Spanish Realism and Naturalism

Instructor: Daniel Brown
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Class website: To be determined

Objectives: This course examines the development of Spanish realism and its connection with European realism. Topics explored will include: the regional novel, the novel of thesis, naturalism, spiritual naturalism, etc. Special attention will be paid to the “anxiety of influence” experienced by Spanish realists, or the extent to which they were preoccupied with being perceived as imitators of the French.

Method of Evaluation: Students will be evaluated according to performance on the following tasks:

- Participation: 20%
- Presentations: 30%
- Final paper: 50%

Participation: In order to receive full credit on participation, students must be in attendance, actively and willingly contribute to class discussions, and come to class prepared (i.e. having read the works assigned).

Readings: For most weeks there will be one novel assigned and several critical articles. The novels will be available in the bookstore (and libraries), while the articles will be made available in a course reader.

Presentations: Each student will give 2 or 3 presentations during the semester; the exact number will be determined by the number of students registered for the class. The topic of the presentation will be any aspect of the novel of the week. For example: “Determinism in Los pazos de Ulloa” or “Quixotic Elements in La desheredada,” etc. Alternatively, the student could present one of the critical articles assigned. The presentations will consist of a brief exposition of the main points of the students’/critics’ arguments, followed by questions proposed for class discussion, which the student will lead. A rubric for assessment will be provided.

Final Paper: During the week of final exams, each student will turn in a final paper of 15-20 pages. Although each student is free to choose the topic, it should be based on one (or more) of the novels read in class. Additionally, the student should demonstrate appropriate research on the topic. Students are encouraged to discuss their ideas for papers with the instructor. A rubric will be provided at a later date.

Readings and topics by week:

Week 1. European Realism/Naturalism and the Scientific Spirit.
- Honoré de Balzac: Avant-propos to La Comédie Humaine
- Edmond and Jules de Goncourt: Preface to Germinie Lacerteux
- Émile Zola: Preface to the second edition of *Thérèse Raquin*
- Harry Levin: “On the Dissemination of Realism”

- Susan Kirkpatrick: “On the Threshold of the Realist Novel: Gender and Genre in *La gaviota*”
- Gifford Davis: “The Spanish Debate over Idealism and Realism before the Impact of Zola’s Naturalism”

**Week 4. The Regional Novel: Juan Valera. *Pepita Jiménez.***
- José María de Pereda: Speech to the Real Academia Española
- Alison Sinclair: “The regional novel: evolution and consolation”

**Week 5. The Resistance to Realism and the novela de tesis of the 1870s: José María de Pereda. *De tal palo, tal astilla.***
- Brian J. Dendle: “The Tendentious Novel”
- Laureano Bonet: “Pereda y el naturalismo: Rastreo de una polémica con Felipe Benicio Navarro”
- Toni Dorca: “Pereda and the Closure of the *Roman à Thèse*: From *Don Gonzalo González de la Gonzalera* to *Peñas Arriba*”

- Benito Pérez Galdós: “Observaciones sobre la novela contemporánea en España”
- James Mandrell: “Realism in Spain: Galdós, Pardo Bazán, Clarín and the European Context”

**Week 9. Spanish Naturalist Theory: Emilia Pardo Bazán. *La cuestión palpitante* (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 14, 19, 20).**
- Emilia Pardo Bazán: Preface to *Un viaje de novios*
- Leopoldo Alas (Clarín): Prologue to second edition of *La cuestión palpitante*
- Benito Pérez Galdós: Prologue to *El sabor de la tierruca*, Prologue to *La Regenta*
- Francisco Caudet: “La querella naturalista: España contra Francia”

- Maurice Hemingway: “The development of Pardo Bazán’s ideas on the novel in the 1880s,” “*Los pazos de Ulloa*: Naturalism and beyond”
- E. Michael Gerli: “Apropos of Naturalism and Regionalism in *Los pazos de Ulloa.*”

- Eamonn Rodgers: “The Reception of Naturalism in Spain”
- Francisco Caudet: “Clarín y el debate sobre el naturalismo en España”

**Weeks 14-15: Realism and Spirituality: Benito Pérez Galdós. *Nazarín.***
- Stacey L. Dolgin. “*Nazarín* and Galdós’s Modern Point of View.”