

University of North Carolina Wilmington
US Latino Literature and Culture-Fall 2010

Course Information

Instructor: Dr. Amrita Das
Office: Leutze Hall 286
Office Hours: TR 2-3pm or by appointment
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Course: SPN 323
Time: TR 9:30-10:45
Location: Leutze 131

Pre-requisite: SPN 203 and SPN 305

Course Description: SPN 323 Introduction to U.S. Latino Literature and Culture examines the history and culture of the Latino population of the United States from the time of the Spanish explorations to the present through literary texts and films. The course will look at important historical events and policies, in regards to land ownership, sovereignty, language, education, and cultural practices that have affected the lives of the Latinos as an ethnic group in the United States. The course will also allow students to interact with Latinos of the local area to understand some of the themes discussed in the course.

Course Objectives:

1. The students will be able to critically discuss and analyze the issues arising from cultural contact like bilingualism, racism, cultural assimilation, and identity construction among others.
2. The students will be able to identify literary genres, literary and cultural movements, and identify and appreciate its the social and historical context.
3. The students will be able to appreciate the advantages and disadvantages of cultural differences that exists among the Latino communities and the US mainstream society.

Required:**Texts**

1. Kanellos, Nicolás. ed. En otra voz: antología de la literatura hispana de los Estados Unidos. Arte Público Press. 2002.
2. Fernández, Roberto G. Raining Backwards. Arte Público Press. 1997.
3. Other selections. On [BlackBoard](#) (please download or print all selections in advance to avoid technical issues).
4. Service Project materials.

Access to:

1. BlackBoard <<http://ncvista.blackboard.com/>>
2. UNCW Library
3. Active UNCW email account.

Class Policies

NOTE: This syllabus will be reviewed on the first day of class. If a student is not present on the first day of class, the student must read the syllabus first, and then contact me for questions and clarification.

Language: Spanish will be the language of instruction and communication. All assignments will be in Spanish. English or Spanglish will only be used in its proper context.

Class Behavior: No food is allowed during class. All cell phones and other electronic gadgets must remain off at all times. Any use of the above-mentioned objects and hence disruption of class would lead to the student's dismissal from class and earn 0 (zero) participation points for the class.

Attendance: Attendance is compulsory. However in case of emergency a student may be absent from 2 (two) classes. No participation grade will be awarded for that day. Any absence after the second will result in deduction of 5% points from the final grade. Tardiness will not be tolerated and being late to class will affect the participation grade.

Make-up Exam: There is NO make-up for class quizzes or presentations. However for missed exams, a student may reschedule only if the absence is validated with documentation and permitted by the instructor.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class prepared for discussions based on the assigned readings. Active participation in class discussions must reflect analytical understanding of the course objectives applied to the text. If you do not attempt to answer or ask questions you will not be considered active.

Assignment Deadlines: No late assignment will be accepted. The assignment must be turned in class on the day assigned only. **No electronic assignment** will be accepted. However in case of an emergency, a student must provide valid documentation and seek instructor's permission. Be organized and follow all deadlines listed under **Important Dates** and also in the detailed calendar for this course.

Electronic resources: Detailed calendar and other material: other readings and some primary texts will be made available through BlackBoard. Handouts sent through emails or on BlackBoard must be printed for class.

Office Hours: Students may seek assistance during office hours. Walk-ins are welcome and no appointment is necessary. If a student has a scheduling conflict, the student may ask for an appointment after class, or via email. A student may also use an email for general queries, but may not expect immediate response.

Electronic correspondence: Emails must be considered as a formal letter written to an instructor. Please use commonly accepted salutations, sentence phrasing, word choice, and sign offs, in either language. If in doubt contact the Learning Center. I will not respond to any email that does not do the above. Further more if information is already available on the syllabus or blackboard, I will not respond to those queries. Do not expect immediate response to your emails.

Academic Honor Code: All work must be the student's own work. Plagiarizing, on-line translators, use of high-fluency Spanish speakers or any other source other than permitted, is prohibited. Any student found violating this UNIVERSITY POLICY may face up to expulsion from UNCW. Please read the following document for the details about UNCW's honor code <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/doso/documents/Code.Of.Student.Life.pdf>

Disability Services: Students with disabilities will be accommodated with prior notification to the instructor. Please contact UNCW's Disability services <http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/disability/> for further information.

Safety on campus: UNCW practices a zero-tolerance policy for violence and harassment of any kind. For emergencies contact UNCW CARE at 962-2273, Campus Police at 962-222, or Wilmington Police at 911. For University or community resources visit <http://uncw.edu/wrc/crisis.htm>.

Evaluation

A 94-100	A- 90-93	B+ 87-89	B 84-86	B- 80-83	C+ 77-79
C 74-76	C- 70-73	D+ 67-69	D 64-66	D- 60-63	F 0-59

Evaluation components: The student is responsible to check with the instructor for his progress by coming to the office and not through email.

Participation and Preparation 15%: A student must participate in class discussions by asking questions, attempting to answer questions, and contributing thoughts about the issue in discussion; all of which reflect careful preparation of the text and issues in questions.

Quiz 10%: All readings assigned for class preparation may be tested through announced short quizzes at the beginning of a class, based on information in the text.

Service Project 20%: Students will participate in the community outreach project created specifically for them called the "Bilingual Reading Program," which runs over 12 weeks in fall 2010 (September 5th to September 24th). The students will read 3 bilingual stories to children at the participating locations. The bilingual books will be made

available at the Pomegranate Books, 4418 Park Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28403 (910-452-1107). Students may work in groups of 2, but need to be responsible for the success of their own project. A final project portfolio is due at the end of the project. Details of the project are available in the document "Proyecto_instrucciones" on BlackBoard, and will be reviewed on the first of class.

Class Presentation 15%: An in-class 5-minute presentation on a cultural topic assigned by the instructor. The presentation must reflect comprehensive understanding of the basic facts of the topic, with important dates and names whenever applicable. A student must understand that "Wikipedia," however convenient is NOT an academic source.

Exams 40%: Two exams: Mid Term and Final Short answers, identification, and essay type questions on the issues and texts reviewed in class.

Extra Credit: You may receive up to 3% points by volunteering in 3 approved volunteering events. Volunteering opportunity will be announced in class. The Extra Credit reports, made available on BlackBoard, must be printed and are due by the dates listed under IMPORTANT DATES.

Important Dates (Detailed Calendar is available on BlackBoard)

August 19: Classes begin

August 25: Add and Drop

August 31: "Basics of Reading Workshop"

September 2: Report on "Basics of Reading Workshop" due

September 7: Selection of location/s, dates, and books for the Service Project due

September 14: Report on readings on bilingualism in the United States due

September 16: Extra Credit # 1 due

October 7: MID TERM EXAM

October 14: Extra Credit # 2 due

November 18: Extra Credit # 3 due

November 23: Service Project Portfolio due

November 30: Last day of Class

December 7: FINAL EXAM (8-11)

STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR AGREEMENT

I (student's name)_____ have read the SPN 323-1 Fall 2010 syllabus, and I understand the policies. Failing to follow the policies of this course will hinder my success in this course.

Signature

Date

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