

ROML 2550 Latino Literature and Culture
Spring 2007 MWF 9:05-9:55 Park Hall 74

Instructor: Julia Barnes

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Office hours: Thursdays 2:00-5:00pm. Also available by appointment

Course Description: An introduction to contemporary Latino/a culture and literature in the United States, with a major focus on Mexican Americans/Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans and Dominican Americans. Representative works of various genres will be read and analyzed within a cultural context: the personal essay, poetry, the narrative (short story and novel), and film. Topics to be covered: individual and group identity in relationship to race/ethnicity/nationality, social/economic class, gender, being bicultural versus "living on the margins," the struggle for self-determination, notions of *mestizaje* and its impact on cultural production.

Academic honesty statement: All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. See http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm

WebCT: This class will use WebCT for journal entries, updates to syllabus, additional materials for homework or class work, and other useful tools, which will be made available periodically on the course site. As the course progresses, you may be asked to provide comments and/or opinions about the material discussed in class on the WebCT discussion forum. You are expected to check it regularly to keep up with the progress of the class.

Required Texts:

--*In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Álvarez.

--*Latin Deli* by Judith Ortiz Cofer

--...*And the Earth Did Not Devour Him* by Tomás Rivera.

--*Dreaming in Cuban* by Cristina García.

--*The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.

--Class packet available at Bel-Jean (163 E. Broad Street).

Grade Distribution:

15% Class Participation/attendance (an average of daily participation grades and all assignments in class).

30% Tests (3) (dates given below)

10% Journals

15% Final paper (due at the beginning of class on last day of class, April 30th)

** Midterm paper (due at the beginning of class on April 4th)

15% Cultural presentation

15% Final Exam: Wednesday, May 2nd 8:00-11:00am in Park Hall 74

** The midterm paper does not receive a specific grade; however, failure to complete the assignment will result in a 10 point deduction from the FINAL CLASS GRADE.

- **Participation and Attendance:** Students are expected to read the material assigned and to come to class prepared to articulate their reactions based on the texts, films and their own research. Large and small group discussions form an essential part of the learning process in this class. At the end of each class, the instructor will assign each student a participation grade of 0-4:
 - 0 (F) is assigned if student is absent
 - 1 (D) if student is present but sleeping, studying for other classes, reading newspaper or otherwise mentally absent
 - 2 (C) if student answers questions when called upon and offers some extemporaneous contributions
 - 3 (B) if student participates actively and without having to be called upon
 - 4 (A) is reserved for exceptional preparation and participation.

The participation grade is an average of all of these grades. Please recognize that there are no excused or unexcused absences in this class and that this system allows a student to miss one or two classes without adversely affecting his/her final grade. If a student has anxiety about speaking often in class, he/she should contact the instructor immediately in order to discuss other options for participation (e.g., writing extra WebCT journal entries).

- **Tests:** There will be a test at the end of each unit.

- **Journals:** Students are expected to keep an informal journal on the discussion forum of WebCT with at least one entry of approximately 150 words per week. The journal should contain thoughtful first impressions or reactions to what we have read, viewed or discussed. Especially appreciated are questions / topics you want to discuss in class, as well as follow-up comments.
- **Papers:** The midterm paper is required in order to help students start the writing process early in the semester. As such, no grade is given for this paper; however, failure to complete the assignment will result in a 10 point deduction from the FINAL CLASS GRADE. It is expected that the final paper, (6-8 pages worth 15%) will be a revision of the midterm paper, though exceptions can be made.
- **Cultural presentations:** Students will give cultural presentations throughout the semester. The guidelines for these presentations will be distributed later in the semester. Information from the cultural presentations will appear on each quiz.
- **Final Exam:** This exam will be comprehensive. Its format will follow that of the tests. Exam: Wed, May 2nd 8:00am

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Date	Before Class	In Class
Monday, January 8		-Introduction to the class and texts; overview of syllabus -Discussion of terms of ethnic/national identity (Mexican American, Chicano/a, Mexicano/a, Puerto Rican, Boricua, Nuyorican, Cuban, Cuban American, Latin American, Latino/a, Hispanic, Raza) -Discussion of aspects of Latino culture that interest us.
Wednesday, January 10	Read: -“Terms of Group Identity” (packet) -“AJC article on immigration forum” - “The Past and Present of Spanish in the United States” PBS article - “The New Latino South” Pew Report	-Latino culture presentations -Discussion of articles and stereotypes
Friday, January 12		-Viewing of film <i>The New Georgians</i>
Monday, January 15		No class—MLK Day
Wednesday, January 17	View: - <i>El norte</i> by Gregory Nava. [Available in the Media Center at UGA library and at the Language Resource Center (1 st floor Gilbert Hall) for viewing there, also at Blockbuster and Vision Video]. Take notes on the film to aid your discussion.	-Discussion of <i>El norte</i> , Gregory Nava, the Mayas in Guatemala and the immigrant experience as shown in the film. - (1) Cultural presentation: New federal/state immigration proposals
Friday, January 19	Read: -“Preface,” “An Old Woman and Her Recollections” and “The Campaign of ’46 against the Americans in California” (packet)	- Treaty of Guadalupe - (2) Cultural presentation: Aztlán
Monday, January 22	- “The Homeland, Aztlán”- Gloria Anzaldúa (packet) -“To Live in the Borderlands Means you” – Gloria Anzaldúa (packet) - “Nineteenth-Century Mexicans in the Southwest and Civil Rights” (webct)	- (3) Cultural presentation: Zoot Suits
Wednesday, January 24	-excerpt from <i>Pocho</i> —José Antonio Villarreal (packet) -“I Am Joaquín”-Rodolph “Corky” González (packet)	- Chicano political and cultural movement
Friday, January 26	Read: -... <i>And the Earth Did Not Devour Him</i> pp. 83-117	
Monday,	-... <i>And the Earth Did Not Devour Him</i> pp. 118-	- (4) Cultural presentation:

January 29	152	
Wednesday, January 31	-“Talking with <i>mi gente</i> : Chicano English” PBS article (WebCT) -“Viva Spanglish” PBS article (WebCT) -“How to Tame a Wild Tongue” – Gloria Anzaldúa (packet)	
Friday, February 2	-“Aria”-Richard Rodríguez (packet)	- (5) Cultural presentation:
Monday February 5	-“Art in America <i>con acento</i> ”-Cherie Moraga (packet)	- (6) Cultural presentation:
Wednesday, February 7		View <i>La Boda</i> during class 54 minutes
Friday, February 9	-“Miss Clairó”-Helena María Viramontes (packet)	Discussion of <i>La Boda</i>
Monday, February 12	- <i>The House on Mango Street</i> pp. 1-71	- (7) Cultural presentation:
Wednesday, February 14	- <i>The House on Mango Street</i> pp. 72-110	
Friday, February 16		QUIZ OVER MEXICAN UNIT
Monday, February 19	-“The New Nueva York” (packet) -“Autobiography of a Nuyorican”-Sandra María Esteves (packet) -“Puertoricanness” and “Child of the Americas”-Aurora Levins Morales (packet)	- (8) Cultural presentation: Puerto Rican political affiliation with U.S.
Wednesday, February 21	-1 st half of the Nuyorican poets	- (9) Cultural presentation:
Friday, February 23	-2 nd half of the Nuyorican poets -“Puerto Rican Writers in the United States; Puerto Rican writers in Puerto Rico: A Separation beyond Language”-Nicholasa Mohr (packet)	
Monday, February 26	- <i>Latin Deli</i> —Judith Ortiz Cofer--Selections	- (10) Cultural presentation:_____
Wednesday, February 28	- <i>Latin Deli</i> —Judith Ortiz Cofer--Selections	
Friday, March 2 (Thursday March 1 st is withdrawal deadline)	Read: -“To Understand <i>El Azul</i> ”—Judith Ortiz Cofer (packet) -“Monologue of the Spanish Gentleman”-Judith Ortiz Cofer (packet) “The Myth of the Latin Woman: <i>I Just Met a Girl Named María</i> ,” (From <i>Latin Deli</i>)	
Monday, March 5	-“The Puerto Rican Dummy and the Merciful Son”-Martín Espada (packet)	- (11) Cultural presentation:
Wednesday, March 7	Read: - <i>Down These Mean Streets</i> -Piri Thomas (packet)	- (12) Cultural presentation
Friday, March 9	Read: - <i>When I Was Puerto Rican</i> -Esmerelda Santiago (packet) - <i>Silent Dancing</i> – Judith Ortiz Cofer (packet)	
March 12-16	Spring Break	No class
Monday, March 19		QUIZ OVER PUERTO RICAN UNIT
Wednesday, March 21		Watch <i>Cuban Roots</i> during class (60 minutes) - (13) Cultural presentation: Cuban Immigration / Castro / Guevara
Friday,	Read:	- (14) Cultural presentation

March 23	-“Fresh Fruit”-Marisella Veiga (packet)	
Monday, March 26	Read: - <i>Dreaming in Cuban</i> pp. 1-69	- (15) Cultural presentation: _____
Wednesday, March 28	Read: - <i>Dreaming in Cuban</i> pp. 69-182	
Friday, March 30	Read: - <i>Dreaming in Cuban</i> finish (pp. 182-245). -Interview with García that follows the novel.	- (16) Cultural presentation
Monday, April 2	-excerpts from <i>Before Night Falls</i>	- (17) Cultural presentation:
Wednesday, April 4		MIDTERM PAPERS DUE TODAY
Friday, April 6	- “We came all the way from Cuba so you could dress like this?” – Achy Abejas (packet)	- (18) Cultural presentation: _____
Monday, April 9		QUIZ OVER CUBAN UNIT
Wednesday, April 11	Read: - <i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> pp. 1-62	- (19) Cultural presentation: History of US intervention in Dominican Republic and Trujillo Dictatorship
Friday, April 13	Read: - <i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> pp. 62-117	-(20) Cultural presentation:
Monday, April 16	Read: - <i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> pp. 118-170	- (21) Cultural presentation:
Wednesday, April 18	Read: - <i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> pp. 171-226	
Friday, April 20	Read: - <i>In the Time of the Butterflies</i> pp. 227-325	- (22) Cultural presentation: The Dominican Republic after Trujillo and Dominican immigration to the US
Monday, April 23	Read: -“Chasing the Butterflies”-Julia Álvarez (packet)	Watch <i>My American Girls</i> during class?
Wednesday, April 25		Discuss <i>My American Girls</i> - (23)
Friday, April 27	-“Negocios” by Juno Díaz	- (24) Cultural presentation:
Monday, April 30		Review of the class; Synthesis FINAL PAPERS DUE TODAY
Final Exam	Exam:	