

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
SEMESTER I EXAMINATIONS, 1999-2000

SH206: Latin American Short Stories

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Time allowed: two hours

Answer two questions. Questions may be answered in either Spanish or English

1. (a)

Martin S. Stabb has written of a number of Borges' stories that their impact 'derives from Borges' relentless ... expansion of a relatively simple idea into nightmarish proportions'. To what extent do you feel that this statement is applicable to the stories that you have studied?

OR

(b)

It has been claimed that 'La muerte y la brújula' is at first sight simply an ingenious detective story turned inside out, and also that it is a cautionary tale about the vanity of the intellect. Discuss.

2. (a)

A sense of ambiguity marks much of Cortázar's work so that the reader is often left hesitating between different potential interpretations of events. To what extent is this true of the stories you have studied?

OR

(b)

In many of Cortázar's short stories there is a disruption of the normal planes of reality and shifts in space and time. Illustrate with reference to the stories that you have studied.

3. (a)

Discuss the importance of the Misiones region as a backdrop to many of Quiroga's stories.

OR

(b)

'Violence is frequent in Quiroga's work, but its significance varies in important ways' (John S. Brushwood). To what extent, and in what ways, does violence mark the stories that you have studied?