English 4336, Mexican American Literature  
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Office: A021a; Telephone: 486-6147  
Office Hours: MWF 12:00pm-1:00pm; TR 12:15-2:15pm; also, by appointment if necessary, with 24hr. notice

CLASS POLICIES

Required Texts

Title: *Luis Valdez, Early Works*  
Author/editor: Luis Valdez  
Publishing information: Houston: Arte Público Press  
ISBN: 978-1-55885-003-3  
Copyright: 1990

Title: *Zoot Suit and Other Plays*  
Author/editor: Luis Valdez  
Publishing information: Houston: Arte Público Press  
ISBN: 978-1-55885-048-4  
Copyright: 1992

Title: *...y no se tragó la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*  
Author/editor: Tomás Rivera  
Publishing information: Houston: Arte Público Press  

Title: *The House on Mango Street*  
Author/editor: Sandra Cisneros  
Copyright: 1984

Title: *Bless Me, Ultima*  
Author/editor: Rudolfo Anaya  
ISBN: 0-446-60025-3  
Copyright: 1994

Title: *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, 3rd edition  
Author/editor: Gloria Anzaldúa  
Publishing information: San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books  
ISBN: 978-1-87996-074-9  
Copyright: 2007

Please be aware that the ASU Bookstore returns unused copies of these texts to their suppliers relatively soon after the beginning of the semester, so make sure you purchase them all before that time. Each student is required to bring his/her own copy of each text to class during the assigned period, and you are strongly urged to buy the listed edition. In the case of possible open-book exams, students with the wrong edition may find themselves at a disadvantage in finding listed passages. Also, you must complete the assigned reading prior to the time we cover it in class.

Course Description

ENG4336 is a detailed survey of Mexican American literature. Because I believe that our understanding of any literature deepens significantly when we examine it within its historical and cultural contexts, the course will also include background material on the many social and cultural changes taking place during the period under study. This material will be covered in lectures, so try not to miss too many sessions or you will lose the thread of our conversation.
Requirements and Grading
The course work will include a midterm examination, unannounced reading quizzes, an annotated bibliography, an 8-10-page research paper, and a final examination. In the case of late written assignments, five points will be deducted from the grade for each day late, including weekends and holidays. To be considered for a passing grade, each student must complete and turn in all assignments. Class sessions will include lectures, class discussions, group work, and possibly some quizzes or other written assignments. The final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Midterm Examination-----------------------25%
- Final examination----------------------------25%
- Annotated bibliography---------------------15%
- Research Paper-------------------------------25%
- Class participation/quizzes-----------------10%

Absence Policy
Each student is allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. For each subsequent unexcused absence, 3 points will be deducted from your final semester grade. All absences will be charged against this allotment unless proper written documentation indicating the nature of the absence is presented; in any case, I reserve the right to determine whether the absence will be excused. Further, you are responsible for keeping up with the syllabus during any absence. You are also expected to be in the classroom and prepared for the day's work at the start of class. If you arrive after the assigned class-time on any regular basis, I will bring the matter to your attention. At that point, any further late arrivals will each be counted as an absence. Finally, a total of seven or more absences will constitute grounds for failing the course.

Academic Honesty
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is available on the web at http://www.angelo.edu/forms/pdf/honorcode5.pdf. At minimum students who are determined to have violated this policy will receive a failing grade on the assignment, and may also receive a failing grade in the course.

Students with Disabilities
Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Absences for Observance of Religious Holy Day
Students who intend to be absent from class to observe a religious holy day (as defined in ASU OP 10.19) must inform the instructor in writing prior to the absence and make up any scheduled assignments within an appropriate timeframe determined by the professor. While the absence will not be penalized, failure to complete the make-up assignment satisfactorily and within the required timeframe will result in penalties consistent with other absences and assignments.
Classroom Decorum
In order to succeed in the course, each student must be completely prepared with all assigned reading and must undertake an active, responsible role in all classroom activities. The 10% for class participation is not awarded simply for attendance; each student must earn it by contributing to the exchange of ideas upon which every successful course depends. Please do not come to class unprepared; if you do, I reserve the right to ask you to leave and to charge you with an absence. Any student who falls asleep will be awakened and asked to leave the class. If these actions would embarrass you, please come to class prepared and alert. Also, eating, drinking, talking disruptively, habitually forgetting the textbooks, and doing coursework for other classes are prohibited. Following University tobacco-use policy, no tobacco products of any kind, including chew or dip, are to be used in the classroom. Finally, please turn off all electronic communications devices—cell phones, smart phones, etc.—and place them out of sight. If I see one out during class, I will ask you to put it away. The next time I will ask you to leave class and charge you with an absence.
Syllabus

T 8/28  Class introduction
Video: “Quest for a Homeland,” from Chicano!

Th 8/30  Reading: John R. Chavez, “Aztlan, Cibola, and Frontier New Spain,” from
Aztlan: Essays on the Chicano Homeland, handout

T 9/4  Research Project assigned
Introduction to Chicano Literature, handout from Chicano Literature, 1-49

Th 9/6  “Exploration and Colonization”: Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, from The
Account; Fray Marcos de Niza, from Discovery of the Seven Cities of Cibola; Fray
Francisco de Escobar, from The Account, handout

T 9/11  “Testimonios (Memoirs) of Colonial Life”: Jose Francisco Palomares,
Testimony . . .;” Brigida Briones, “A Glimpse of Domestic Life in 1827;” Maria
de las Angustias de la Guerra de Ord, from Occurences in Hispanic California;”
Platón Vallejo, “Letter to William Heath Davis;” Jose Policarpo Rodriguez, from
“The Old Guide . . .,” handout

Th 9/13  “Literature of the Early Mexican-American Resistance: Testimonios and
Editoriales”: Juan Nepomuceno Seguín, from “Personal Memoirs of John N.
Seguin;” selected editorials from Francisco P. Ramirez and Pablo de la Guerra;
Juan Nepomucena Cortina, Proclamation; Miguel Antonio Otero, Jr., excerpt
from The Real Billy the Kid; Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton, excerpt from The
Squatter and the Don, handout


Th 9/20  film, The Longoria Affair, by John J. Valadez

T 9/25  Tomás Rivera, . . . y no se tragó la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Devour Him:
“The Lost Year” up to “A Silvery Night,” 83-107

Th 9/27  Tomás Rivera, . . . y no se tragó la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Devour Him:
“And the Earth Did Not Devour Him” thru “The Night Before Christmas,” 108-52

T 10/2  Video: “The Struggle in the Fields,” from Chicano!

Th 10/4  “Los Actos”: selections from Luis Valdez, Early Works
“Notes on Chicano Theater,” 6-10; “The Actos,” 11-13; “Las Dos Caras del

T 10/9  “No saco nada de la escuela,” 66-90; also, “The Militants,” 91-4; “Vietnam
Campesino,” 98-120; “Soldado Razo,” 121-33
Th 10/11   Library Research day

T 10/16   **Midterm exam**

Th 10/18   **“El Mito”: The Myth of Aztlan**
Reading: Luis Leal, “In Search of Aztlan; and “The Archaic, Historical, and Mythicized Dimensions of Aztlan,” from *Aztlán: Essays on the Chicano Homeland*, handout


Th 10/25   *Zoot Suit*, “Introduction,” 13-16, and Act One, 25-64

T 10/30   *Zoot Suit* continued, Act Two, 65-94

Th 11/1   Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima*, Chaps. 1-10

T 11/6   Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima*, Chaps. 11-15

Th 11/8   Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima*, Chaps. 16-22

T 11/13   Gary Soto, poetry selections, handout; Lorna Dee Cervantes, poetry selections, handout


T 11/20   Gloria Anzaldúa, “Un Agitado Viento/Ehecatl, the Wind,” 121-35 (from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*); “La Pérdida,” 137-160 (from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*)

Th 11/22   **Thanksgiving Break**

T 11/27   **Annotated secondary bibliography due**
Alberto Ríos, poetry selections, handout; additional poetry selections, handout

Th 11/29   Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*, 3-57

T 12/4   Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*, 58-110

Th 12/6   Last Day of Class
**Research paper due**
Sandra Cisneros, poetry selections, handout

**Final examination**: Thursday, December 13, 10:30am-12:30pm