Instructor
Joseph Morales (email: joseph.morales@uci.edu; office hours: F 3-5 at HIB 192)

Course description
This course explores different moments in Latina/o literature’s representation of religion and spirituality. Of primary concern will be race-based definitions of religiosity, religion/spirituality as a form of decolonial thinking, and the question of a religious heritage. We will also consider issues relating to hemispheric networks and divergent histories of Christianity. Texts will include selections from the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, Chicana/Latina feminist thought, and the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project, among others.

Materials
Rudolfo A. Anaya, Bless Me, Ultima (1972)
Gloria Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza (1987)
María Amparo Ruiz de Burton, The Squatter and the Don (1885/1992)
Alex Espinoza, Still Water Saints: A Novel (2007)
Select critical texts at Langson Library Course Reserves

Requirements
(1) Attendance/Participation (15%): Please attend all course meetings, participate in discussion, and complete any supplementary assignments, such as contributions at EEE MessageBoard, in-class essays, etc.
   a. Note: there will be an opportunity to give a brief (5-10 minutes max.) individual or group presentation, focusing on religion and/or spirituality in one or more of the assigned texts. Students who elect this option should select a timeslot at EEE SignupSheet AND submit the presentation at EEE DropBox.
(2) Midterm Essay (35%): Write an analytical essay (4-6 pages), focusing on “religion” and/or “spirituality” in either Anaya’s Bless Me, Ultima OR Anzaldúa’s Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza. Due: 1 May.
(3) Final Essay (50%): Write an analytical essay (4-6 pages), focusing on “religion” and/or “spirituality” in a) either Anaya’s Bless Me, Ultima or Anzaldúa’s Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza AND b) one of the following texts: Ruiz de Burton’s The Squatter and the Don, Espinoza’s Still Water Saints: A Novel, Rodriguez’ Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography. Due: 12 June before 3:30 pm.
Protocol
(1) The Essay Grading Rubric is available at https://eee.uci.edu/14s/61100
(2) Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Center at (949) 824-7494 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
(3) The instructor reserves the right to make changes to any feature of the course plan as needed.

Outline
1 April Introduction
3 April Anaya, Bless Me, Ultima
8 April Anaya, Bless Me, Ultima
10 April No class
15 April Anaya, Bless Me, Ultima
17 April Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera
22 April Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera
24 April Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera
29 April Open date
1 May Midterm essay due / Volunteer presentations
6 May Ruiz de Burton, The Squatter and the Don
8 May Ruiz de Burton, The Squatter and the Don
13 May Ruiz de Burton, The Squatter and the Don
15 May Espinoza, Still Water Saints
20 May Espinoza, Still Water Saints
22 May Espinoza, Still Water Saints
27 May Rodriguez, Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography
29 May Rodriguez, Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography
3 June Rodriguez, Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography
5 June Last day of class
12 June Final essay due before 3:30 pm

Select Bibliography


