

## SPAN 312 / RMST 372: Hopscotch!

### Spring 2023 Grading Contract

This course uses “contract grading.” This means that you choose in advance the work you will do, and receive a relevant grade so long as you fulfil that contract. You will know throughout the semester exactly what your final grade will be, provided you do not break your contract.

The four texts you *have* to read in order to pass this class are those by de la Parra, Borges, García Márquez, and Menchú. (Note that we will spend two weeks on García Márquez.) If you do not read these four, you will not pass the class. If you do, you will pass. All the other texts are optional, but your grade will rise the more that you read. How do you show that you have read a text? You write and publish a blog post of reaction and response to it, of 400-500 words, and comment on two blogs posts written by your classmates and peers.

You will also write an introductory blogpost (in week one), and a concluding blogpost (in week 13), reflecting on what you have learned.

The more books that you read (and so blogposts and comments that you write), the higher your grade will be, as follows:

Number of texts read / blogposts written	Percentage Grade	Final Letter Grade
4 (de la Parra, Borges, García Márquez, Menchú) / 7	60-63	C
5 (the basic four plus one) / 8	64-67	C+
6 (the basic four plus two) / 9	68-71	B-
7 (the basic four plus three) / 10	72-75	B
8 (the basic four plus four) / 11	76-79	B+
9 (the basic four plus five) / 12	80-84	A-
10 (the basic four plus six) / 13	85-89	A
11 (the basic four plus seven) / 14	90-100	A+

You can choose which books you read and write on (after the basic four). Each week you have more than one option. You tell me in advance how many and which books you plan to read. This is your contract. In return, if you fulfil that contract, I guarantee you the appropriate grade.

Over the semester, you are allowed to make one, and only one, revision of your contract (changing the choice of books, or the number of books, to get a higher or a lower grade). No changes are permitted after week six (February 16).

You also need to attend class for at least as many weeks as the number of books you are reading, plus a second week for García Márquez, as well as the first (introductory) and final (concluding) weeks. So for instance, if you choose to read eight books (for a B), you will need to attend class for 11 weeks (twice for García Márquez), including the introductory and concluding weeks. Attendance is compulsory. If you do not attend, you break your contract.

But after the introductory week, you only have to attend one class session per week. You are invited to come twice on weeks when we have two sessions on the same text (when we are reading one of the basic four: de la Parra, Borges, García Márquez, and Menchú; each session we will approach these books in different ways), but you do not have to do so.

You need to have watched the online video lecture (and any conversation videos) before you come to class.

There will be a short midterm and final exam. These will be used to determine your final grade within the parameters determined by the number of texts you have read. The midterm and final exam may also be used to determine your grade if you fail to fulfil your contract.

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Check the boxes below to signify which books you plan to read, meaning that you will write blog posts and comments and come to class on the relevant weeks. (The required texts and weeks are in bold and already checked for you.) Other weeks you have to choose between two possibilities. At the bottom of each column, put the total number of boxes you have checked.

week	text	blogpost	comments	class
1	<b>Introductions</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	<b>Teresa de la Parra, <i>Mama Blanca's Memoirs</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>January 19: Contract due</i>				
3	Mariano Azuela, <i>The Underdogs</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>or</i> Nellie Campobello, <i>Cartucho</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Pablo Neruda, <i>Twenty Love Poems</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>or</i> Gabriela Mistral, <i>Madwomen</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	<b>Jorge Luis Borges, <i>Labyrinths</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Alejo Carpentier, <i>The Kingdom of this World</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>or</i> Juan Rulfo, <i>Pedro Páramo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>February 16: Last date to make changes to your contract</i>				
7	<b>Gabriel García Márquez, <i>One Hundred Years I</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	<b>Gabriel García Márquez, <i>One Hundred Years II</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Clarice Lispector, <i>The Hour of the Star</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>or</i> Mario Vargas Llosa, <i>Captain Pantoja</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	<b>Rigoberta Menchú, <i>I, Rigoberta Menchú</i></b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Roberto Bolaño, <i>Distant Star</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>or</i> Giannina Braschi, <i>Yo-Yo Boing!</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Pedro Lemebel, <i>My Tender Matador</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>or</i> Rita Indiana, <i>Papi</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Cristina Rivera Garza, <i>The Taiga Syndrome</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>or</i> Samanta Schweblin, <i>Fever Dream</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Conclusions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>		_____	_____	_____

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

On the basis of the above, you will receive a grade of: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Professor Jon Beasley-Murray: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_