

### **Detailed description of the subject :**

This subject aims at studying with a new approach the works by Manuel Mujica Lainez, a 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Argentinian writer. For a long time, his contribution to Argentinian literature has been under-estimated by a great number of both international and national critics who judged him throughout standards that were not his (intellectuals' commitment to a progressive ideology, innovation and experimentation in literature) and left him in the shadow of Jorge Luis Borges, a writer who was already acknowledged for his singularity in the national literary background of his time. Manuel Mujica Lainez' work was rather separately studied. On the one hand, there was an interest in his "Argentinian" writings such as the Buenos Aires cycle, depicting the Argentinian aristocracy's glory and fall. On the other hand, there was an interest in his "cosmopolitan" writings, testimonies of a high interest for the European culture, among others (principally the Spanish, French, Italian and English ones). His novels and short-stories have been studied, but generally in a separate way. Nonetheless, these writings should not be dissociated, for they are all highly representative of a particular vision of the world, true to the author but also to his society. Recently, a number of themes related to the majority of Mujica Lainez' writings have emerged, such as gender studies and homo-eroticism. This subject's aim is to study identity through the analysis of a corpus that equally considers both "sides" of the author's production and the different genres he used (novels and short-stories). By studying these writings, collective and cultural identity will be questioned as well as a society and its rules, but also how it plays with appearances. Individual identity, both private and social: the author's one as a person and as a writer; and human identity, explored by the writer alternating between unity and diversity and through the unavoidable constraints of time and space will also be questioned. The point is to understand with which mechanisms and why the writer constructs and/or deconstructs identity.