



**PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE VALPARAÍSO**  
**Institute of Literature and Language Sciences**

**20<sup>th</sup> Century Chilean Poetry: Huidobro, De Rokha, Neruda, and Parra**

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NAME OF COURSE	20th Century Chilean Poetry: Huidobro, De Rokha, Neruda, and Parra
HOURS	60 contact hours
CREDITS	03
COURSE CODE	LCL 531-1

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**Course description**

This course offers a vision on Chilean poetry in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, recognizing the main trends, their aesthetic characteristics and their relation to the cultural and social contexts, through interpretative reading of poems and metapoetic texts, by Neruda, Huidobro, De Rokha, and Parra, poets that together with Pezoa Véliz and Mistral are decisive for the development of the Chilean and Latin American poetic discourse. The proposed readings are aimed at recognizing the peculiarities of the process of appropriation of the artistic modernity and its contributions to the construction of the Chilean cultural identity.

The course is designed especially for foreign students that have Spanish as a second language and have an intermediate level in the language.

**Main objective**

Know, contextualize and challenge the function, the questions and the themes (particularly of modernity and identity) proposed by Chilean poetry of the 20th century, based on critical reading of representative texts of diverse tendencies and moments, including the work of Huidobro, Neruda, De Rokha, and Parra, in relation to the aesthetic, cultural, and social contexts.

**Specific objectives**

- Read with a critical perspective a representative selection of poems by Huidobro, De Rokha, Neruda, and Parra.
- Examine the influence that popular culture has had, as well as politics, and other artistic expressions in the development of the writing of these four poets.
- Know in a deep and comparative perspective the diverse poetics of the studied poets.

- Recognize the identitary display of the poetic subject of Chile's modernity in this poetic tradition.
- Investigate the intertextuality of the studied poetry with the literature of the Spanish American and universal context to explore the features that form and distinguish it.
- Review some of the most representative critical readings about the studied poets.

## Contents

### Unit 1:

- Chile: end of the 19th century and first decades of the 20th century. Culture and society.
- Features of peripheric modernity in Chile and Latin America.
- Main characteristics of modern poetry.
- Beginning of modern poetry in Chile. Naturalists, modernists, mundonovists.
- Pezoa Véliz and the popular. Gabriela Mistral and the telluric.
- The city as a theme in modern poetry.

### Unit II

- a) The avant-gardes as rupture.  
Vicente Huidobro and the creationist aesthetics. Manifestos and poetics.  
The avant-gardes as crisis of modernity: *Altazor*.
- b) An expressionist avant-garde.  
Excess as an experience of the subject/individual.  
Cry, discourse and litany in De Rokha's poetry.  
Vernacular and baroque in De Rokha's American social epic.

### Unit III

- a) Pablo Neruda's poetics.  
The sorrowful subject and the impossible overcoming of love.  
*Residencia en la Tierra*: distress and marginality of the modern subject.  
Engaged poetry: *Canto general*.  
Poetics in *Odas elementales*.  
Nature and the voyage in Neruda's poetry.
- b) Nicanor Parra: from the poets of luminosity to antipoetry.  
The urban subject and the incorporation of mass media and orality in antipoetry.  
Irony as a key to modernness.

## Evaluation

Written test: 2 (33% each)

Oral presentation (33%). This activity may be replaced by a written essay (3 pages), depending on the number of students.

75% of attendance is required, as well as active participation in class.

## **Bibliography**

The selection of poetic texts, critical readings, and summaries of the units will be sent opportunely by e-mail to each student.

### **Reference:**

Baciu, Stefan. Surrealismo latinoamericano. Preguntas y respuestas. Valparaíso: Ediciones Universitarias de Valparaíso, 1979.

Binns, Niall. "Nicanor Parra y la guerrilla literaria. Descifrando 'Advertencia al lector'". Cuadernos Hispanoamericanos, number 537, March, 1995.

Costa, René de (editor). Vicente Huidobro y el Creacionismo. Madrid: Taurus, 1975.

Costa, René de. En pos de Huidobro. Siete ensayos de aproximación. Santiago: Editorial Universitaria, 1978.

----- Conversaciones con Enrique Lihn. Santiago, Atelier, 1990.

Lastra, Pedro. Relecturas Hispanoamericanas. Santiago: Editorial Universitaria, 1986.

Lihn, Enrique: El circo en llamas. Edición de Germán Marín. Santiago: LOM, 1997.

Nómez, Naín. Antología crítica de la poesía chilena. Santiago: LOM, 1996 (Volume I ), 2000 (Volume II) y 2002 (Volume III).

Piña, Juan Andrés. Conversaciones con la poesía chilena. Santiago, Chile: Pehuén Editores, 1990.

Teillier, Jorge. Prosas. Edición de Ana Traverso. Santiago: Editorial Sudamericana, 1999.

Subercaseaux, Bernardo. Genealogía de la vanguardia en Chile. Santiago: Universidad de Chile, 1998.

Vergara, Sergio. Vanguardia literaria. Ruptura y restauración en los años 30. Concepción: Ediciones Universidad de Concepción, 1994.

Yurkievich, Saúl. Fundadores de la nueva poesía latinoamericana. Barcelona: Ariel, 1971.

### **Poetic works:**

Huidobro, Vicente. Espejo de Agua, Poemas árticos , Altazor y El ciudadano del olvido. In Obra poética. Critical edition. Cedomil Goic (coordinator). Colección Archivos. Santiago: Ediciones de la Universidad Católica de Chile, 2003.

Neruda, Pablo. Residencia en la tierra. Santiago: Editorial Universitaria, 1996.

----- Canto general. Santiago: Pehuén, 2005.

----- Odas Elementales. Bs.As.: Losada, 1954.

Pablo de Rokha. U. Santiago: LOM 2003

----- Nueva antología poética (Naín Nómez)

Parra, Nicanor. Obra Gruesa. Santiago: Editorial Andrés Bello, 1983.