

Missouri Western State University, Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of English, Foreign Language, and Journalism
English 210-08 Approaches to Literature--Hispanic-American Literature
Murphy Hall 109
T/Th 11:00-12:20

Instructor: Dr. Stacia Bensyl
Office: SSC 222-I
Phone: x5936
Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 M-F, and by appointment
E-mail: bensyl

Required Text:

Del Rio, Eduardo, ed. *The Prentice Hall Anthology of Latino Literature*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002.

Assessment methods:

- **Eleven 25-point quizzes**
- **One three-page paper worth 50 points due April 13**
- **A mid-term exam worth 100 points (75 points objective and one 25 point essay). N.B.: half the objective questions will come from prior quizzes and half will be new questions.**
- **A final exam worth 150 points (100 points objective and one 50 point essay). N.B.: half the objective questions will come from prior quizzes and half will be new questions.**

Classroom expectations:

- **Students should come to class prepared by reading the assignment for that day.**
- **Quizzes cannot be made up. After I collect the quizzes, latecomers will not be given the opportunity to take the quiz. I will drop the lowest quiz score you receive during the semester.**
- **Students should come to class with an open mind.**
- **Students should not visit, whisper, or talk during lectures. I will not compete with student conversations. I will simply ask you to leave the classroom if you disrupt us.**
- **Turn off or leave at home all electronic beepers, phones, cd players, etc.**
- **Students should participate in classroom discussion.**

Objectives:

- **Students will have a better understanding of Hispanic culture and literature, especially in the context of Americans of Hispanic descent**
- **Students will be able to discuss and write about Hispanic-American literature and culture**
- **Students will be able to recognize Hispanic contributions to dominant American culture**
- **Students will be able to recognize and appreciate the particular implications of immigration for the Hispanic-American population**

Student Disability:

Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expressions of abilities should contact Missouri Western's special needs coordinator for possible certification of special needs and expert recommendations for assistance. You should also contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss class requirements.

Academic Honesty Policy:

I abide by all the regulations outlined in the Missouri Western State College Catalog and Student Handbook. I will not tolerate plagiarism or claiming another's work as your own. Please don't cheat! If I find evidence of academic dishonesty, the student will receive an "F" for the course.

Paper Due Date—April 13.

You will be given written instructions for the paper in class, well before its due date.

Final exam—Tuesday, May 9, 11:30-1:20

Tentative Assignment Schedule

NOTE: This schedule is labeled "tentative" because we may have to adjust assignments a bit. If that's the case, I'll notify you in class prior to the adjustment.

Mexican-American Literature

- Jan 17 Introduction/classroom standards *Viva la Causa* (film)
19 "Introduction," pages 1-8; Gary Soto "Black Hair" page 12
24 Jose Antonio Villareal from *Pocho* page 18
26 Rudolfo Anaya from *Bless Me, Ultima* page 25
31 Ana Castillo from *So Far From God* page 35
Feb 2 Helena Maria Viramontes from *Under the Feet of Jesus* page 73
7 *Fighting for Our Lives* (film)
9 no class—Bensyl at conference
14 Luis Valdez *Bernabe* page 148
16 Luis Valdez *Bernabe* page 148
21 Pat Mora "The Grateful Minority" page 88; Gloria Anzaldua "To Live in the Borderlands Means You" page 98

Cuban American Literature

- 23 *Luchando* (film)
28 Cristina Garcia from *Dreaming in Cuban* page 175
Mar 2 Cristina Garcia from *Dreaming in Cuban* page 175
7 Margarita Engle from *Singing to Cuba* page 218
9 Gustavo Perez-Firmat "Bilingual Blues" page 253
14 Spring Break
16 Spring Break
21 **Mid-term exam**
23 Rene Aloma *A Little Something to Ease the Pain* page 292
28 *Buena Vista Social Club* (film)
30 *Buena Vista Social Club* (film)

Puerto Rican American Literature

- Apr 4 *Puerto Rico* (film)
6 Judith Ortiz Cofer from
11
13 paper due
18
20
25
27

