Adam Milazzotto
Spanish Capstone Seminar Abstract

History and Myth in the Novels *El embrujo de Shanghai* and *El cuarto de atrás*

This final project for the Spanish Seminar class of Fall 2004 is based upon two contemporary Spanish novels: *El embrujo de Shanghai* and *El cuarto de atrás*. From these two novels emerge distinct themes: Franco's history during his dictatorship, the myth that forms this history, aspects of history that conflict or conform to fiction, and the act of writing history, or historiography. There will be a focus on the sources of Franco's history, as well as his purposes in making and using history to increase his control over Spain and its people. The way in which this topic involves the novels will be presented in terms of: the environment in the stories, historic symbolism through specific references or characters in the story, the negation of Franco's myth through fiction, and how these topics are related in the two novels. There will also be an analysis of the intentions of the authors: first with regard to their portrayals of history through the characters and second, through their representations of the historical discourse woven by Franco.