENGLISH 8394, sec. 28799  
SPANISH 7391, sec. 27137

John Martin, *Baroque*

Lois Parkinson Zamora, *The Inordinate Eye: New World Baroque and Latin American Fiction*

Elena Garro, *Recollections of Things to Come* (out of print; buy online)

Alejo Carpentier, *The Kingdom of this World*

Alejo Carpentier, *Concierto barroco* (out of print; buy online; make sure to get the English version, if that's what you want, because both the Spanish and English versions have the Spanish title.)

Gabriel García Márquez, *Of Love and Other Demons*

Gabriel García Márquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*

José Donoso, *A House in the Country* (out of print; buy online)

Jorge Luis Borges, *Labyrinths*

Jorge Luis Borges, *Selected Non-Fictions*

VISTA WEBSITE FOR COURSE

Essays on the Baroque, the New World Baroque, and the Neobaroque:

<http://faculty.washington.edu/mkaup/collection/>

To access this web site: USER NAME: **baroque** PASSWORD: **baroque**

In this seminar we will discuss Baroque aesthetics and expressive structures, and trace their evolution in modern Latin American literature. We will, of course, contemplate the visual arts as well as the literary arts.

In order to consider modern Baroque and Neobaroque literature, we must have a firm grasp of the historical Baroque. We will, therefore, spend most of the first four weeks of the semester in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. We will trace the exuberant expressive forms of the Baroque from their beginnings in Rome and their expansion through Counter Reformation Europe (especially Spain), to their implantation in the Spanish New World. We will consider the ideology of the Catholic Counter Reformation, the revolutionary new science of the time, which created a brand new sense of space and the self. We will inevitably pay close attention to certain recurring Baroque themes: life as dream, the labyrinthine world, the layered, self-reflexive nature of consciousness, science and the rise of modern skepticism, etc.

Having established a shared sense of the historical Baroque, the seminar will then move to modern and contemporary works of Latin American literature that may be understood in terms of Baroque aesthetics and thematics. Recent theories of the New World Baroque will be particularly useful to our reading of contemporary Latin American literature.

### FIRST WEEK: Introduction to the course

Jan 20 Octavio Paz, "Mexico and the U.S." POSTED ON OUR VISTA SITE

### SECOND WEEK: THE EUROPEAN BAROQUE

Jan 27

John Martin, [Baroque](#)

This book should serve as your "handbook" on the European Baroque. Its thematic structure is very useful for our purposes, and will serve to alert you to certain Baroque literary techniques employed by the writers we will read later in the semester.

There are excellent websites on the European Baroque and Latin American Baroque, some of which are noted on our VISTA site. You may want to google the work of individual artists, architects and sculptors discussed by John Martin. (On google, select "images" for your search.)

**THIRD WEEK: THE NEW WORLD BAROQUE**

Feb 3

Lois Parkinson Zamora, *The Inordinate Eye: New World Baroque and Latin American Fiction*, Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2, Conclusion

IMAGES ON OUR VISTA SITE

**FOURTH WEEK: INDIGENOUS FORMS IN THE NEW WORLD BAROQUE: ELENA GARRO**

Feb 10

Elena Garro, *Recollections of Things to Come*

IMAGES ON OUR VISTA SITE

**FIFTH WEEK: AFRICAN FORMS IN THE NEW WORLD BAROQUE: ALEJO CARPENTIER**

Feb 17

Zamora, *The Inordinate Eye: New World Baroque and Latin American Fiction*, Chapter 3

Alejo Carpentier, *The Kingdom of this World*

Alejo Carpentier, "The Baroque and the Marvelous Real." In *Magical Realism: Theory, History, Community*. Eds. Lois Parkinson Zamora and Wendy B. Faris. Durham: Duke University Press, 1995. Pp. 89-108. POSTED ON OUR VISTA SITE

**SIXTH WEEK: ALEJO CARPENTIER, continued**

Feb 24

Alejo Carpentier, *Concierto Barroco*

**SEVENTH WEEK: THE BAROQUE SELF: GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ**

Mar 3

Zamora, *The Inordinate Eye: New World Baroque and Latin American Fiction*, Chapter 4

Gabriel García Márquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*

POSTED ON OUR VISTA SITE: Texts by and about García Márquez, and images associated with his depiction of the Baroque self

**EIGHTH WEEK: GARCIA MARQUEZ, continued**

Mar 10

Gabriel García Márquez, *Of Love and Other Demons*

POSTED ON OUR VISTA SITE: Essays about García Márquez

**SPRING BREAK**

Mar 16-21

**NINTH WEEK: No class**

**TENTH WEEK: THE ALLEGORICAL IMPULSE: JOSE DONOSO**

Mar 31

José Donoso, *A House in the Country*

**ELEVENTH WEEK: BAROQUE ILLUSIONISM: JORGE LUIS BORGES**

April 7

Zamora, *The Inordinate Eye: New World Baroque and Latin American Fiction*, Chapter 5

Jorge Luis Borges, *Labyrinths*, with emphasis on "Partial Magic in the Quixote," "Parable of Cervantes and the Quixote," "The Argentine Writer and Tradition," "Kafka and his Precursors," "The House of Asterion," "The Circular Ruins," "The Library of Babel," "Pierre Menard, Author of the Quixote"

POSTED ON OUR VISTA SITE: Additional essays about Borges' narrative strategies, "Trompe l'oeil Tricks"

**TWELFTH WEEK: BORGES, continued**

April 14

Jorge Luis Borges, *Selected Non-Fictions*, with emphasis on "History of Angels," "After Images," "A New Refutation of Time," "The Translators of the 1001 Nights," "A History of Eternity," "From Allegories to Novels," "Personality and the Buddha," "Pascal's Sphere"

Please also read "The Aleph," POSTED ON OUR VISTA SITE.

**THIRTEENTH WEEK: WORK ON FINAL PAPERS**

April 21

"Swords and Silver Rings," POSTED ON OUR VISTA SITE  
Discuss paper topics and otherwise catch our breath.

**FOURTEENTH WEEK: PAPER DUE, April 28**

April 28

Present your final paper to the class in abbreviated form

**FINAL PAPER** (usually connected to your class reports) is due at the final meeting of the seminar (Apr 28). Your paper should be between 10 and 15 pages long, but that is just to give you an indication of length. It would be very nice if you found a way to integrate a discussion of visual forms into your literary and cultural analysis. I am glad to suggest topics and to read rough drafts, if you give me at least two weeks to do so. Please submit your paper to turnitin.com. Class number and password are noted at the top of the syllabus.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** Students will conduct independent research and write a significant research paper, as described above. They will demonstrate knowledge of particular periods and/or genres, and work to acquire the professional skills required to teach at a four-year college or university.