



**Division of English and Communication  
English Department**

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/english/>

**ENGL 2351: Mexican-American Literature | Lecture | CRN 11937**

Summer II 2020 | 5 Weeks | 7.13-8.16.2020  
Online | 3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

**PART I: INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Instructor:</b> Melinda Mejia, PhD	<b>Office Hours:</b> Wed & Thur, 11am-1pm, online or by appointment
<b>Office Phone #:</b> 713-718-6230	<b>Office:</b> Rm 215, San Jac Bldg, Central Campus
<b>Learning Web Page:</b> <a href="http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/melinda.mejia">http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/melinda.mejia</a>	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:melinda.mejia@hccs.edu">melinda.mejia@hccs.edu</a> ; USE CANVAS INBOX

The best way to reach me is by using **Canvas Inbox** on eagleonline. When you use Canvas Inbox, your messages are categorized by course and it is easier for me to address your questions and issues. If you cannot use Canvas Inbox for whatever reason, you may email me directly at [melinda.mejia@hccs.edu](mailto:melinda.mejia@hccs.edu). I will be checking for emails at least twice a day, Monday through Saturday. Expect a response from me within 24 hours. If I have not responded within the 24-window, feel free to email me again. **I will likely not be checking email on Sundays.**

As an additional option for communication, I will be available for chat or video chat (online office hours) Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 12pm. The platform for that is still to be determined. Details will be provided on our Canvas course page.

**PART II: GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION FOR ENGL 2351**

**Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites**

Completion of ENGL 1301. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy available in the HCC Student Handbook on page 35. Handbook is available here: <https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

**Learning Management System**

This section of ENGL 2351 will be taught entirely online using [Eagle Online Canvas](#). It is recommended that you use [FIREFOX](#) or [CHROME](#) as your browser.

## HCC Online Information and Policies

HCC Online policies can be accessed by clicking on this link: <http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

### Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, Other Resources

Look on your course website for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course.

## PART III: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR ENGL 2351

### Course Books

**The books required for this course are listed below in the order they will be used. We will be using our first book on the second half of the first week of class.** The books should be available to order at the HCC bookstore; they don't usually stock enough, so please **make sure you purchase books immediately after you read this syllabus**, in case your books need to be ordered. Also, keep in mind that HCC bookstore sometimes has a "price-match" offer, so ask before you purchase. Your total for books in this course should be between 30 and 50 dollars depending on whether you rent, buy used, or buy new. You may also try to acquire your books on Amazon, Half Price Books, at any other bookstore, or at the HCC library or other local libraries. Finally, Arte Publico at University of Houston might also have some copies of our books (713-743-2998). If you are going to the bookstore in person, take this list with you to the bookstore, as sometimes they do not have updated lists. I've had students end up with extra books because the bookstore told them they needed them. **There will be OTHER readings in the course that I will provide online. The books below ARE NOT the only readings for the course.**

*The Collected Stories of Maria Cristina Mena* by Maria Cristina Mena (ISBN 9781558852112)

*George Washington Gomez* by Americo Paredes (ISBN 9781558850125)

*The Shallow End of Sleep* by Jose Antonio Rodriguez (ISBN 9781882688418)

*The King and Queen of Comezon* by Denise Chavez (ISBN 9780806144832)

### Other Materials

Other instructional materials for the course, such as articles and videos will be posted on Canvas. You should also have a notebook where you keep notes of lectures and readings and a folder to keep printouts of any materials provided in the course. Finally, you must have Microsoft Word (Microsoft Office) to complete some assignments.

Microsoft Office is free for HCC students: [Download Microsoft Office 365 Free](#)

## PART IV: INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES AT HCC

### Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is

provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services](#) website for services provided.

### Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <http://library.hccs.edu>.

### Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

## **PART V: COURSE OVERVIEW OF ENGL 2351**

### Catalog Course Description

ENGL 2351 is a survey of Mexican American/Chicanx literature from Mesoamerica to the present. Students will study literary works of fiction, poetry, drama, essays, and memoirs in relation to their historical, linguistic, political, regional, gendered, and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors, literary movements, and media forms. Topics and themes may include the literary performance of identity and culture, aesthetic mediation of racialization, struggle and protest, and artistic activism. This is a Core Curriculum course.

### Instructor's Course Description

Mexican American writers have been producing politically and culturally relevant literary work since before the 20<sup>th</sup> century; yet, their inclusion in the Western canon has been minimal. Part of the purpose of this course is to disrupt this pattern by introducing the student to a variety of literary works produced by Mexican American authors that now can be said to constitute part of the Chicanx Literary Canon. For this reason, this course is in many ways a survey course with one of its primary goals being exposure to the works. We will try to read a lot of texts; the texts studied in this class will span multiple forms and genres and multiple periods of recent Mexican American (American) history. As part of our exploration in this course we will attempt to discern why the chosen readings can be considered representative of the Mexican American community and/or experience during a particular time and space. Furthermore, we will examine their continued relevance in contemporary society by looking closely at the political and social issues they address. We will be using concepts such as race, class,

gender, and identity to form guiding questions through which we can approach the texts of this course. We will also be investigating the influence of the Western canon on Mexican American literary production and problematizing the notion of the canon in general. Finally, we will pay close attention to the aesthetic aspects of the literary works assigned. Through these various approaches we will come to a preliminary answer to the following question: Does the value of Mexican American literature lie in its contribution to universal themes, issues, and concerns or does it lie in its particularity?

### Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs) For All ENGL Core Courses

ENGL 2351 satisfies three (3) hours of the communication requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS English Discipline Committee has specified that the course address the following core objectives:

- **Critical Thinking:** Students will demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Communication:** Students will demonstrate effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
- **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

### Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs) for all ENGL courses

PSLOs can be found at:

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/liberal-arts-humanities--education/english/>

### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs) for ENGL 2351

Upon successful completion of ENGL 2351, the student will be able to:

- Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions.
- Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions.
- Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
- Write research-based critical papers about the assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose, using various critical approaches to literature.

## PART VI: STUDENT SUCCESS IN ENGL 2351

As with any three-hour course, expect to spend **at least six hours per week** outside of class reading and studying the material. Additional time will be required for written assignments. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of completing assignments and activities on Canvas, reading the books, being engaged in the course forums, and asking questions of me when necessary. There is no short cut for success in this course; to succeed you must engage with the course materials and assignments in a careful, dedicated, and serious manner.

### Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be calculated
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Provide a description of any assignments
- Inform students of policies
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- Read and comprehend the texts
- Complete the required assignments
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all documents, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies, including plagiarism, in the HCCS Student Handbook

## PART VII: GRADE BREAKDOWN AND EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

### Grade Breakdown

Quizzes & Reading Response Forum	30%
Review of Criticism	15%
Creative Portfolio	12%
Midterm Exam	23%
Final Exam	20%

### Writing Requirement

As a requirement for ENGL courses, students will write a minimum of 4,000 words over the course of the semester. For this course the writing requirement will be met by

completing the reading responses, the review of criticism, and the essay portions of your exams.

### Quizzes

There will be quizzes for most of the readings assigned in this class. There may also be quizzes on some of the power points and lectures. The quizzes are made up of 5 to 10 multiple-choice or short answer questions that are meant to confirm that you have read the material or listened to a lecture. They are not meant to be difficult but are simple information recall quizzes. Once in a while, you might have a more involved question, but mostly I assign quizzes to motivate you to read the material and generate easy points. Quizzes are timed. Generally, your quiz average is a reliable measure of your overall class performance. **Quizzes are not accepted late.**

### Reading Response Forum

Reading responses will require a higher level of engagement with the readings than the quizzes do. You will be asked to answer specific questions and to discuss the readings in a thoughtful way. Beyond showing that you have read the materials, these assignments will require you to show that you are processing, interpreting, and/or analyzing the readings as well. While these responses are not meant to be "essays," usually you will be asked to respond in at least 275 – 300 words. Sometimes you will have one specific question to tackle; sometimes you will have two to three questions to respond to; and sometimes you will be asked to pick your own passages from the readings to discuss. Instructions will be given online in the assignment submission link. Furthermore, meaningful discussion between you and your peers will be encouraged and sometimes required. You will have 6 to 8 of these assignments. **Reading responses are not accepted late.**

### Review of Criticism

This assignment will require you to search for and read articles that give literary interpretations and criticism on the stories, novels, plays and poems covered in the course. You will be taught how to search for these articles. After reading the articles, you will be asked to write a review of them. Detailed instructions will be provided on Canvas. A late policy for this assignment will be provided in the instructions.

### Creative Portfolio

Your creative portfolio will include three creative responses to the readings in the course. Detailed instructions will be provided on Canvas. A late policy for this assignment will be provided in the instructions.

### Exams

There will be two exams in this class, a midterm and a final. The exams will consist of multiple-choice questions, matching quotes, and short essay questions. Each exam will be timed and will be administered online. A review sheet will be provided, online or in-class, at least four days before the exam. You should not wait until the review sheet

is provided to begin studying for the exam. Check the schedule for exam dates. Exams can only be made up if proper documentation of an emergency is provided.

**\*\*For due dates for all our coursework see our course schedule and the course calendar on Canvas.**

## **PART VIII: HCC GRADING SYSTEM**

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Interpretation</b>	<b>Grade Pts</b>
A	Excellent (90-100)	4
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
IP	In Progress	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

*All grade points listed in the table above are per semester hour.*

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

Grade points earned for each course are determined by multiplying the number of points for each grade by the number of semester hours the course carries.

To compute a student's grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades "IP", "W", "AUD", "COM", and "I" do not affect the student's GPA.

### **Incomplete Policy**

An incomplete grade for this course (I) will only be granted after an online virtual conference with the professor and only in instances of legitimate emergencies. In order to receive an incomplete, you must be passing the course with a C or better and have no more than 2 assignments missing. When you receive an incomplete, you must complete the coursework within six months of the original end date of the course. If an "Incomplete" is not completed within the 6 month period, your grade defaults to an F.



## PART XII: INSTRUCTOR'S PRACTICES & PROCEDURES

### Late Policy & Dropped Assignments

Refer to the schedule/calendar provided to see due dates for the assignments in this course. **Quizzes and Reading Response Forums are NOT ACCEPTED LATE.** There are no exceptions to this rule regardless of the reason or excuse for missing a deadline. That is, even if you have a good reason for missing the deadline, an exception will not be made. **To account for emergencies and/or other legitimate issues that may arise, your TWO lowest grades from the Quizzes/Reading Response Forum category will be dropped.** This way you don't have to ask for exceptions to be made for you if you miss a deadline. Asking for an exception to be made for you, may result in you forfeiting your privilege of dropping your two lowest grades from this category. Note that even if you are running behind on a couple of minor assignments in this course, you should be okay. That is the purpose of this DROPPED ASSIGNMENTS rule -- to help you succeed even in the case of an emergency and even though I don't accept late work.

Exams have to be completed by their deadline. An exam that is submitted 5 to 10 minutes late will receive a 10-point penalty. **An exam that is submitted more than 10 minutes late will not be graded.** You must make sure you have access to reliable internet when taking the exam, so that you are not accidentally signed-out while you are taking it. This will lock you out of the exam since you are only allowed one try per exam.

If an emergency keeps you from completing the exam by the deadline, you must communicate with me as soon as possible. Documentation of a legitimate emergency will be requested in order for you to be allowed to make-up the exam. It is up to the instructor to determine whether the emergency is legitimate or not. Furthermore, if you miss the exam deadline you must contact me within 24 hours in order for me to even consider allowing a make-up. This of course does not apply if your emergency is one that disables you from being in contact this soon. If an emergency arises, please use your best judgement and act professionally and responsibly.

The Review of Criticism and Creative Portfolio, will have their own late policies detailed in the instruction sheets provided for them on our Canvas course page.

### Academic Integrity

In this course, you are expected to conduct yourself with integrity and honesty. Your assignments should be completed by you and research should only be referenced when required and should be cited if used in the work you submitted. Plagiarism is a serious offense. According to the Student Handbook for the Houston Community College System, scholastic dishonesty includes cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion and is punishable by a grade of 0 or F on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College. Plagiarism includes using another person's words or ideas as your own and/or incorporating them into your



own work without quotation marks (if using exact phrasing) or appropriate and correct acknowledgement. Collusion includes any “unauthorized collaboration” with your classmates or any other students— present or past—in the composition of work that you claim as your own.

Plagiarism, collusion, or cheating of any sort will result, at a minimum, in a grade of 0 for the assignment, NO DISCUSSION. You will not be allowed to rewrite, revise, or resubmit ANY plagiarized assignments (responses, quizzes, tests, or papers). Please note also that “accidental” plagiarism or collusion will result in the same penalty. **A second instance of plagiarism or cheating in this course will result in an F for the course. When any plagiarism is caught, it is never up for discussion. You get an F, no questions asked, no explanations necessary. Further disciplinary action may be taken by instructor and scholastic dishonesty my result in a referral to the Dean of Student Services.** If you are still not sure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor or inform yourself. There will also be a short lesson on plagiarism incorporated into the course in the first week. You are expected to be familiar with HCC’s policy on Academic Honesty found in the catalogue. What that means is that if you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. You can read more about Academic Integrity and Scholastic Dishonesty in the Student Handbook (page 82) found at the link below: <http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/studentprocedures/>

### Attendance Procedures

As stated in the HCC catalog, all students are expected to attend classes regularly. Students in ONLINE courses must log into their Eagle Online class weekly and actively participate or they will be counted as absent. (Because this is a summer course, you really will need to be signing in at least three times a week). Signing in alone will not count as attendance. Active participation and completion of assignments is required. Although it is the responsibility of the student to withdraw officially from a course when necessary, the professor also has the authority to block a student from accessing Eagle Online, and/or to withdraw a student for excessive absences or failure to participate regularly.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\**Students who miss more than 3 assignments in a row may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. However, do not rely on this; if you desire to be dropped before the WITHDRAWAL date, which is Monday, August 3, please contact the instructor immediately. Students who have not signed in and completed at least one assignment by the official day of record, which is Thursday, July 16, will be dropped for noncompliance with the attendance policy. Completing the DE online orientation does not count as attendance.***

### Student Conduct

The classes you take at HCC are not only beginning points for your academic career; they also prepare you for your professional life, whatever that may be in the future. As

such, your HCC classes are opportunities for you to polish your professional persona. Respectful, responsible, and professional engagement is a must in this course. The following are some detailed guidelines for student conduct that you are expected to abide by and that foster professionalization and success in this course:

- Acquire all materials necessary for the course in a timely manner.
- Complete all reading assignments for the course; approach the readings with curiosity and seriousness. Annotating readings is one way to engage fruitfully with the coursework of this class.
- Be prepared to engage with the readings; you will be expected to be able to recall some information as well as discuss ideas presented in the readings.
- Actively participate in discussion forums and group work. Discussion forums and group assignments give us an opportunity to share our thoughts with our peers and to practice discussion and collaboration as a form of learning.
- Ask questions, respectfully, of your colleagues or of me when clarification is needed.
- When engaging in any discussion or interaction with your peers or the professor, be respectful and open-minded. Expect to engage with ideas, beliefs, and worldviews that are not your own.
- Do not present opinions as facts but do argue for your opinion WITH facts and/or other forms of reasoning. That is, your opinion is something that may be valid and valuable, but you should be ready to back it up with legitimate facts, sources, or rational thinking.
- Work hard for the grade you desire.
- Seek help from professor, peers, or tutors if you are struggling in the course.
- Abide by course policies.

### **Forums and Other Engagement with Peers**

In this course we might be exposed to material that is new to us and that will cause us to ask questions and voice particular experiences and opinions in order to try to understand the material. Treat the topics, reading materials, and discussions as subjects of study rather than as attacks on your personal views or beliefs. But certainly, do speak up when you have something relevant to contribute even if it differs from someone's opinion. A diversity of voices is important in the process of learning. While everyone might be entitled to an opinion, not all opinions are equal; furthermore, **voicing opinions that are clearly racist, bigoted, misogynist, homophobic, transphobic, or mean-spirited is in no way permitted in my classroom.** I encourage you to ask questions, explore problems, and be open-minded and I trust that you know the difference between critical thinking and purposely inflammatory discussion. If you are unsure, preface your comment or question by saying that you are unsure.

## Group Work

Part of the work you do for this class will be in groups. During group work you are expected to act responsibly and respectfully. Your individual participation in groups will be evaluated in multiple ways including content contribution, preparedness, and communication with other group members. Remember that the success of your peers, in part, depends on your contribution.

## Disruptive Behavior

Although I have had no experiences of disruptive behavior in online courses, I do reserve the right to withdraw you from my course if you engage in disruptive behavior.

## Note on Course Content

Many of the materials used in a variety of college courses are meant to cover or express a broad range of human experience; so is the case with works of art (literature included) and with works in history, sociology, psychology, etc. Therefore, the content of this course may include topics that are difficult for some people to confront or discuss; these may include but are not limited to rape, abuse, death, violence, war, and racism. Furthermore, we will deal with sensitive material about controversial topics and we may encounter adult content. If you foresee this getting in the way of your successful completion of the course, you must email me as soon as possible and before any problems arise. You may also consider taking another course. However, I want to stress that I am careful with the materials I choose, and I am committed to my students. So, I do not choose material that is irresponsibly or gratuitously violent.

## **PART XIII: ABBREVIATED & TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR**

Week 1A Introduction to the course, Background Readings/Lecture

Week 1B One Beginning: "I am Joaquin"

Week 2A Early Mexican-American Writing: *The Collected Stories of Maria Cristina Mena*

Week 2B Mexican Americans, Identity, and Education: *George Washington Gomez*

Week 3A *George Washington Gomez* continued

Week 3B Portrayals of Mexican American Culture: *Zoot Suit* other rdgs TBA, **Midterm**

Week 4A Chicano Movement and Chicana Perspectives: "El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan," *Borderlands* selected chapters, "La Malinche," other readings to be announced

Week 4B The Immigrants' Story: *The Shallow End of Sleep*

Week 5A *The King of Queen and Comezon*

Week 5B Finalize the course, **Final Exam**

*\*Please see Canvas for up to date deadlines.*

## **PART XIV: SYLLABUS MODIFICATIONS**

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus and schedule at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically in the announcement page of our

Canvas and over an email, about any changes to the syllabus.

## **PART XV: HCC POLICIES**

### **Student Handbook**

You can find the HCC Student Handbook here: [STUDENT HANBOOK](#). In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

### **HCC Email Policy**

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go [to HCC Eagle ID](#) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

## **PART XVI: EGLS<sup>3</sup> – STUDENT SURVEY**

The EGLS<sup>3</sup> (Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS<sup>3</sup> surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS<sup>3</sup> surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>

## **PART XVII: OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Office of Institutional Equity:** <http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>

**Office of disAbility Services:** <http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

**Title IX:**

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>

**Office of the Dean of Students:**

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/studentcomplaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>

**Department Chair Contact Information:**

Dr. Alan Ainsworth, [alan.ainsworth@hccs.edu](mailto:alan.ainsworth@hccs.edu), 713.718.7591