

Term paper information.**Información sobre el trabajo escrito.**

Due dates: Bibliografía preliminar: Thursday, October 30. Final paper: Thursday, December 11.

Plagiarism: Don't do it. Please review the statement about the honor code on the course syllabus and ask the prof. if you are not sure that an action is appropriate. *Mejor preguntar que fracasar.*

Paper topic: The paper will be based on the student's literary analysis of an early modern Spanish play not read in class. The student must read the play in Spanish. The student will focus on a theme, a character, an image/metaphor, a stylistic device, or some other element of the play. It is also possible to compare the use of the chosen element in two plays (in that case, a play read in this class or in another class may be included). Please notice the date on the syllabus when the preliminary bibliography is due. It is 10 % of the term paper grade. In order to compile that bibliography, the student must first choose which play(s) he/she intends to work on.

Procedure: (1) By October 30, you will hand in a preliminary bibliography (**bibliografía preliminar**). (2) During the rest of the semester, you will read and re-read your play(s), as well as the information in the books and articles, do your analysis and prepare your essay. (3) When you are ready or on the night of December 10, whichever is *sooner*, write the essay. (4) On Thursday, December 11 hand in the finished paper by 4:30 p.m.

Bibliografía preliminar: Once you have chosen a play or plays to work on, you will need to determine what resources are available to help you do the analysis. Search the NKU library, the MLA Bibliography, the internet, and the available databases to find out what you might be able to use. The printout of the Bibliografía preliminar will list your primary source(s) (your chosen comedia and any other play you plan to use) as well as *at least 5* refereed (a.k.a. scholarly) secondary sources. Please be aware that most web pages are *not* refereed. Anyone can put one up without having the material reviewed by scholars who are knowledgeable in the field, and on occasion, academics who were unable to get their material published through the usual channels will post it on the web. Encyclopedia articles (wiki or otherwise) may be a useful first step for you personally, but will not count as scholarly sources. All these items will be listed in **MLA format** and will be followed by the library and the call number or other local accession information that you need, but that is not included in a bibliographic entry. In other words, don't open up a book and copy out the sources. Instead find out what is available in the NKU and other area libraries. Articles in J-Stor and other on-line collections of refereed journals are acceptable sources. Save the bibliography, print it, and back it up. Incorporate additional sources found after October 30, as you find them. Then, when you're typing out the final copy at dawn on December 10, all you need do is cut and paste the entries for the items you cited into the *Obras citadas* page (remember to delete the call numbers at that time).

Paper length & content:

Papers should be of *portfolio quality*, which means: 6-10 pages long, *in Spanish*, word-processed or typed, double-spaced, using one-inch margins and 10 or 12 point font (Elite or Pica, in the old terminology), and using clean, white paper and black ink dark enough to read in normal light. Accents should be included in the printing of word-processed documents (bonus: you'll be less likely to miss them that way). Remember to save your work frequently—computers are ravenous toward the end of the semester. **Newbies:** A newbie is a student whose native language is not Spanish and who has *completed* 6 hours or fewer of upper-division Spanish courses. Newbies are permitted to write their papers in English with the following caveats: the paper will not qualify for the majors' assessment portfolio and the minimum length is 8 pages, not 6. This is an option. Newbies may write the paper in Spanish and use it in their portfolios if they so desire.

The suggested structure for the paper is: a brief introduction, a thesis statement, a body presenting information in a logical order that supports the thesis, and a conclusion. Remember, the ultimate authorities are the *texts* of the plays you're writing about. You should be able to point to passages in the work that support your views, and *explain* how they support them. A full-scale summary of the plot is unnecessary and inappropriate. At the end you will place an *Obras citadas* page (please do *not* call it **Bibliografía**). This page should include 3 or more *secondary, refereed* sources cited in MLA style (this is why you will need 5+ sources in your preliminary bibliography—some will not make your final cut). If you wish to include non-refereed sources, they will be in addition to the two print sources required. Remember to list only the works that you have actually cited in your paper.

Help with paper

1. Choosing plays.

The introductions to playwrights & comedias in both anthologies can give you a clue as to whether a particular play might be interesting to you. The library has histories of Spanish literature, as well as books in the Twayne series on individual authors. *Some* of the plays may be summarized in sources such as the *Oxford Companion to Spanish Literature* (reference section--Steely Library). Check the websites listed on the class page for other information. There are copies of many early modern plays on the AHCT website, but most have few annotations.

If, after you reread the play, you decide that it is the worst Siglo de Oro play you have ever read, you're sure the actors were booted off the stage on opening day, but you have only three days before your paper is due, do not despair. Instead, concentrate your thinking on WHY it stinks. Perhaps there are "howlers" in the characterization, or the imagery is, uh, off-beat, or the author has a "creative" view of history. Then build a case to support your point of view.

2. Finding sources.

Plan to attend the library instruction class on September 11, 2008 (see syllabus).

One of the NKU library's stronger Spanish areas is Siglo de Oro, so there should be some items on the shelves that you can use. Check the list of materials on reserve for general works on certain playwrights, and if a book is checked out, ask the professor if she has it—been known to happen ☺. In addition to the library instruction class, you can make an individual research appointment with the Reference Desk, but do it early in the semester, before all the procrastinators on campus panic and mob the librarians. Remember also that there may not be a source specifically on your play, so don't overlook sources about other Siglo de Oro authors who use similar themes, characters, etc. Example: Calderón's *El médico de su honra* is an honor play. Steely Library has Larson's book, *The Honor Plays of Lope de Vega*, which may give you information on attitudes toward honor in the Golden Age and the way Lope treated the theme, which you can use as a guide when you're thinking about *El médico*. The *MLA Bibliography* is a good source for articles and is now available on-line. The library's supply of journal articles in databases is growing. We'll all get an update on September 11. Don't forget to check sources listed in the anthologies, TWAYNE books, and at the *comedia* websites. The Cincinnati Public and UC libraries have more material and, as a member of the Greater Cincinnati Library Consortium, will extend limited borrowing privileges. If you're really ambitious, and a Kentucky resident, the UK library also has lots of material.

3. La señora Modales' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Documentation.

The Writing Center (FH 209) has information on MLA documentation style, as does the ENG 101 handbook (Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*). The professor has supplied information on Spanish capitalization and punctuation on the next page. She also has the latest *MLA Handbook* in her office, so if there is a situation for which you can't find a model, come by and ask.

Direct quotations should appear in their original language. In this case, it is not necessary to supply translations of quotes in English, Latin, French, Portuguese, or Italian. Paraphrases should be in the language of the paper. A paraphrase is the rendering of another author's ideas *in your own words*. It is NOT a translation. Like a direct quote, it must be documented. If you can't keep yourself from translating, and it's too late to ask for help (yeah, I used to write 'em at the last minute, too), then quote the source directly, with the appropriate citation. If you are citing in a language that the prof. does not read, supply the translation in a note.

When citing internet sources, the URL and the date of access *must* be included. Remember, one of the reasons we list the *Obras citadas* is so that our readers can investigate further if they are so inclined. It is your responsibility to give the basic information needed to locate each source (that does not mean the NKU library's call numbers).

Miscellaneous useful stuff

Synonyms Я Us: Siglo de oro = Early Modern Period = Classical period when referring to the 16th-17th century Spanish literature. “La temprana edad moderna” is the Spanish translation of “early modern period,” but is not frequent in published literary studies written in Spanish, so far. One can also simply say 17th century drama / drama del siglo XVII and avoid all the various implications.

Capitalization and alphabetization in Spanish (a few pointers from the MLA Handbook)

1) *de* is not used in the text before the last name alone. Rueda (=Lope de Rueda) escribió *Las aceitunas*. but *del* is used with the last name alone En su antología, del Río... (=Ángel del Río)

2) Alphabetize by the full surname:

- Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de (paternal & maternal surnames)
- Lida de Malkiel, María Rosa (woman with paternal surname & husband's surname)
- Río, Ángel del (notice that he's del Río in the text but alphabetized under Río)
- Rueda, Lope de
- Zayas y Sotomayor, María de (a woman with paternal & maternal surnames)

3) Days of the week, months of the year, and adjectives derived from proper nouns are not capitalized
lunes, viernes / enero, julio / español, mexicano

4) For titles of books or articles, capitalize the first word and words normally capitalized:

Breve historia de la literatura norteamericana *Vida de Goya*

5) Titles of newspapers, magazines, & journals: nouns & adjectives tend to be capitalized, especially when they are side by side:

El País / *El Correo de Andalucía* / *Revista de Filología Hispánica*

6) If you are citing a book or an article published in English, follow English capitalization rules for that title.

How to get diacritical marks

Easy way: pull down the "Insert" menu of your word processor & click on Symbol / Special characters / Characters or equivalent. In more recent versions of Word, you'll have to go down to "more symbols". Find the letter with the diacritical mark on it, click on it & then click on the insert button. In Word & some other programs you may see a "shortcut" feature for the character. It will appear when you click on it, and you can use that to insert the characters directly from then on. Example from Word: Insert -- Symbol --ú and you see "shortcut key Ctrl+', U. That means hold down Ctrl, press ' release and press u to get ú.

ASCII codes for diacritical marks

In most Windows programs, you can insert characters using their ASCII codes. Hold down Alt, type the numerical code on the number keypad & release Alt. Here is a list of codes:

á	160	ñ	164
é	130	Ñ	165
í	161	¿	168
ó	162	¡	173
ú	163	« & »	174 & 175

Macintosh computers (revised 4 December 2008). Two ways to do it.

- 1) In Microsoft Word, go to the "Insert" menú (top of screen). Click and pull down with the mouse to “Symbol”. There you will find the letters that take diacritics in Spanish (áéíóúñ). Select the one you need. Then, below the table of letters, go to "Keyboard Shortcut." Click on that option, and you will be able to assign a combination of keys that will produce the letter with the diacritic whenever you are typing in Word. The student who gave me this tip recommends assigning the combination “Control” + the letter in question, since the “Control” key is not used much on the Mac.
- 2) Here's another way to do it. Hold down Alt & press "n". Release both keys and type "n" (no quote marks) to get ñ
Hold down the Option key & press "e". Release & type the letter you want to have an acute (Spanish-style) accent.

Checklists

You are not required to use these, but they may help those who lack a memory for details (I'm told sleep deprivation can cause this, but of course no one at NKU has such problems ☺). Enjoy!

A. Research and analysis.

1. ___ I have attended the library instruction class.
2. ___ I have made a research appointment with a reference librarian long before the paper is due.
3. ___ I have looked up my author and period in a general reference for Spanish literature.
4. ___ I have looked up my author and period in NKUIRE and the appropriate databases.
5. ___ I have read the material I found in our library, taken notes, and put my notes where I will remember to find them.
6. ___ I have looked up my author and period on the internet.
7. ___ I have read the material I found, taken notes....
8. ___ I have read my chosen play(s).
9. ___ I have looked up the unfamiliar words.
10. ___ I have read the play(s) again.
11. ___ I have decided what point I wish to make in my paper (thesis statement).
12. ___ I have worked out how to present the case for my thesis. I have examples from the plays that support what I say.
13. ___ I have material from my secondary sources that supports my thesis and/or with which I have decided to disagree. I have examples from the plays that support what I say.

B. Mechanics

1. ___ My name is on my paper.
2. ___ My paper is 6-10 pages long. If I am a “newbie” in upper-division Spanish, my paper is in English and is 8-10 pages long.
3. ___ My paper has one-inch margins.
4. ___ My paper is double-spaced.
5. ___ My paper uses a 10 or 12 point font.
6. ___ My paper uses parenthetical documentation in MLA style.
7. ___ My paper has a separate **Obras citadas** page at the end. The entries are in MLA style.
8. ___ I have given credit to all my sources.
9. ___ I have not listed works on the **Obras citadas** page (newbie: Works Cited) that were not cited in my paper.
10. ___ I have not called my **Obras citadas** page a “bibliografía”
11. ___ I have proofread my paper for spelling and accent marks.
12. ___ I have proofread my paper for grammar and agreement errors.
13. ___ I have proofread my documentation for violations of MLA style.
14. ___ I have backed up my computer file and placed the copy where I can find it when I certify my program (Spanish majors and minors with teaching only).
15. ___ Both the hard and the electronic copies are out of reach of my domestic menagerie («Lo comió el perro» no sirve).
16. ___ I have not submitted my paper in a plastic report cover (a paper clip or staple is better).