ENGL 39 Chicana/o-Latina/o Literature
Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. Adela Najarro                      Course # 65668
Office: 451a Apts                              MW 9:30-10:50 am
Office hours: MW 11:00-11:25 am
                                      Room 509
and by appointment
Voicemail: 479-6405
email address: adnajarr@cabrillo.edu

PREREQUISITES & COREQUISITES

• Assessment or successful completion of English 1A, 1AH, 1AMC or 1AMCH.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:
• The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry edited by Francisco Aragón
• The Latin Deli by Judith Ortiz Cofer
• The People of Paper by Salvador Plascencia
• So Far From God by Ana Castillo
• Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya

Optional Text:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

English 39 focuses on the literatures, lives, and experiences of Latinos living in the USA. We will read four novels and a book of poetry. The novels and poems represent distinct literary styles within Latino/a letters and literature in general. The range of writers also represent the various groups of Latino/as that make up the US Hispanic landscape.

What does it mean to be Latino or Latina in the United States? What are the similarities and differences between the various groups of Latinos in the US? What are the similarities and differences between Latino/a literatures, Anglo literatures, and the literatures of Latin America, Europe, and the world? How does literature interact with society and the status of Hispanics in the US? These and other questions will be explored as we read and discuss contemporary literature written by Latino/as in the United States.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Critically engage various genres within the tenet of Chicana/o-Latina/o literatures and study historical and cultural formations.
2. Examine current literary issues and study their impact on society.
3. Write critical essays that demonstrate higher level thinking skills.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

During the semester you will be required to do the following:
1. Read four novels and assorted poems
2. Complete a quiz at the beginning of each class session
3. Complete four take home exams
4. Write one seven to ten page essay
5. Meet with your instructor once during the semester to discuss the essay

Grading percentages are as follows:
1. Quizzes on the four novels and poems: 10%
2. Take Home Exams each 15% for a total of 60%
3. Essay 25%
4. Conference 5%

Quizzes

Every class session requires that you complete a reading assignment prior to class. In order to ensure that everyone is doing the reading on the required due dates, there will be a quiz at the beginning of each class period. If you are absent or arrive late, then you will receive a “Not Passing” for that quiz.

Quiz Grading Criteria:
1. Quiz shows evidence that required reading assignment was completed = Passing.
2. Quiz does not show evidence that required reading assignment was completed = Not Passing.
3. If you are late or miss class, then you automatically do not pass that day’s quiz.

Passing = A
Not Passing = F

ATTENDANCE

The class will only work if you’re here to participate, and therefore attendance is very important. You are expected to come to every class session on time and prepared to discuss the assigned reading selection. English 39 is committed to learning through discussion, rather than lecture only, so come prepared. There is no free ride or class that you don’t have to go to—come prepared everyday and on time. I reserve the right to drop students who exceed Cabrillo’s attendance policy concerning unexcused absences.
LATE POLICY

I will not accept late work for quizzes or the final essay. If you have contacted me, and there is a reasonable explanation, I will accept late take home exams.

For take home exams, only:

One class session late: The grade will drop by one letter grade.

More than one class session late: The highest grade possible is a “C,” and I reserve the right to give a “D” or “F,” as I see fit.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism can happen in many ways. One instance of plagiarism occurs when you relate an author’s ideas or writing without giving the author credit or using quotes correctly. Another instance of plagiarism occurs when you copy part or all of an essay from another student or from a published article. Some students have even bought papers on the internet—that is also plagiarism. Plagiarism is cheating because you are presenting someone else’s written work as your own. Plagiarism in any form is grounds for failing the course.

At times, plagiarism occurs by accident when students try to summarize passages from a book or article and use direct phrases without quotation or giving credit to the author. You cannot do this. Please consult the MLA Handbook in order to avoid this type of plagiarism and in order to cite all your writing correctly.

If I consider your work plagiarized, I will ask you to meet with me in a conference. Depending on our conversation in the conference, I may ask you to revise your work, I may assign a failing grade to that assignment, or I may assign a failing grade for the entire course. It is best not to plagiarize; please consult the MLA handbook, send an email with questions, or drop in for office hours.

Accommodations

Students needing *accommodations* should contact the instructor ASAP. As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accommodations are provided to insure equal opportunity for students with verified disabilities. If you need assistance with an accommodation, please contact Disabled Student services, Room 810, 479-6379, or Learning Skills Program Room 1073, 479-6220.
Schedule

2/8  **Introduction**  
*I Am Joaquin*

2/10 Intro: *Latin Deli*  
Read: All Poems by Urayoán Noel

2/15 **Holiday - Washington's birthday (School Closed)**

2/17 Read: *Latin Deli* (3-49)

2/22 Read: *Latin Deli* (50-116)

2/24 Read: *Latin Deli* (117-154)

3/1 Read: *Latin Deli* (155-170)  
Take Home Exam on *Latin Deli* & poems due 3/3

3/3 “Essay Fundamentals & *Latin Deli*” Workshop  
**Due: Take Home Exam**

3/8 Intro: *The People of Paper*  
Read: All Poems by Brenda Cárdenas

3/10 Read: *The People of Paper* Chapter 1-7 (Part One)

3/15 Read: *The People of Paper* Chapter 8-14 (Part Two)

3/17 Read: *The People of Paper* Chapter 15-16

3/22 Read: *The People of Paper* Chapter 17-22

3/24 Read: *The People of Paper* Chapter 23-27  
Take Home Exam on *The People of Paper* & poems due 4/5

3/29 Spring Break

3/31 Spring Break

4/5 “Essay Fundamentals & *The People of Paper*” Workshop  
**Due: Take Home Exam**

4/7 Intro: *So Far From God*  
Read: All Poems by Richard Blanco

4/12 Read: *So Far From God* (19-71)

4/14 Read: *So Far From God* (71-102)

4/19 Read: *So Far From God* (102-149)

4/21 Read: *So Far From God* (150-189)

4/26 Read: *So Far From God* (190-229)

4/28 Read: *So Far From God* (230-252)  
Take Home Exam on *So Far From God* & poems due 5/3

4/30 **Social Justice Conference (Extra Credit—Ask me!)**

5/1 **Social Justice Conference (Extra Credit—Ask me!)**
5/3  “Essay Fundamentals & So Far From God” Workshop
     **Due: Take Home Exam**
5/5  Intro: *Bless Me, Ultima*
     Read: All Poems by Sheryl Luna
5/10 Read: *Bless Me, Ultima* (1-67)
5/12 Read: *Bless Me, Ultima* (68-110)
5/17 Read: *Bless Me, Ultima* (111-194)
5/19 Read: *Bless Me, Ultima* (195-234)
5/24 Read: *Bless Me, Ultima* (235-277)
     Take Home Exam on *Bless Me, Ultima* & poems due 5/26
5/26 “Essay Fundamentals & *Bless Me, Ultima*” Workshop
     **Due: Take Home Exam**
5/31 **Holiday - Memorial Day (School Closed)**
6/4 **Final Exam:**
    • Paper due my office, 451a, Friday, June 4th from 9:00 am to 10:00 am
    • No late papers accepted.
    • You may turn in final papers early; drop off at the BELA office—room 501.
    • (Include at least one draft. The draft must be substantially different from the final version. Place final version on top!)