



CUE: CAPSTONE SEMINAR

SPRING 2014

MW 11 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

DR. JOAN F. MARX

SPN 508 Capstone Seminar: Writing the Jewish Diaspora from Spain to the Americas

Through narratives and poetry, students will trace the legacy of the Jewish diaspora from medieval Spain to modern-day Latin America as writers who document their own individual experiences and family heritage summon memories of *convivencia*, the Inquisition, expulsion, pogroms, immigration, authoritarian dictatorships, and, the Holocaust. Emphasis is placed on an understanding of literary theory and technique within the historical, political, and philosophical context of each work. Students will reflect on how writers' literary and physical journeys echo common themes of cultural displacement experienced by diasporic communities throughout Jewish history, and, in this way, how their works evoke themes of the marginalized or fragmented self, internal and external exile, multiple cultural identities, and the role of memory as part of a collective historical trauma. As a consequence, students will explore issues of social justice and human rights within the broader context of world politics. Taught in Spanish. Prerequisite: *One 400 level class in Spanish literature.*