



Unit 1

La época medieval

- **Hist Context:** 5th-15th centuries. Christianity, feudalism, and Western Roman Empire collapsed. Start of Reconquista (reclaim Spain from Muslims)
- **Lit Context:** Literature was largely religious and focused on the Church and biblical stories.
- **Key Lit Figs:** Don Juan Manuel
- **Key Lit Works:** Conde Lucanor, Romance de la pérdida de Alhama
- **Lit Themes:** Religion and spirituality, Chivalry and honor, Loyalty and betrayal, Love and romance, National identity and pride



Unit 2

El siglo XVI

- **Hist context:** Golden Age of Spain, expansion and exploration, Spanish Inquisition.
- **Lit context:** Renaissance influence, humanism, individualism, emergence of the printing press.
- **Key Lit Figs:** Garcilaso de la Vega, Francisco de Quevedo, Luis de Góngora, and Miguel de Cervantes.
- **Key Lit works:** Lazarillo de Tormes, Soneto CLXVI, Salmo XVII, and Don Quijote de la Mancha
- **Lit themes:** exploration of human emotions and experiences, the role of the individual in society, satire and social criticism, religious and philosophical debates.



Unit 3

El siglo XVII

- **Hist context:** Baroque period, Catholic Church power, Spanish Golden Age, exploration and colonization in the Americas
- **Lit context:** Golden Age of Spanish literature, Baroque style characterized by ornate and complex language, themes of religious devotion, honor, and love
- **Key lit Figs:** Francisco de Quevedo, Miguel Leon-Portilla, Luis de Góngora, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz
- **Key Lit works:** "El burlador de Sevilla", "Soneto CLXVI", "Hombres necios que acusáis"
- **Lit themes:** human nature, the search for identity, the role of women, the struggle for power and justice, the inevitability of death and decay.



Unit 4

La literatura romántica, realista y naturalista

- **Hist and Lit Context:** Romanticism emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries as a response to the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution. Realism emerged in the mid-19th century as a reaction against Romanticism. Naturalism in the late 19th century as an extension of Realism.
- **Key Lit Figs:** Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer, Emilia Pardo Bazán,
- **Key Lit Works:** "Las medias rojas", "En una Tempestad"
- **Lit Themes:** Love, passion, nature, the supernatural, individualism. Social critique, human condition, everyday life, regionalism, gender roles. Determinism, harsh reality, social inequality, environmental effects on behavior.



Unit 5

La Generación del 98 y el Modernismo

- **Hist Context:** Late 19th c. Spanish Generación del 98 emerged during political and social upheaval. LatAm and Spain developed Modernismo in the late 19th and early 20th centuries during cultural and artistic change.
- **Lit Context:** The Generación del 98 mourned the past, valued Spain's identity, and rejected materialism and superficiality. Modern art valued aesthetics, individualism, and beauty.
- **Key Lit Figs:** Miguel de Unamuno, Antonio Machado, Ruben Dario.
- **Key Lit Works:** "A Roosevelt", "Nuestra America", "He andado muchos caminos"
- **Lit Themes:** Spain's nat'l identity, nostalgia for the past, searching for truth and meaning, and tradition vs. modernity. Beauty, individualism, aesthetics, art's role in society, and rejecting convention.



Unit 6

Teatro y poesía del siglo XX

- **Hist Context:** The Spanish Civil War and Franco dictatorship shaped Spain's 20th century politics and society. The time was marked by disillusionment and a desire to break from tradition.
- **Lit Context:** Many 20th-century Spanish poets and playwrights experimented with new styles and forms. Politically active writers used their work to criticize society.
- **Key Lit Figs:** Federico García Lorca, Pablo Neruda, Alfonsina Storni
- **Key Lit Works:** "A Julia de Burgos", "Walking around", "Peso Ancestral"
- **Lit Themes:** Political Engagement, Social Critique, exploration of human nature, experience with emotion, oppression, exploration of new styles.



Unit 7

El Boom latinoamericano

- **Hist Context:** LatAm literature boomed in the 1960s and 1970s during political and social upheaval. Political repression, economic instability, and social inequality plagued LatAm.
- **Lit Context:** The Boom was a Lit movement characterized by form and style experimentation and social and political themes. Boom writers were influenced by European modernism and LatAm culture and history.
- **Key Lit Figs:** Gabriel García Márquez, Julio Cortazar, Juan Rulfo
- **Key Lit Works:** "Borges y yo", "Dos palabras", "La siesta del martes"
- **Lit Themes:** Magic realism, Politics and power, Social commentary.



Unit 8

Escritores contemporáneos de Estados Unidos, y España

- **Hist Context:** Postmodernism, identity politics, and globalization shaped postwar American literature. After Franco's dictatorship ended in 1975, contemporary Spanish literature focused on democracy, free expression, and regionalism.
- **Lit Context:** American and Spanish writers write novels, short stories, poetry, and essays. Both countries' contemporary writers have addressed race, gender, sexuality, immigration, and the environment. Contemporary literature uses non-linear narratives, fragmented structures, and multiple voices.
- **Key Lit Figs:** Tomas Rivera, Rosa Montero
- **Key Lit Works:** "Mi caballo mago", "...y no se lo tragó la tierra: "La noche buena"
- **Lit Themes:** Identity and belonging, Memory and trauma, Power and oppression, Love and relationships, Nature and the environment, Politics and social justice.