

Instructor: Maritza Stanchich

Course Title: U.S. Latina/o Literature

Course number: INGL 4256

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 4 to 5:20 p.m.

Location: LPM 307

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in SGG 01 (in the basement, below Estudios Hispánicos), or by appointment at a more mutually convenient time.

Email address: direct urgent questions only please at maritzastanchich@yahoo.com.

Course description: Close readings and analysis of U.S. Latina/o literature, attendant to the deeply historical social political histories of Latina/os in what is presently the United States. Authors include Cuban-Americans, diasporic Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Chicana/os (Mexican-Americans), though issues pertaining to Central Americans and greater Latin Americans will also be discussed, such as migration/immigration, race and racism/discrimination, gender issues/roles, development of cultural consciousness, hybridity/*mestizaje*. Debates about “minority” or “ethnic” literatures and the institutionalization of Chicano, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies will also be discussed.

Texts: Eight novels and an anthology have been ordered at the campus bookstore, listed under 4256 (possibly with Rivera listed as the professor). Titles include *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him* by Tomás Rivera, *Woman Hollering Creek* by Sandra Cisneros, *Dreaming in Cuban* by Cristina Garcia, *Drown* by Junot Diaz, *Something to Declare* by Julia Alvarez, *Spared Angola* by Virgil Suarez, *Rituals of Survival* by Nicolasa Mohr, *Down These Mean Streets* by Piri Thomas, and *The Latino Reader* anthology.

Attendance and Punctuality: More than three absences will result in the lowering of final grade by at least one. In the case of absences excused by medical or sports notes, then any one additional absence will similarly affect your grade. Grades will also be lowered by repeated tardiness.

Participation: Asking questions or making useful comments will strengthen your grade. However, those with shy personalities will not be penalized, and those for whom it is easier to speak publicly should be conscious of giving others a chance.

Quizzes: At least two announced quizzes will consist of brief identifications.

Papers: Two papers, the first due at midterm will be 4 to 5 pages, the second due at the end of the semester will expand upon the first for a minimum of 5 to 6 pages. Outside research of at least one source for the first paper, and two sources for the second paper will be required. I will pass out written guidelines as the dates approach.

Exams: Take home midterm and final exam of short identifications, plus one essay.

Teaching strategies: Class meetings will consist of oral analysis and discussion of reading assignments, and conceptual understanding of related issues.

- Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimiento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tip de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el/la profesor/a.

Methods of Evaluation: Class attendance and punctuality: 10 percent

Class participation: 10 percent

Three quizzes: 30 percent (10 percent each)

First paper: 10 percent

Second paper: 20 percent

Final exam: 20 percent

- Please note: For students with disabilities, there will be differentiated methods of evaluation. Evaluación diferenciada a estudiantes con necesidades especiales.

Class Calendar

Week 1: Introduction to course and to each other

Week 2 – due Aug. 18

Go on internet and search The New York Times or other news sources using the terms “Latino” and “Hispanic.”

What did you find? Read the latest news about the California gubernatorial election recall (Arnold Schwarzenegger vs. Cruz Bustamante?). What role does the Latino vote play?

We will also discuss the debated terms Latino, Latina and Hispanic in a U.S context.

Wed., Aug. 20

Read Introduction to The Latino Reader anthology

Also from anthology read historical works, Cabeza de Vaca, Inca/Garcilaso de la Vega, María Amparo Ruiz de Burton, and “The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez”

Week 3 – Aug 25

From anthology, read Chicano authors Américo Paredes, Alurista, Rudolfo Anaya.

Wed., Aug. 27

From Anthology, Luis Valdez, Rolando Hinojosa and Richard Rodriguez. How does Rodriguez refuse the label Chicano?

Week 4 – Sept. 1: No Class, Labor Day

Wed., Sept. 3

Read Tomás Rivera's *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*.

Week 5 – Sept. 8

Finish discussing Tomás Rivera's *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*
Recommended video rentals: Stand and Deliver, Born in East LA

Wed., Sept. 10

In class video screening: *Chicano: Struggle in the Fields* on Cesar Chavez and the UFW

Week 6 – Sept. 15

From Anthology, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Cherríe Moraga, Gloria Anzaldua

Week 7 – Sept. 22

Sandra Cisneros' *Woman Hollering Creek*
Recommended video rental: Real Women Have Curves

Wed. Sept. 24

Finish Cisneros

Week 8 – Sept. 29

Midterm exam due

Introduce diasporic Puerto Rican literature

Paper topics due next week. Will hand out paper guidelines.

Wed., Oct. 1:

From Anthology, Arthur Schomburg, Bernardo Vega, William Carlos Williams

Week 9 – Oct. 6:

From Anthology, Victor Hernández Cruz, Pedro Pietri, Miguel Piñero, Tato Laviera

Midterm paper topics due in writing.

Wed., Oct. 8:

Piri Thomas *Down These Mean Streets*

Recommended reading: Abraham Rodriguez Jr. *The Boy Without a Flag* or *Spidertown*

Recommended film rentals: "West Side Story," "Fort Apache, the Bronx," "Piñero"

Week 10 – Oct. 13: No class, Columbus Day

Wed., Oct. 15

Finish Piri Thomas

Week 11 – Oct. 20

From Anthology: Sandra Maria Esteves, Rosario Morales with Aurora Levins Morales, Judith Ortiz Cofer. **Discuss concerns about mid-term paper due Wednesday**

Wed., Oct. 22

Nicholasa Mohr's *Rituals of Survival: A Woman's Portfolio*

Five page paper due in class.

Week 12 – Oct. 27

Finish discussing Nicholasa Mohr

Wed., Oct. 29

Introduce Cuban-American literature

From Anthology, José Martí

Week 13 – Nov. 3

Oscar Hijuelos, Dolores Prida, Lourdes Casal

Recommended novel and video rental: "The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love"

Wed., Nov. 5

Virgil Suarez's *Spared Angola*

Week 14 – Nov. 10:

Cristina Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuban*

Recommended film rentals: Bitter Sugar, The Godfather I and II, Before Night Falls

Midterm papers turned back with suggestions for revisions

Wed., Nov. 12

Finish Cristina Garcia novel

Week 15 – Nov. 17

Introduce Dominican authors. Julia Alvarez *Something to Declare*

Wed., Nov. 19: No Class, "Discovery" of Puerto Rico

Week 16 – Nov. 24:

Junot Diaz's *Drown*

Wed., Nov. 26

Final papers due in class!

Finish discussing Junot Diaz

Week 17 – Dec. 1

Overview and wrap up. Review for final exam.

Wed. Dec. 3

Last day of class! **Take home final exam due.**