

Literature of the Americas

Course Details

Clarissa Castaneda, PhD Office

Hours

E-mail

Required Texts

Sherman Alexie, *Reservation Blues*
ISBN: 9780802141903

Isabelle Allende, *Eva Luna*
ISBN: 9781501117084

Rudolpho Anaya, *Bless Me Ultima*
ISBN: 9780446675369

Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek*
ISBN: 9780679738565

Laura Esquivel, *Like Water for Chocolate*
ISBN: 9780385420174

Tomson Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen*
ISBN: 9780806139333

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
ISBN: 9780060883287

Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*
ISBN: 9781400033423

*Additional readings will be provided.

Note on required texts: Bring the assigned text to every class meeting. If you are purchasing a text from amazon or another on-line retailer, **make sure that you are ordering the correct edition of the book. See the ISBN numbers.** The University Bookstore has copies of the books in stock for purchase. And, whenever possible, these texts are available at the library on-reserve.

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Course Description

Per department standards.

Class Policies

Attendance: Your success in this course depends on regular attendance and *active participation*. Please understand that Literature of the Americas is not a lecture class where you can get notes for classes you have missed or easily make up coursework. This is an English Literature course that requires your presence and constructive participation in class discussions, and many of the in-class activities cannot be made up. *Attendance will be taken daily, and unexcused absences and late arrivals may ultimately affect your ability to pass the course. Students are permitted to miss two classes, but any missed work or participation will negatively impact the student's grade. Three unexcused late arrivals are equal to one unexcused absence class. Any absence beyond two will negatively impact the student's final grade for the course; the instructor may automatically reduce your grade for the course by 1/3 of a grade for each unexcused absence beyond the two permitted absences.*

Class Etiquette and Decorum

It is expected that you will participate appropriately and as adults during class discussions. We are a diverse academic community representing different faiths, lifestyles, ethnicities, sexualities, and cultures. We will be discussing controversial issues in class—issues that typically elicit strong opinions, so it is especially important that you show tolerance and respect for your fellow classmates at all times. I am available during my office hours and by appointment to discuss any issue that students may have in regard to class discussions and/or assignments. This classroom is a collective space which promotes equality, knowledge building, critical thinking, and discovery.

Electronic Devices

Smart/cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom. You may not text, take phone calls, or otherwise engage with your phone during class time. Your phone must be silenced and put away before class begins. If you have an emergency, then leave the room to address your problem elsewhere.

Smart Tablets and Laptops: This is a tablet/laptop free classroom. Students are not permitted to use these electronic devices in class.

Late Work

Absence from class does not extend the due date of an assignment. All assignments (e.g., reader responses, worksheets, short writing assignments) are due *before* class meets. You may turn in a general homework assignment up to three days after the due date, but your assignment will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day after the due date and time. For example, if you turn in an assignment at 5 pm on Tuesday, after class has already met, then your final grade on the assignment will be marked down 1/3 of a grade. I do not accept assignments after the 3-day period for late submission.

See my policy for late essays in the section below.

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Required Writing Assignments

1. **Three 2-page explication papers:** focus on close reading of language in a single passage, 2 pages (double-spaced, approx. 600-words). These will provide basis for 5-page papers (15% total).
2. **Three 5-page revision/development papers:** focus on interpretation of language, argumentation, expansion and development of ideas (40% total).
3. **Academic writing journal:** Throughout the course, students will be given readings and questions to explore during in-class writing exercises. Some readings and questions will explore academic writing conventions, and some will explore methods for the critical analysis of literature. Students will peer review one another's work and submit a revised collection of their journal entries as their final project for the course (20% total).

Essay Requirements:

The essays should primarily focus on close readings of select passages from the text that critically engage with theories and concepts discussed in class. A successful close reading also explores how an excerpt relates to text-at-large themes, characters, and symbols. All close readings within an essay's body paragraphs must collectively support an argumentative thesis. Avoid summary and make a distinct claim in your thesis. Refer to the grading rubric for more information on what elements comprise an "A" paper. Each segment of the course will focus on a different aspect of academic writing. There will be lessons on academic writing expectations and strategies in class throughout the semester.

Due dates and times: The essay due dates for this course are detailed in the syllabus. All essays are due before class meets.

I will only accept essays in Microsoft Word file format. You may turn in the essay up to three days after the due date, but it will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day after the due date and time. For example, if you turn in an assignment at 10 pm on the due date, after class has met, then your final grade on the essay will be marked down 1/3 of a grade. I do not accept essays after the 3-day period for late submission.

Draft Reviews: I will review essay outlines and drafts that are submitted at least one week before the due date during my office hours. The student must be present in order to receive feed-back. Draft review appointments may be limited to 20 minutes per student. I do not review emailed papers, line-edit, or pre-grade papers. There will be time set-aside during class for peer review, lessons on academic writing, and lectures on introductory strategies for critical literary analysis.

Rewrites: I DO NOT allow rewrites of essays.

Essay Required Formatting: The essays must adhere to the current MLA formatting guidelines. This includes proper document formatting (e.g., one-inch margins, Times New Roman 12-pt. font, and double-spacing) and proper citation of sources. Visit Purdue OWL (online) for more information on MLA guidelines. The essays must include a "Works Cited" page.

Course website and Email

Check the course blackboard page daily for important information regarding assignments, presentations, class announcements, and access to supplementary readings. This is a "green" course and most supplementary material will be made available digitally. In-class handouts and hard-copy submissions will be minimal. Be sure to check your e-mail account daily!

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Email and Office Hours

When emailing the instructor, keep in mind that it *may* take up to 48 hours to receive a reply. Students who have a standing work or class conflict with office hours can email to schedule an appointment. Office Hours are “first-come, first-serve.”

Plagiarism and Academic Standards

Insert university language on plagiarism here.

Quizzes

Quizzes on assigned readings may be given at the start of class without advance notice. Late students will not be given additional time on a quiz, nor will they have the opportunity to make up a missed quiz. Generally, there is at least one quiz for each text assigned.

Department Learning Outcomes

Insert details here.

Need for Accommodation

Insert details here.

Title IX

Insert details here.

Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, and Retaliation

Insert details here.

Course Requirements

Students will regularly attend class; engage in meaningful verbal critical discourse; write three 2-page explication essays and three 5-page revision essays; produce one in-class writing journal; and one final project which revises and expands on the in-class writing journal. **At-home writing assignments and readings are to be completed before class. Active participation in class discussions is required.**

Requirements

Participation, Attendance, Quizzes, HW	20%
Three 2-page Explication Essays	15%
Three 5-page Revision Essays	45%
<u>Final Writing Project</u>	<u>20%</u>
TOTAL	100%

*Participation grades are determined from the following: participation in class through attendance and preparation, responding to questions, engagement in group discussions, and visits to office hours.

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Course Schedule
Subject to Change *with Notice*

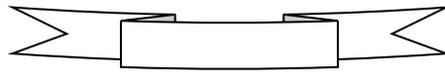
Week 1, Modernismo in Latin America (Reading Focus) and Developing a Critical Voice (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, January 15th

In-Class: Introductions
Review Course Syllabus

❖ Thursday, January 17th

Reading due (Posted Electronically): Select poems and essays



Week 2, Modernismo in Latin America (Reading Focus) and Developing a Critical Voice (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, January 22nd

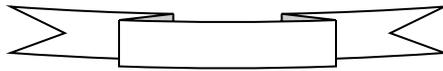
Reading Due (Posted Electronically): Select poems and short stories

❖ Thursday, January 24th

Reading Due (Posted Electronically): Resource on writing about poetry

Select poems and short stories

Homework TBD



Week 3, Modernismo in Latin America (Reading Focus) and Using Critical Literary Terms (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, January 29th

Reading Due (Posted Electronically): Resource on writing about Literature

Select poems and short stories

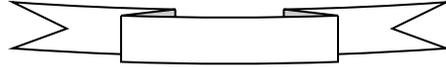
Writing assignment due: First Two-Page Explication Paper due: You will select one poem assigned for reading in Weeks 1-3, and write a two-page explication paper. Your essay is due, in Word document format, before class. You **MUST** select a poem which was not extensively discussed in class, or covered in lecture.

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❖ Thursday, January 31st

Reading due: Resource on editing academic essay drafts
Select essays and short stories, handout provided

Homework TBD



Week 4. Experimental Forms in Latin America and the United States from the 1920's through 1950's (Reading Focus) and Developing a Rhetorically Sound Argument (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, February 5th

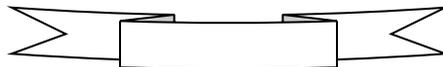
Reading Due (Posted Electronically):
Resource on semiotics
Selected essays, poems, and short stories

Writing assignments due: Draft of 5-page poetry paper due. And, you must bring a hard copy to class for peer review.

❖ Thursday, February 7th

Reading Due (Posted Electronically):
Resource on rhetoric and writing
Selected essays, poems, and short stories

Homework TBD



Week 5. Experimental Forms in Latin America and the United States from the 1920's through 1950's (Reading Focus) and Developing a Rhetorically Sound Argument (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, February 12th

Reading Due (Posted Electronically): Selected essays, poems, and short stories

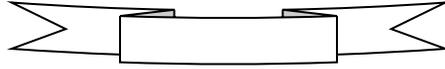
Writing assignment due: FINAL DRAFT of your first 5-page essay is due (in Word document format) before class.

❖ Thursday, February 14th

Reading Due (Posted Electronically): Selected essays, poems, and short stories
Resource on syntax

Homework TBD

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Week 6, Magical Realism in Latin America (Reading Focus) and Engaging with Textual Evidence (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, February 19th

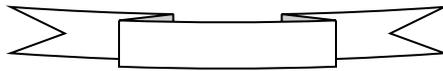
Reading Due: Gabriel Garcia Marquez *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, pages 1-201

Writing assignment due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise.

❖ Thursday, February 21st

Reading Due: Gabriel Garcia Marquez *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, pages 202-417

Writing assignment due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise.



Week 7, Magical Realism in Latin America (Reading Focus) and Engaging with Textual Evidence (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, February 26th

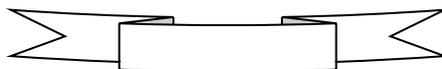
Reading Due: Laura Esquivel *Like Water for Chocolate*, pages 1-140

Writing assignment due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise.

❖ Thursday, February 28th

Reading Due: Laura Esquivel *Like Water for Chocolate*, pages 141-246

Writing assignment due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise.

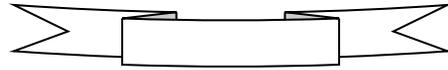


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Week 8, Spring Break

- ❖ Tuesday, March 5th
No Class, Spring Break

- ❖ Thursday, March 7th
No Class, Spring Break



Week 9, Magical Realism in Latin America (Reading Focus) and Developing the Introduction (Writing Focus)

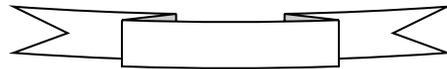
- ❖ Tuesday, March 12th
Reading Due: Isabel Allende *Eva Luna*, pages 1-194

Writing assignment due: Second 2-Page Explication Paper due: You will select either *One Hundred Years of Solitude* or *Like Water for Chocolate* and write a two-page explication paper. Your essay is due, in Word document format, before class.

- ❖ Thursday, March 14th
Reading Due: Isabel Allende *Eva Luna*, pages 194-349

Resource on sentence-level writing strategies.

Writing assignment due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise.



Week 10, Magical Realism in Chicana America (Reading Focus) and Developing the Introduction (Writing Focus)

- ❖ Tuesday, March 19th

Reading Due: Rudolfo Anaya *Bless Me, Ultima*, pages 1-184

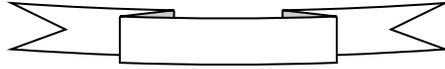
Writing assignments due: Draft of 5-page paper on *One Hundred Years* or *Like Water* due. And, you must bring a hard copy to class for peer review.

- ❖ Thursday, March 21st

Reading Due: Rudolfo Anaya *Bless Me, Ultima*, pages 185-285

Writing assignments due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise.

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Week 11, Magical Realism in Chicana America (Reading Focus) and Developing the Introduction (Writing Focus)

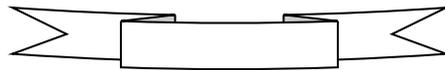
❖ Tuesday, March 26th

Reading Due: Sandra Cisneros *Woman Hollering Creek*, pages TBD

Writing assignment due: FINAL DRAFT of your second 5-page essay is due (in Word document format) before class.

❖ Thursday, March 28th

Reading Due: Sandra Cisneros *Woman Hollering Creek*, pages TBD



Week 12, The Magical, The Surreal, and The Trickster in Native America (Reading Focus) and Developing the Body Paragraph (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, April 2nd

Reading Due: Sherman Alexie *Reservation Blues*, Pages 1-195

Writing assignment due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise

❖ Thursday, April 4th

Reading Due: Sherman Alexie *Reservation Blues*, Pages 196-306

Writing assignment due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise



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Week 13, The Magical, The Surreal, and The Trickster in Native America (Reading Focus) and Developing the Conclusion (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, April 9th

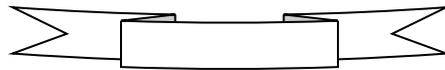
Reading Due: Tomson Highway *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, Pages 1-181

Writing assignment due: Third 2-Page Explication Paper due: You will select either *Bless Me, Ultima*; *Woman Hollering Creek*; or *Reservation Blues* and write a two-page explication paper. Your essay is due, in Word document format, before class.

❖ Thursday, April 11th

Reading Due: Tomson Highway *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, Pages 182-306

Writing assignment due: Closely read one section from the text. Develop 3 discussion questions which build on your close-reading exercise



Week 14, Magical Truisms in African American Literature (Writing Focus)

❖ Tuesday, April 16th

Reading Due: Toni Morrison *Song of Solomon*, pages 1-215

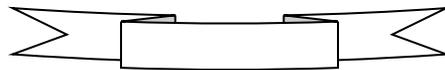
Writing assignments due: Draft of 5-page paper on *Bless Me, Ultima*; *Woman Hollering Creek*; or *Reservation Blues* due. And, you must bring a hard copy to class for peer review.

❖ Thursday, April 18th

Class cancelled; trading for a self-selected student outing related to the final project

Reading Due: Toni Morrison *Song of Solomon*, pages 216-337

Homework TBD



Week 15, Finals Week

❖ Tuesday, April 23rd at 5:00 pm

FINAL DRAFT of 5-page paper on *Bless Me, Ultima*; *Woman Hollering Creek*; or *Reservation Blues* due.

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- ❖ Friday, April 26th at 5:00 pm
Final Project (Revised and Expanded Writing Journal Collection) due.

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