

## **SPAN 426: Narrativa Hispanoamerica**

After taking this course, my knowledge about Hispanic cultures and their society increased. Thanks to this course, which is focused on the study of the stories and novels of Latin American authors, I was able to fully understand how the culture and history of some Latin American countries have developed.

Of all the literary works of these authors that we studied in class, the one that most caught my attention was the novel "One Hundred Years of Solitude", by Gabriel García Márquez. This fictional novel narrates many aspects of the Spanish conquest in Colombia; It also alludes to the civil wars in this country, and the heroes who perished their lives to defend their people from the oppression of the dictatorship in Colombia. The most relevant event that I found in the study of this novel, was the intervention of the banana companies in Colombia; This fact created many sources of work, but also caused much poverty in the working class due to the low wages received by the workers in the banana plantations. This situation caused civil wars; which made me reflect and understand how difficult it was for Colombia to overcome this stage of the economic crisis and achieve a society with equal civil and political rights.

In addition to the novel "One Hundred Years of Solitude", by Gabriel García Márquez, we also studied another fiction novel with great historical content; the novel is called "La Fiesta del Chivo" by the Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa. This novel tells the story of the Dominican dictator Rafael Leónidas Trujillo, who caused many murders and plunged the Dominican people into total poverty. The reading of this novel also led me to reflect that not only Colombia had suffered wars and invasions; other countries, such as the Dominican Republic, also suffered the consequences of corrupt governments.

After studying these literary works with the masterful guidance of Dr. Fernández, my professor of this class, I was able to deepen my knowledge about the cultures and histories of the Hispanic-American peoples; this course also helped me to improve my knowledge about my Hispanic heritage to which I proudly belong.