

Christy Welk

WLC

MLO 3

The third Major Learning Outcome, MLO is Literary and cultural knowledge. Because literature and culture is my emphasis I have taken six courses to fulfill this MLO. The courses I have taken are SPAN 308 History and Culture of Aztlan and SPAN 322 Masterpieces of Latin America and Caribbean literature at California State University Monterey Bay. I have also taken SPAN 395IP Spanish Culture and Civilization, Literary Authors of Granada, Spanish Language and culture, and twentieth Century Spanish Literature at the Centro de Lenguas Modernas at the University of Granada in Granada, Spain.

SPAN 308 History and Culture of Aztlan was the first upper division course I took in the Spanish major. I took this course in the spring of 2011, it was an online course that had several modules each including timeline, analysis and concept assignments. We followed along in a book that covered the southwest United States history and at the end of the semester we were assigned a research project on the topic, mine being the history of Doña Marina Cortez's translator and lover.

Masterpieces of Latin American and Caribbean Literature, SPAN 322, is the last upper division Spanish course I took. Since while I was in Spain, I took two Spanish literature courses, I decided to change things up by taking a Latin American literature course. In this course we read a lot of poetry relating to the different themes such as neoclassicismo, romanticismo and El Barroco. Towards the end of the course we also

began reading short stories. The course finished up with an oral presentation on an author and work, mine was *Nos han dado la tierra* by Juan Rulfo.

At the Centro Lenguas Modernas in Granada Spain, I took a summer course called Spanish language and culture. This course was an all day course broken up into two parts and taught by two different teachers. It was an intensive Spanish language course that also covered Spanish customs and culture. Since I took this course immediately on arriving in Spain, we went over grammar and practiced everyday tasks like ordering at a restaurant. We learned about Spanish customs and manners that really prepared me for my year abroad.

In the fall I took the course Spanish culture and civilization. It continued on talking about the different cultural traditions, food, holidays and even a little bit of geography. In this course I learned about various festivals and attractions around Spain that gave me an idea of where to go and what to do in my free time during the upcoming year. This is where I learned about La Tomatina and Las Fallas, two of the major festivals I attended during my year in Granada.

During my time abroad I took two literature courses, Literary Authors of Granada during the winter and twentieth century Spanish literature. My favorite of these two courses was literary authors of Granada, a lecture style course where we submitted weekly written assignments on authors, short stories and poems. It was in this course I learned about Federico Garcia Lorca and fell in love with his work. We were required to read one book during our short term and write a paper on the author and story. For this assignment I choose *Yerma*, a play that later inspired the topic for my capstone.

Finally, I took twentieth century Spanish literature. This course was probably the most difficult out of my academic career. It required extensive reading and covered almost an entire century of Spanish literature. In this course we were required to read several books including *La Casa de Bernalda Alba* by Garcia Lorca and *Nada* by Carmen Laforet. *Nada* is probably Spain's most famous novel of the twentieth century and tells of a girl's journey to Barcelona to live with her mother's family and attend university. It is a complex story with many unique characters. *Nada* is a sad tale of a dysfunctional family whose wealth is lost during the Spanish Civil war. I also used this novel for my Capstone.