

To the candidate

Congratulations! You are approaching the end of your academic career at Cal Poly. The Senior Project you are about to embark on, is the capstone of your scholastic achievements, and therefore should be taken very seriously.

The Senior Project is the result of a prolonged and sustained period of creative or scholastic preparation. You have the ultimate responsibility in submitting a manuscript that is reflective of the amount of effort you have placed on your education here at Cal Poly. This manuscript, once approved, will become a part of the permanent collection of the University's Library. Therefore, you should take as much care as possible in ensuring that the work presented is of the best quality possible.

The processes and requirements described herein deal only with the physical format of your project. You, and your Senior Project advisor are responsible for everything between the margins of your manuscript. It is crucial that you work in conjunction with your Senior Project Advisor, in developing your body of work. However, it behooves to state that you will be ultimately responsible for its content.

If you are planning to produce work in a different form than a manuscript, please refer to the specific chapter for guidelines and limitations. If you have questions about this, you can check with your advisor or with the department office.

You should also go to the library and review what students in the past have submitted as Senior Projects before you begin your work. In this way, you can have an idea as to the type, length, and quality that is expected of you as part of a final submission.

We hope that these instructions are as clear and easy to follow as possible. If you follow the regulations in this handbook, you can be assured that your senior project, in regards to its look and presentation, will be more than acceptable.

Chapter 1—Your Senior Project

Getting Started

Before you sign up for MLL 460—Senior Project, you must have fulfilled all the pre-requisites: Completion of MLL 210, and have taken SPAN 301 and at least through 121 in the secondary language. You should be no more than one year from your planned date of graduation. You may begin your Senior Project earlier, but you must get written permission from your academic advisor before signing up for the course. **Students are strongly discouraged from planning to complete their Senior Project during their last quarter at Cal Poly.**

Discuss the project with the faculty whom you wish to be your Senior Project Advisor. Your Senior Project Advisor may or may not be your assigned academic advisor. Projects must be completed in either the primary or secondary language. For exceptional reasons, some projects may be written in English. These will require the written approval of your Senior Project Advisor and department Chair prior to registering for the course.

Once you have discussed the topic of your project, you must complete the Senior Project Contract and submit to your advisor for his/her signature (Appendix). You must also include an abstract of the project that you intend to complete. This documentation should be completed at least one quarter prior to your desire to complete the project. Once approval for the project has been given, you will be able to obtain the course code for registration from the department's Administrative Assistant.

The Senior Project Abstract

An abstract is a summary of the proposed research/project to be done. Your abstract must include A) the title of your project. This could be a working title; B) the intent of the project (as the thesis statement) C) a summary of the research, if it's a scholarly project, or a summary of the content and unifying theme if it is a creative work; or a summary and target audience of the class if you are presenting lesson plans, etc.; D) the methodology to be followed in completing the proposed project, or how will the aims of the project will be met; and E) a statement on outcomes assessment. That is to say what the intended project is aiming for and how will this aim reflect your experience as an MLL major. Without this outcomes statement your Senior Project proposal will not be approved for completion.

Abstracts should be no longer than one page (about 250 words) typed double-spaced. The abstract **must be written in English**, even if the project you propose will be written in a different language. Please see the sample provided in the appendix for more information.

Schedule of completion

You and your Senior Project advisor will create a schedule of completion of the project for final submission. You will have one quarter's time to complete your project, so be certain that the project you propose is feasible and "doable" in the 10-week limited time you will

have. It will be your responsibility to meet the schedule once one has been established. The idea of choosing a project that can be completed in one quarter is imperative. If you do present a project that your advisor believes you cannot complete in one quarter of work, your project will not be accepted and you will need to revise it. If you do not complete your work in the allotted time, this will also be reflected on the final grade assigned to the project.

Length

While there is no specific amount of pages that a Senior Project must contain, normally a work of this caliber has between 25 and 50 pages in length. You should plan to invest at least 80-120 hours of work in the project, including research and write-up.

Project Review

The Senior Project advisor will provide a schedule of presentation of materials and will review all drafts of the project prior to submission. Once you have corrected everything and have a final draft (see Chapter 4 on guidelines for submitting your project), turn in your Senior Project, along with the library submission form, and proof of payment to your advisor for grading.

While your advisor will post the final grade, the project will be reviewed to assure that it meets all the university requirements. Once the department has assured that all requirements are met, the project will be sent for archiving to the library and the final grade will be reported to the university.

Thus, it is imperative that you insure that your Senior Project is complete and ready to be turned in before the end of the quarter. If it is not, you will receive an incomplete and you will be required to complete the project prior to the grade change being submitted.

Because of the continuing problems at Cal Poly of students leaving the university without completing their Senior Projects, students with an incomplete in MLL 460 will be given only one (1) quarter to finish their work or their grade will be reported as an "F".

Chapter 2—The Manuscript

Preparing your manuscript

Please be advised that your Senior Project will remain as part of Cal Poly's Library collection. It will be copied in Microfiche, cataloged, and remain in the Reference area as part of the General Catalog.

Your manuscript must be typed, neat, clean, legible, and error-free when it is submitted for final approval to your Senior Project Advisor. The manuscript you submit will be considered the final version, and any errors discovered after submission will not be able to be corrected.

Pages must exhibit no visible corrections, strikeouts, crossed-out words or letters, interlineations (adding words to a sentence), or additions inside or outside the margins. The department suggests that all manuscripts be typed on a word processing program, that spell-check, when available, be used, and that students proofread all their materials prior to submission. However, you are ultimately responsible for the content and presentation of the project.

When typing your manuscript, please follow the guidelines set in the latest edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, published by the Modern Language Association and available either at the bookstore or in the library. If you are typing your manuscript in a language other than English, please make sure that you follow all the grammatical and stylistic guidelines for that language. If you are unsure of guidelines, you may review these at <http://www.mla.org>

The Order of Your Manuscript

Manuscripts are usually divided into three distinct sequential sections: Preliminary pages, text, and references. Pages indicated as preliminary text must be included before the text of your Senior Project, in the sequential order as they appear on the following list:

- Title page (unnumbered)
- Blank or copyright page (unnumbered)
- Advisor Signature and approval page (numbered as “ii”)
- MLL Committee review and approval page (numbered as “iii”)
- Dedication page (optional—numbered as “iv”)
- Acknowledgement page (optional—numbered as “v”, etc.)
- Release and Hold Harmless document (if you are translating a document)
- Abstract (no more than 250 words, double-spaced)
- Table of Content (all material that follows this page should be listed)

If you decide not to add the optional pages, then the roman numeral numbering would still be sequential

Types of Manuscripts

For MLL approved Senior Project there are several types of manuscripts, the most common being scholarly—Research oriented material—and Creative—a work of fiction, poetry, drama, or other performance art. Other possible projects can be lesson plans, translations or other work that reflects your language ability. In any case, you must present a manuscript that demonstrates the quality of your work. Below are guidelines for each type of manuscript.

Scholarly Manuscript

If you are presenting a body of research, your text should include the following:

- An introduction or preface to explain the research
- Main Body. Consists of well-defined subdivisions (chapters, sections, etc.)
- Conclusion. This should include what additional research would be needed to continue the body of work, where potentially it could be found, and what limitations, if any, are there inherent in the research.

Creative Work as Senior Projects

Creative works do not usually follow the conventions of scholarly texts, though it is required to include all preliminary pages in the presentation of the manuscript. Students should consult with their Senior Project Advisor in regards to the length and presentation of a creative body of work. Note, however, that creative Senior Projects are held to the same standards outlined at the beginning of this handbook.

A creative work must have an underlying specific theme that the student wishes to explore. This theme will be what connects different parts of the text and binds them together. Please consult with your advisor as to how to present your theme within the creative work. **An explanation of the theme explored in the manuscript must serve as an introduction to your creative work.**

In a creative project you must include an introduction to the work that clearly explains the theme that you are attempting to explore, as well as explanations of any unusual or important materials that readers should focus on. For example, if you have a chapbook of poetry and it is divided in three parts, it should state what each of these parts of the chapbook represent or cover. If you are writing a series of short stories, then you should discuss the general nature of each of the stories, and how each fits the specific theme.

If you are writing original poetry, it must be typed in 1.5 spacing, and should contain a minimum of 20-25 poems. If you are writing fiction, it should have a length of at least 25 pages.

Translations

If you propose to present a translation as part of your Senior Project you must include, as part of the introduction, the reason, interest and importance of the translation. The translated text should be the main body.

If you are translating a document that will be used by a third party, such as a work manual, handouts, etc, you must also secure a Release and Hold Harmless contract from the entity with whom you are working prior to approval of project. (See appendix) If you do not have this, you will not be allowed to continue in this type of Senior Project.

If you are translating narrative, the original text(s) must be included as an appendix and referenced in the Table of Content. If you are translating poetry, you may include side-by-side presentations of original and translated materials. If you are translating a manual or other materials these may or may not be included. If you do include them, they should appear at the end as an appendix to the work, and not be counted as part of the work you are doing itself.

In all cases, the translation must also include a conclusion, wherein you may discuss such things as the manner, difficulty, and/or possible variable interpretations of especially difficult or cumbersome passages. That is to say, that the conclusion should be regarding the process, not the content of the translation.

If you are requested to turn in a “camera ready” translation as the final project, then all formatting to your translation that represents a copy of the original document must be done only for the final draft that you submit to the owner of the document(s). If you are submitting your material to an agency and they wish for you to add graphics or other materials (letterhead, for example) then you should do this for them, but not as part of your Senior Project, unless you determine that it is imperative that such materials be included in the final draft in order to clearly demonstrate your work.

Lesson Plans

If you plan to present a series of lesson plans, these must be in the target language and must include:

- An introduction that clearly defines the overall pedagogical intent of the lessons, the methodology being used, the target audience, and the timeframe of completion
- Each lesson plan must have a learning objective, any pre and post activities, potential variations, and outcomes assessment
- As part of the overall conclusion, lesson plans must present outcomes instruments (tests) with clear indication on how and in what manner will these measure the general and specific learning outcomes for the lessons

Non-Traditional Senior Projects

If you plan on submitting a Senior Project that is not traditional, you must still turn in written materials regarding the explanation of the project. This must include a theoretical

framework and outcomes assessment. Non-traditional projects could be developing a community project, creating a film project, making a piece of art, presenting a performance piece, etc.

In any case, non-traditional Senior Projects must be approved both by the Senior Project advisor and the Department chair. On the Senior Project contract there must be a detailed description of the work to be done. There should also be a summary of the work done, including a detailed description of the work and its symbolic or real importance. You are also responsible for any other materials required to submit a Senior Project for evaluation.

Submitting Drafts for review and comment

For all types of Senior Projects drafts of your work in progress must be turned in double-spaced and without unusual or difficult spacing. If you choose to present materials in different formats, you must first obtain approval from your Senior Project Advisor.

Your Senior Project advisor may ask you to submit a number of drafts before s/he considers your work ready for a final draft. Not following his/her directions will affect your final grade.

References

All Senior Projects, except for creative work, must include a bibliography. Please refer to the MLA Handbook for specific citation rules. The bibliography must include “works cited.” If you wish you could also include a list of “works consulted,” but this list is not required of the Senior Project. You should also include in this section, as a separate entry, any appendices your work might require.

Length and Size of Manuscript

While there is no specific pre-set length to a Senior Project manuscript, students should consider that the project must reflect between sixty to eighty (60-80) hours of intellectual work, above and beyond the time it takes for write up, as noted in the MLL Department’s Contract with Students. The manuscript, whether scholarly, a translation or creative, should reflect a full development of the subject to be considered. This normally means that your project should be between 25-50 pages in length. This does not include the preliminary pages.

Manuscripts must be presented in 8.5 X 11 in. white bond paper. It is recommended that any oversize material, photos, graphs, drawings, etc), be reduced electronically, whenever possible, to fit the 8.5 X 11 in. format. When reduction is unmanageable because of type of material or practicality in reading it, you may use 11 X 17 in. paper and fold these pages to meet the 8.5 X 11 in requirements.

Typeface, Font, and Size

Any typeface that is higher than 12-pitch (12 characters and spaces per inch) is unacceptable. “Times” or “Times New Roman” are the most widely recommended. Whichever font you use, make sure it is clear and highly legible. Exotic fonts, known as ornamentals, must be avoided at all costs. (Examples are *Zapf*, Baskerville, Avant garde, Chicago, etc.) Please be consistent with the typeface as well. Do not mix within the general content of your text. You may use a different font to indicate titles, but its type and size should also be consistent. Keep margins consistent at all times. The MLA handbook regulates margins.

Spacing

For scholarly projects, lesson plans and translations: Your manuscript must be double-spaced, except for endnotes, bibliographic entries, long quotes, and data in lists and tables. These should all be single-spaced.

For creative project spacing should be consistent. It is recommended that verses of poems should be in 1.5 spacing and narrative in double-spaced format. If you desire to use other spacing, please obtain prior approval from your Senior Project Advisor. This should be noted in the Senior Project Contract as part of the project description.

You should also avoid any orphan or widow lines (single lines at either the end or beginning of any page. If you do encounter these, you should place a page break at the beginning of the paragraph in question.

Pagination

Every page, except for three, must have a page number. The three that do not have a page number are the title page, the copyright page, and the abstract page. If you choose not to copyright your work, this page remains blank.

Pages prior to the beginning of the text (“Preliminary pages”) are paginated in Roman numerals (i, ii, iii, iv, etc); those of the main body of the text are paginated in Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4.) Preliminary text numbers need to be placed at the center bottom of the page. Main text page numbers must be placed at the top right hand corner of the page, outside the margin. Only chapter headings, if any, should be paginated at either the bottom center of the page or the top right side of the page.

Page numeration must begin with the first page of text, apart from it being a dedication, a title heading or actual text. All following pages are to be numbered consecutively. Appendices, found at the end of the text, will follow the numerical sequence used in the main body.

No suffixing of page numbers is allowed (i.e. 7a, 45b, etc.) All pagination must be consecutive and the student is responsible to adjust and/or correct the pagination for any last minute additions or deletions to the final manuscript.

Endnoting

For scholarly works, if you are noting, please use endnotes, not footnotes. These should be included at the end of a particular section or chapter. If your work is one single extensive analysis, endnotes appear immediately after the end of your text. Endnotes are used for very specific reasons. Please do not abuse them. Projects who use endnoting for documentation will be deemed unacceptable. Endnotes must appear numbered and in single space. Do not create a special endnotes page. Please refer to your Senior Project advisor and to the MLA Handbook for more details regarding endnotes

Copyrighting Material

Under the Copyright law of 1976, unpublished Senior Projects are protected by statutory law against any unauthorized copying, publication, or use. Although the law does not make registration a condition of copyright protection, it is very advisable to register your manuscript, especially if it is a creative work, with the Copyright Office.

Registration forms are provided free of charge by the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20559-6000. The requirements for registration are, 1) completed registration form, 2) One complete copy of the Senior Project, and 3) A \$20.00 registration fee.

On your manuscript, if you so choose, you can place a working copyright by typing, near the bottom center of the page the copyright, the year of production and your name, in the following manner:

Copyright ©, 2009
JoAnn Student
All Rights Reserved

Chapter 3—Non-Manuscript Projects

Preparing your Senior Project

Senior projects may be created on either electronic form (WWW) or CD-ROM form as well. For students who chose this method, you will find some guidelines herein. It is recommended that students who are interested in creating electronic Senior Projects visit the Cal Poly Library Home Page (<http://www.lib.calpoly.edu>) for more details.

World Wide Web Senior Projects

If you are planning to create web-based Senior Project, you must first get approval from your Senior Project Advisor, you must fill out the Approval form, and still submit a one-page abstract for departmental approval before beginning. You will also be required to submit a description of the project and conclusions regarding your experience, in either the primary or secondary language to your advisor and to the library as part of your Senior Project submission.

Once authorization has been given, you must secure a means to put the site on-line for testing. It will be up to you to secure space, as the university cannot allocate space for the web site you will create. You should clearly indicate on the site that it is a work in progress until you are ready to publish the final version. If the site is for a commercial purpose you will not be allowed to use it as part of your Senior Project.

Once you have completed the assignment it will be your responsibility to update and maintain the site. If the plan is to not edit nor maintain the site you create this should be clearly indicated in the abstract, the text you submit for grading, and in the site while it is being put together and/or displayed. You should also make a DVD copy of all the files written and submit a copy of these as well.

Completion of Web Project

Once your Senior Project is complete, you must print out the main text of your project, including the home page. The text must abide by MLA handbook regulations. Follow the indications in the next chapter in regards to submitting Senior Projects. Make sure that you make a copy of the project for yourself, as the project will not be returned once presented.

After the library receives the project, it will be your responsibility to secure a permanent URL for your site. Your printed copy will be accessible in the library's permanent collection through the Digital Commons, but the site itself will not be active unless you make it so.

Chapter 4—Submitting Your Senior Project

Timeline for submission

Beginning with Fall quarter 2009, you will need to submit your final draft of your Senior project for evaluation and signatures no later than Friday of the 10th week of the quarter at 3 pm. It will be your responsibility to submit the project with all required forms and payments and in the format required by this handbook. **It is your responsibility to upload the project for storage in the Digital Commons. You must do this AFTER your project has final approval from your Senior Project Advisor.**

Guidelines for Submission

As of Fall 2009, there is a new procedure for submitting Senior Projects at Cal Poly. Your project will be digitally stored through a new university repository for scholarship for students, faculty and staff, and publicly available via DigitalCommons@calpoly.edu. You must submit your Senior Project, once it has been completed, in an unbound format for grading. You must include a printed copy of the project abstract for grading and you should also have an electronic version of the exact same materials for submitting to the library for archival storage. Both must conform to all the guidelines set in chapters 2 and 3 of this handbook.

Place your printed manuscript/project in a manila envelope in a size no smaller than 10 X 12 in. Your name, title of project, advisor's name and date should appear on the outside of the envelope on the upper left-hand side.

You must also include the Cashier's receipt for payment of the Senior Project Fee. Senior Projects that have not paid this fee will not be accepted for evaluation or storage. Clip the white copy to the Senior Project receipt to the Senior Project Requirement Form (available through the library website at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/seniorprojects>. Type all the required information on this form. Make sure that you submit all forms required in order to secure your Senior Project advisor's signature for grade and final submission. Your project will not be accepted for grade without this form.

You may find a video tutorial on how to submit the Senior Project at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/seniorprojects/guidelines.html>

Evaluation of the Project for Grade

Your Senior Project advisor will evaluate projects and a final grade will be assigned. Faculty comments, notations, suggestions for further study and grade may be made in a separate form. The student will receive a copy of these notes for his/her records. Once the project is graded, the Senior Project will be forwarded to the MLL Outcomes committee for their signature.

Library Submission

Step #1: Pay Senior Project Fee at Cashier's office (make sure to request two receipts, one for you and one to submit.)

Step #2: Download the Senior Project Requirement form from the library Web site at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/seniorprojects>

Step #3: Fill out Sections I, II and III ; print, sign and date it. Make sure you enter the name as it appears on the Senior Project exactly, that the title matches the project's title, that you have entered the departments full name (Modern Languages and Literatures Department), and that you sign and date it.

Step #4: Attach the form to your final draft submission, including the cashier's receipt and give it to your advisor for review and signature.

Step #5: Upload your advisor-approved project to the Digital Commons. Make sure to do this AFTER your advisor has signed. Instructions for uploading projects can be found in the library page at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/seniorprojects>. There you will be given several options as to notification to you, and levels of public distribution

Step #6: Department submits Senior Project Requirement form. Once the Outcomes Committee has reviewed and signed the appropriate forms, the MLL department will submit the approval form in your name. After the form has been submitted, the Senior Project is made public.

Please note: Poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on the part of the faculty. Please make sure that you have ample time to write, edit and correct your manuscript prior to final submission. Manuscripts will not be accepted after the 10th week of any quarter for grading during that quarter. If you submit your manuscript late it will receive a grade of "I."

Format of Senior Project

All senior projects, in whatever format they are presented must:

- Include title page
- Have an approval page with signature
- Have a review page for MLL Outcomes Committee
- Be unbound
- Conform to MLA Handbook guidelines
- Have an outcomes assessment statement in the abstract
- Have, if appropriate, a bibliography, of which no more than 25% of the texts cited must be in electronic form (web pages)

- Have, if appropriate, an introduction explaining the theme of the work

**APPENDIX: Sample Preliminary pages
(shown in correct format)**

PRELIMINARY PAGES

Title page
Copyright page
Approval page
Outcomes Committee signature page
Dedication page (optional)
Release and Hold Harmless page
Table of Content page
Acknowledgement
Abstract page

TEXTUAL PAGES

Sample of first page

REFERENCE PAGES

Bibliography

OTHER

Senior Project Contract
Library Submission Form sample

(Sample Title Page for Senior Project)

Paraisos inventados, paraísos fragmentados:
la imagen de la patria en la literatura de los escritores latinos
en los Estados Unidos

by

JoAnn Marie Student

Modern Languages and Literatures Department
College of Liberal Arts

California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

June, 2020

(Sample Copyright Page—Optional)

Copyright © 2020
Joann Marie Student
All Rights Reserved

(Sample Approval Page)

APPROVAL PAGE

TITLE: Paraisos inventados, paraísos fragmentados: la imagen de la patria en la literatura escrita por los latinos en los Estados Unidos

AUTHOR: JoAnn Marie Student

DATE SUBMITTED: June 2020

Dr. Jane S. A. Professor
Senior Project Advisor

Signature

(Sample Outcomes Committee Signature Page)

Paraisos inventados, paraísos fragmentados:
la imagen de la patria en la literatura de los escritores latinos
en los Estados Unidos

by

JoAnn Marie Student

Modern Languages and Literatures Department
College of Liberal Arts

California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo

June, 2020

Dr. Jane S.A. Professor

Senior Project Advisor

Signature

Date

Dr. Joe Doe Checker

MLL Outcomes Committee
Chair

Signature

Date

Dr. Teresa Chair

Department Chair

Signature

Date

(Sample Dedication Page—Optional)

A MM

Gracias por ayudarme a descubrir fronteras nuevas y destrozando cruces inexistentes en este viejo mapa que es mi vida.

“If the fool would persist in his folly
he would become wise.”

William Blake, Proverbs of Hell.

(Sample Acknowledgement Page—Optional)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, to all the professors, but especially to my Senior Advisor, Dr. Jane Professor, for all of her support in the completion of this project. Her continued suggestions made this project a more valuable learning experience.

I would also like to acknowledge all my colleagues, how inspired me to write this project, for their constant re-reading of the text, and for their immense patience. Thank you especially to Laura Pal for all of her suggestions regarding the image of the fatherland in Latino Literature.

Finally, I would like to thank my mother and father, who gave me the opportunity and the spirit to educate myself. Mom, Dad, you are the best. To my little brother Frank and my sister Alice, I hope I can serve as inspiration to you both. If I can do it, so can you.

(Sample Release of Liability and Hold Harmless Page—Required for all translations)

**RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND HOLD HARMLESS
AGREEMENT**

Institutional Arrangements I understand that the University does not represent or act as an agent for, and cannot control the acts or omissions involved in the translation of the _____. I understand that the University is not responsible for matters beyond its control. I hereby release the University from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay, or expense arising out of any such matters.

Assumption Of Risk And Release Of Claims Knowing the risks described above, and in consideration of being permitted to participate in this optional, voluntary Translation, I agree on behalf of _____ and its representatives, to assume all the risks and responsibilities surrounding the translation.

I shall defend, indemnify, hold harmless and protect the State of California, the Trustees of the California State University, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, their officers, employees, representatives, agents, students, and volunteers (the “University”) from and against any liability, loss, damage, expense, cost (including _____ without limitation to costs and fees of litigation) of every nature arising out of or in connection with my participation in this Translation thereunder or my failure to comply with any of my obligations contained in this Assumption of Risk and Release Form, except such loss or damage which was caused by to sole negligence or willful misconduct of the University.

The laws of the State of California, which shall be the forum for any lawsuits filed under or incident to this agreement or to the program shall govern this agreement.

I have read carefully this Release Form before signing it. No representations, statements, or inducements, oral or written, apart from the foregoing written statement have been made.

X _____
Signature of Accepting Party
Name of Agency

Date

Address _____

(Sample Table of Content Page)**Indice de contenido**

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(Sample Abstract Page)

Paraisos inventados, paraísos fragmentados:
La imagen de la patria en la literatura de los escritores latinos en los Estados Unidos

Joann Marie Student
California Polytechnic State University

This project attempts to trace the history of the myth of paradise as seen through the eyes of Latino(a) writers who are working in the United States, with an emphasis on writers of Mexican, Puerto Rican and Cuban decent. The image of paradise, for Latin America, begins with the arrival of Columbus to the Caribbean. In his writings to the Spanish Crown, Columbus creates the myth of the “Earthly Paradise” in the colonies. This is an image that existed mostly in the mind of the explorer, and yet, still has repercussions in the literature produced in Latin America in the XVIII and XIX centuries, and more so, in the literature produced by Latino(a) writers in the U.S.

Specifically, the myth of paradise in Latino(a) literature is transformed into a never-ending search for it outside of the sphere of the writers and readers. Slowly, it has become a leitmotiv within this literature, where everything that is part of the “marginal” culture of these writers takes on a grave importance in recovering, and sustaining it, when these images reflect the idea of mother-fatherland, as perceived within the context of marginal-dominant discourse.

I attempt to use William Boelhower’s theoretical model to examine how Latino(a) production uses the myth of paradise to fragment and re-invent itself. The study intends to explain why the myth is used, and how an understanding of this myth can aid in creating a more effective discourse that places Latino(a) literature not on the margins but on the center.

(Sample of First Page)

Joann Marie Student

MLL 460—Senior Project

Dr. Jane S.A. Professor

June 2020

Paraisos inventados, paraísos fragmentados: la imagen de la patria en la literatura de los escritores latinos en los Estados Unidos

Al final del recuento del primer viaje de Colón, aparece, casi de manera inocua, una referencia al "paraíso" que el almirante acababa de explorar. Este comentario, empapado en el sentimiento mesiánico hispánico, inicia para el continente americano, la utópica idea que el territorio es, de alguna manera misteriosa e inefable, un lugar edénico.

El encuentro de las tres culturas (europea, indígena y negra) permite a Europa, pero primordialmente a España, adquirir tremendo poder, y crear una identidad nacionalística dentro y fuera del continente. A la vez, la corona también establece parámetros infatigables de separación entre los puros (españoles blancos, católicos, apostólicos) y los mestizos. Esta separación viene a efectuarse no solamente en el color de la piel ("la pureza de sangre," como se refirió en la colonia) sino que se extiende a niveles económicos, psicológicos y culturales.

El legajo europeo, entre otras cosas, fue crear patrimonios culturales basados en la expansión territorial española, y la identificación de diferentes tipos de fronteras dentro y fuera de la colonia. La cartografía, para la época renasentista, era una de adquirir mayor conocimiento; para la época moderna temprana (la de Colón) ésta serviría como un signo de adquisición de legitimización cultural; en la época moderna, y especialmente para escritores latinos que trabajan en los Estados Unidos, el poder se equipara con la idea epistemológica del mapa en sí.

(Sample of Bibliographic Page)

Bibliografía citada

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(Sample of Senior Project Contract)

CAL POLY SAN LUIS OBISPO Modern Languages and Literatures Department

MLL 460- SENIOR PROJECT CONTRACT

The Senior Project is a “capstone” requirement for those about to graduate with a B.A. in Modern Languages and Literatures at Cal Poly. The project is designed to demonstrate the understandings and skills a student has acquired in the program. Please return this form with the appropriate signatures to the Modern Languages and Literatures Department to receive the call number.

In registering for MLL 460, you are affirming:

I have completed a minimum of 135 units credited toward my program. (You will not be allowed to continue in senior project without this requirement).

I have filed a request for graduation evaluation with the evaluations office. I am within four quarters of graduation and will complete all degree requirements the quarter of graduation.

I have completed the following courses: MLL 210, SPAN 301; and 121 in secondary language. I understand that I will not be allowed to continue in Senior Project if I have not completed the appropriate coursework.

I have met with the professor supervising my study and have agreed on the following project as suitable (write working title here).

I understand that a letter grade will be assigned for MLL 460, and I expect to submit a discussion of my research project according to the Modern Languages and Literature Department’s project schedule. I will complete and submit the entire project text to earn a letter grade for 460. Failure to submit the required papers will result in a “U” grade which will require me to repeat the course.

I understand the above terms and agree to them.

Name (please print)_____

Signature _____ Date _____

Project Advisor’s
Signature _____ Date _____