

U.S./LATINO LITERATURE & CULTURE: LIFE WRITING

Course Code 31540 **Spanish 110C**, Sec. A, 4-unit Lecture; School of Humanities

Instructor: MORALES, A. Time, Place 3:30- 4:50p, SSPA1165

U.S./LATINO LITERATURE & CULTURE: LIFE WRITING

Course Code 61200 **Chc/Lat 134**, Sec. A, 4-unit Lecture; School of Social Sciences

Instructor: MORALES, A. Time, Place 3:30- 4:50p, SSPA1165

Requirements:

1. Attendance is mandatory. Habitual absence is justification for failing the class.
2. Your active class and group participation is a major requirement for this course.
3. Read required texts. In order to guarantee quality discussion students must read all assigned readings before coming to class.
4. Prepare notes and questions about poems, lectures, films and discussions for class and group discussion and assignments.
5. You will be divided into study groups.
6. Each study group will present their assigned book, film or story to the class and lead the discussion on the group's assigned text. For discussion, select topics current and relevant to you now and that might impact your life in the future.

In addition you will write a 3-4 page response paper offering your opinions and feelings about the ideas and or issues presented in the assigned text. You should consider the literary analysis and values handouts for your group discussion and paper that you will submit on the day of your group presentation.

A grade will be given for content and one for composition and then averaged for the final grade for the response paper. The response paper will be due on the day of the group presentation. The response paper must be organized and well written. Make sure to cite from the book and outside source(s) used to support your argument. Don't forget to include a work cited page. You will receive a grade for your presentation that will be averaged with your paper grade for the final grade of this assignment.

7. You will have the following options for the final paper:

First option: Write a scholarly research paper based on texts, ideas, films and speakers presented in the course.

Second Option: Based on one of the readings you can write autobiographical narrative focusing on your personal life's journey. Or, a 3-4 short essays focusing on a social issue that involved you or essays that focus important moments and places in your life. You can write about issues such as identity, race, family etc. that have directly impacted your life. The books you have read dealt with personal experiences yet they are artistic and political expressions. You can try your hand at writing a biographical essay about a person you know who has lived an exciting and exceptional life and who has impressed

and inspired you to reach for your dreams. You might consider doing an interview with this person.

Third Option: Research and write a literary journalism essay on one crucial aspect (economics, education, religion, health, hunger, violence, land, racism, politics etc.) that has been explored in one of the required readings. Your literary journalism piece must be factual yet read like a literary story. A literary journalistic essay employs facts that are external to your own life. The writer uses literary devices such as dialogue, setting, characterization and plot structure to tell a true story about a person, place, event, experience, or to write about an important idea, such as violence. A literary journalistic story is written from the third person, he/she, point of view. A literary journalistic essay is “the literature of fact” and requires serious research. (“How to Write a Literary Journalistic Essay” David Hood)

Fourth Option: Write a creative, speculative, short story where a character identifies a social issue that is detrimental to people and/or community and that demonstrates the struggles the character experiences in her/his attempts to resolve the issue. This kind of writing also involves some research. Think of the future.

9. All written assignments must be double-space and prepared on computer. Please use standard margins, 12 point font, number and staple pages. CONTENT and COMPOSITION will be considered equally. A grade will be assigned for content and one for composition and then averaged for the final grade. Use MLA research paper format and documentation style. Make sure you include a WORK CITED page at the end of your written papers.
10. Extra Credit- Student short life narrative readings will begin on Tuesday, October 17. At the start of class you will have an opportunity to share your life narrative writing and answer questions from your colleagues.
11. Occasional unannounced class written exercises will count toward attendance and participation.
12. No make-ups, no rewrites, no late papers, no incompletes.
13. The use of electronic devices such as laptops, cell phones, phone cameras, recorders, Ipods, I pads, headsets etc. are absolutely not allowed during class.
14. All dates, assignments, and readings listed on this syllabus are subject to change with notice

Final grade will be based on:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1. Attendance and Participation are mandatory. | (20) |
| 2. Class Oral Presentation + 3-4 page response paper | (30) |
| 3. Final Paper | (50) |

Required Texts

Use the literary analysis outline of narrative elements to identify and deconstruct an autobiography, short autobiographical statement, biography, personal essay, and a short story. Also consider Peter Hyland's breaking the canon values for understanding life writing texts. Highly recommended reading: *Reading Autobiography a Guide for Interpreting Life Narratives* by Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson, 2 edition.

Days of Obligation an Argument with my Mexican Father (1992) by Richard Rodriguez

Nobody's Son (1998) by Luis Alberto Urrea

Orange County Personal History (2008) by Gustavo Arellano

The Heavens Weep For Us and Other Stories (2009) by Thelma Reyna

The Other Latin@ (2011) by Blas Falcolner and Lorraine M. Lopez

Possible Films:

"The Brick People"

"The Bracero Program"

"What's Cooking?"

Study Plan:

SEPTEMBER

TH 28 Introduction: Syllabus, required texts, assignments, topics etc.

OCTOBER

T 3 *Days of Obligation an Argument with my Mexican Father* (1992) by Richard Rodriguez
Introduction, Chaps. 1, 2, 3

TH 5 *Days of Obligation an Argument with my Mexican Father* Chaps. 4, 5, 6, 7

T 10 *Days of Obligation an Argument with my Mexican Father* Chaps: 8, 9, 10

TH 12 Speaker Blanca Garcia Graduate Student Autobiographical Photo Essay and Narrative
Days of Obligation an Argument with my Mexican Father

T 17 **Student Presentations** **Student Life Narrative Readings Begin**

Nobody's Son (1998) by Luis Alberto Urrea Part One

TH 19 *Nobody's Son* Part Two

T 24 *Nobody's Son* Part Three

TH 26 **Student Presentations**

Orange County Personal History (2008) by Gustavo Arellano Pages 1-82

T 31 *Orange County Personal History* Pages 83-146

NOVEMBER

TH 2 **Student Presentations**

Orange County Personal History Pages 147- 21

T 7 Speaker Gustavo Arellano journalist, author, community activist *Orange County Personal History* Pages 211- 269

The Heavens Weep For Us and Other Stories (2009) by Thelma Reyna Pages 3-32

TH 9 *The Heavens Weep For Us and Other Stories* Pages 35-66

T 14 **Student Presentations**

The Heavens Weep For Us and Other Stories Pages 77-123

TH 16 Speaker author, publisher, City of Arcadia Poet Laureate editor Thelma Reyna
The Heavens Weep for Us and Other Stories Pages 127-166

T 21 NO CLASS TODAY

Start thinking about the final paper options. You can share with the class what option you selected or what options you are considering and why. Reading, Research and Writing Final Paper. See the film "What's Cooking" over the Holiday and compare your Thanksgiving dinner. Has the food changed throughout the years? Have you had new family additions who have added to the meal?

All of you please start reading *The Other Latin@* and select one author and write a one page response about their autobiographical statement. Please submit your response on Tuesday, November 28th.

TH 23 HOLIDAY *The Other Latin@* (2011) by Blas Falcolner & Lorraine M. Lopez Pages 1-38

T 28 “What’s Cooking?”

The Other Latin@ Pages 39- 83

TH 30 *The Other Latin@* Pages 85- 122

DECEMBER

T 5 **Student Presentations**

The Other Latin@ Pages 123- 154

TH 7 *The Other Latin@*

Final paper due in person on Tuesday, December 12th 4:00-6:00pm at SSPA1165

OFFICE HOURS: T Th 10:00-11:00am or by appointment SST 393, amorales@uci.edu

STUDY GROUPS

1) *Days of Obligation an Argument with my Mexican Father (1992)* by Richard Rodriguez T 10/17

ALLEN, STEPHANIE DENISSE

ALVAREZ MACEDO, ANTONIO

ANDINO, MIRIAM LISSETTE

BAJRAMOVIC, SARAH EMILY

CABRAL, TONANTZIN MEVELIA

CHAVEZ, LESLY PAOLA

CONTRERAS, DANIEL

CUELLAR MATEO, JESSICA

2) *Nobody's Son* (1998) by Luis Alberto Urrea TH 10/26

DELGADO, SELENA ELIZABETH

EBOJO, ROBERT DANIEL

ENRRIQUEZ-VILLALVA, WENDY KAREN

GUERRERO, MAYRA

GUTIERREZ, ZULMA JANETTE

HERNANDEZ, VICTORIA ANGELINA

JADWIN, PARKER SCOTT

JAIMES NORIEGA, MARIELA

3) *Orange County Personal History* (2008) by Gustavo Arellano TH 11/2

JIMENEZ, JENNIFER

LIMON, CLARISSA

LOPEZ, SHARON STEPHANIE

MARTIN DEL CAMPO, JENNIFER

MONROY, CELIA JAQUELINE

MONTES, DARIAN JOAQUIN

NAUDI, MOLLY MICHELE

PANTOJA, ALMA SUSANA

4) *The Heavens Weep For Us and Other Stories* by Thelma Reyna T 11/14

PEREZ, LETICIA

PIMENTEL, AGUSTINE VALENTINO

PINEDA, KATHERINE SUGEYLY

PINEDA BOJORQUEZ, ANTONIO EMANUEL

RESENDIZ-CRUZ, ANA MARIA

RINCON, ALMA

RIVERA, KARA

RODRIGUEZ, JOSE ANTONIO

5) *The Other Latin@* by Blas Falcolner and Lorraine M. Lopez T 12/5

RODRIGUEZ, LAKISHA ANAELI

SANCHEZ, EMMANUEL

SANCHEZ, HAZEL

SILVA HIDALGO, JORGE LUIS

SPECIALE, CHRISTIANA CAMILLE

SUN, YE DAM

TAN, KEVIN CHRISTOPHER

VENEGAS, BRIANA

ZELADA, NORMAN
