

English 4336, Mexican American Literature

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Office Hours: MWF 2:00pm-3:00pm; TR 10:00am-11:00am and 1:00-2:00pm; also, by appointment, if necessary, with 24hr. advance 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: *The House on Mango Street*

Author/editor: Sandra Cisneros

Publishing information: NY: Vintage Books

ISBN: 978-0-67973-477-2

Copyright: 1984

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: *Bless Me, Ultima*

Author/editor: Rudolfo Anaya

Publishing information: NY: Warner Books

ISBN: 0-446-60025-3

Copyright: 1994

Title: . . . *y no se tragó la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*

Author/editor: Tomás Rivera

Publishing information: Houston: Arte Público Press

ISBN: 978-1-55885-083-5 (Bilingual Edition)

Copyright: 1995

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 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.

Absence Policy

Each student is allowed three 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 nine or more absences will constitute grounds for failing the course.*

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%

Classroom Decorum:

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.

ASU COVID-19 Link

For current updates regarding COVID-19, follow this link: <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>

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 and be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Students with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, 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.

Title IX at Angelo State University

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Miller, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022

michelle.miller@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you wish to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center* at 325-942-2173 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

*Updates made to the policies on Academic Honesty, Disability Accommodations, Religious Holy Days, and Title IX will be made available at the following link:

<https://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/>

Syllabus

W 1/19	Class introduction
F 1/21	Video: "Quest for a Homeland," from <i>Chicano!</i>
M 1/24	Introduction to Chicano Literature, handout from <i>Chicano Literature</i> , 1-49
W 1/26	Research Project assigned Workshop on ASU library research resources and MLA format
F 1/28	Reading: John R. Chavez, "Aztlán, Cibola, and Frontier New Spain," from <i>Aztlán: Essays on the Chicano Homeland</i> , handout
M 1/31	"Exploration and Colonization": Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, from <i>The Account</i> ; Fray Marcos de Niza, from <i>Discovery of the Seven Cities of Cibola</i> ; Fray Francisco de Escobar, from <i>The Account</i> , handout
W 2/2	"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 "Occurrences in Hispanic California;" Platón Vallejo, "Letter to William Heath Davis;" Jose Policarpo Rodriguez, from "The Old Guide . . .," handout
F 2/4	"Literature of the Early Mexican-American Resistance: Testimonios and Editoriales": Juan Nepomuceno Seguin, from "Personal Memoirs of John N. Seguin;" selected editorials from Francisco P. Ramirez and Pablo de la Guerra; Juan Nepomucena Cortina, <i>Proclamation</i> ; Miguel Antonio Otero, Jr., excerpt from <i>The Real Billy the Kid</i> ; María Amparo Ruiz de Burton, excerpt from <i>The Squatter and the Don</i> , handout
M 2/7	"El Corrido": Joaquin Murrieta, "Ballade de Gregorio Cortez," handout
W 2/9	film, <i>The Longoria Affair</i> , by John J. Valadez
F 2/11	continue film
M 2/14	Tomás Rivera, . . . y no se tragó la tierra/ <i>And the Earth Did Not Devour Him</i> : "The Lost Year" up to "A Silvery Night"
W 2/16	Tomás Rivera, . . . y no se tragó la tierra/ <i>And the Earth Did Not Devour Him</i> : "And the Earth Did Not Devour Him" through "The Night Before Christmas"
F 2/18	Tomás Rivera, . . . y no se tragó la tierra/ <i>And the Earth Did Not Devour Him</i> : "The Portrait" through "Under the House"

- M 2/21 Video: "The Struggle in the Fields," from *Chicano!*
- W 2/23 "**Los Actos**": selections from *Luis Valdez, Early Works*
"Las Dos Caras del Patroncito," 17-27; also, "Quinta Temporada," 28-39
- F 2/25 "Los Vendidos," 40-52; also, "The Militants," 91-4
- M 2/28 "No saco nada de la escuela," 66-90; also, "Huelgistas," 95-7
- W 3/2 "Vietnam Campesino," 98-120; also, "Soldado Razo," 121-33
- F 3/4 "**El Mito**": The Myth of Aztlan
Reading: Luis Leal, "In Search of Aztlán; and "The Archaic, Historical, and Mythicized Dimensions of Aztlán," from *Aztlán: Essays on the Chicano Homeland*, handout
- M 3/7 Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, "Yo Soy Joaquín" / "I am Joaquín," handout
- W 3/9 Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales, "Yo Soy Joaquín" / "I am Joaquín" continued
- F 3/11 **Midterm exam**
- M 3/14 thru F 3/18 **Spring Break**
- M 3/21 *Zoot Suit*, "Introduction" and Act One, 7-64
- W 3/23 *Zoot Suit* continued, Act Two, 65-94
- F 3/25 continue *Zoot Suit*
- M 3/28 Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima*, Chaps. 1-10
- W 3/30 Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima*, Chaps. 11-15
- F 4/1 Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima*, Chaps. 16-22
- M 4/4 Gary Soto, poetry selections, handout
- W 4/7 Lorna Dee Cervantes, poetry selections, handout
- F 4/9 Alberto Ríos, poetry selections, handout
- M 4/12 additional poetry selections, handout

- W 4/14 Gloria Anzaldúa, from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*: "El Otro Mexico/The Homeland, Aztlán," 23-35; also, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue," 76-86
- F 4/16 Gloria Anzaldúa, from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*: "La Conciencia de la Mestiza"/ "Towards a New Consciousness," 99-120
- M 4/19 **Annotated secondary bibliography due**
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Un Agitado Viento/Ehecatl, the Wind*, 121-35 (from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*)
- W 4/21 Gloria Anzaldúa, *La Pérdida*, 137-160 (from *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*)
- F 4/23 Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*, 3-57
- M 4/26 Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*, 58-110
- W 4/28 Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*, **Page numbers here**
- F 4/30 Sandra Cisneros, poetry selections, handout
- M 5/2 film adaptation of Tomás Rivera's . . . *y no se tragó la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*
- W 5/4 film adaptation of Tomás Rivera's . . . *y no se tragó la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*
- F 5/6 Last Day of Class
Research paper due

Final examination: Wednesday, May 11, 10:30am-12:30pm