

Lecture blurb (HT20)

The Modern Spanish Novel: First-Person Narratives from Galdós to Marías (VIII, XI)

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In these lectures we will look at a series of first-person narratives written by major Spanish authors, all of which you can study for Paper VIII and some of which are prescribed for Paper XI (Galdós, Valle-Inclán). The aim of the lecture course is to introduce you to a wide range of authors and texts, while developing your knowledge and understanding both of developments in the modern Spanish novel and of the first-person narrative mode, bringing to the fore questions of narrative authority and the relationship between memory and history, private and public discourse. The course will cover works by Benito Pérez Galdós, Ramón del Valle-Inclán, Miguel de Unamuno, Camilo José Cela, Rosa Chacel, Carmen Martín Gaité, Esther Tusquets and Javier Marías, exploring the ways in which they innovate with the novel form, while exploiting the uncertainties implicit in first-person narrative to throw into doubt deep-rooted assumptions or beliefs, be they personal, cultural, philosophical or religious.