



Instructional Services · English and Communication · English

---

# Mexican-American Literature-19740

## ENGL-2351

SS 2021 Section 0001 3 Credits 09/20/2021 to 12/12/2021 Modified 09/22/2021

### Course Meetings

---

#### Course Modality

In-person (Online for the 1st Two Weeks)

#### Meeting Days

Tuesdays & Thursdays

#### Meeting Times

2 pm - 3:50 pm

#### Meeting Location

Alief Campus, Room B132

*We will be meeting online for the first two weeks of class. Our first in-person meeting will be Tuesday, October 5.*

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR VIRTUAL CLASSROOM:**

<https://smart.newrow.com/#/room/qvb-254> (<https://smart.newrow.com/#/room/qvb-254>)

### Welcome and Instructor Information

---

#### Instructor: Dr. Melinda Mejia

Email: [melinda.mejia@hccs.edu](mailto:melinda.mejia@hccs.edu)

Office: ONLINE - WEBEX (See link provided in the OFFICE HOURS section below.)

Phone: 713 718 6230

Website: <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/melinda.mejia> (<https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/melinda.mejia>)

#### Office Hours

TUESDAYS AFTER CLASS & FRIDAYS AT 12:30 pm

I will be available for in-person office hours after our classes on Tuesdays, from 3:50 pm to 4:30 pm. I will also be available for virtual office hours (see information below) on Fridays from 12:30 pm to 2 pm. Finally, you can always also request an appointment with me, if you cannot make the scheduled office hours.

WEBEX ROOM: DR. MEJIA'S OFFICE HOURS - FRIDAYS, 12:30 pm to 2 pm

<https://hccs.webex.com/hccs/j.php?MTID=m207bf8eba42719531763453c31d281f8>

Meeting number: 2625 895 8654

Password: HPhKKgh8J47

Join by video system

Dial 26258958654@hccs.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0003 United States Toll

+1-469-210-7159 United States Toll (Dallas)

Access code: 262 589 58654

## Preferred Method of Contact

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). Via either email messaging system, you can expect a response from me within 24 hours. If I have not responded within the 24-window, feel free to email me again. **Emails received after 12 pm on Saturday may not be addressed until Monday morning.**

## My Personal Welcome

Welcome to the course! In this course you are treated as serious scholars. Together we will learn and grow as readers, critics, and scholars in the field of Mexican American Literature and Studies. I am looking forward to getting to know you through your work and looking forward to interacting with you.

## What's Exciting About This Course

In this course, you will be immersed in literature, which is the oral and written creative expression of values, fears, and concerns of a people throughout time. In particular, we will be focusing on the literature of Mexican Americans. You will read literature by Mexican Americans spanning from the early 1900s to today and also familiarize yourself with Mesoamerican myths. You will meet the heroes of Chicana literature: a murderer whose beauty mark almost gets her caught, a mother imprisoned and haunted by the ghost of her son, a young man torn between his family and a pressure to "Americanize" himself, and a young boy whose sexuality will inform his experience of the world. You will learn about the history and struggles of Mexican Americans and their similarity with other minorities' experiences. In this course you will see yourself represented in the literature whether because you are Chicana or because you can connect with the Mexican American experience in other ways.

## Approach to the Course

Mexican American writers have been producing politically and culturally relevant literary work since before the 20th 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 Chicana 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?

---

## Course Overview

## 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. Core curriculum course.

## Requisites

Completion of ENGL 1301. Please carefully read and consider the repeater policy in the [HCCS Student Handbook](#).

## English Website

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

## 🎯 Core Curriculum Objectives (CCOs)

---

English courses satisfy three (3) hours of the communication requirement in the HCCS core curriculum. The HCCS English Discipline Committee has specified that courses 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.
- **Teamwork:** Students will demonstrate the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
  - Composition I, Composition II, Creative Writing, Introduction to Technical Writing, and Technical & Business Writing only
- **Social Responsibility:** Students will demonstrate intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
  - Literature courses only

## 📊 Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

---

### Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Can be found at:

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

### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

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.

## Word Count Requirement

Students will write a minimum of 4,000 words over the course of the semester.

## Departmental Practices and Procedures

---

### Department Specific 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](#)

### Program-Specific Student Success Information

As with any three-hour course, expect to spend *at least six hours per week* outside of class reading and studying the material. I will provide assignments to help you use those six hours per week wisely. Additional time will be required for written assignments. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of reading the textbook, attending class, completing assignments in Eagle Online, and participating in class discussions. There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as your guide.

## Instructional Materials and Resources

---

### Required Books

The [HCC Online Bookstore \(https://hccs.bncollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks\)](https://hccs.bncollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks) provides searchable information on assigned books for all courses. Make sure to purchase only the books listed below in this syllabus. Sometimes the list at the bookstore is not updated. The books for this course should all be available on paperback and in rental or used editions. Expect to spend \$30 to \$70.

The books required are listed below in the order they will be used. We will be using our first book listed by the third week of class, so it is **absolutely imperative that you order your books now**. The HCC bookstore does not usually stock enough, so it might not be a bad idea to try to purchase books on Amazon or our local Half Price Books or Barnes & Noble. Not having the materials available will not be an acceptable excuse for not turning in work, since you are being given ample notice to acquire them.

Keep in mind that HCC bookstore sometimes has a “price-match” offer, so ask before you purchase. The prices listed below in the book information section are from Amazon for new books. Renting or buying used will be under \$35.

Arte Publico at U of H might have copies of *George Washington Gomez* and of *The Collected Stories of Maria Cristina Mena* for sale. You can call them at 713-743-2998.

### Book # 1: The Collected Stories of Maria Cristina Mena

**Author:** Maria Cristina Mena  
**Publisher:** Arte Publico Press  
**ISBN:** 978-1558852112  
**Price:** \$12.95

## Book # 2: George Washington Gomez

**Author:** Americo Paredes  
**Publisher:** Arte Publico Press  
**ISBN:** 978-1558850125  
**Price:** \$12.95

## Book # 3: Road to Tamazunchale

**Author:** Ron Arias  
**Publisher:** Bilingual Press  
**Edition:** 3rd Edition  
**ISBN:** 978-0916950705  
**Price:** \$14.00

## Book # 4: The Shallow End of Sleep

**Author:** Jose Antonio Rodriguez  
**Publisher:** Tia Chucha Press  
**ISBN:** 978-1882688418  
**Price:** \$15.95

## Other Materials & Courseware

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, if you choose to print them out. Finally, you must have Microsoft Word and Power Point (which are both part of Microsoft Office) to complete some assignments. Microsoft Office is free for HCC students: [Download Microsoft Office 365 Free](#)

## 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 \(http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/\)](http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/) 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> (<http://library.hccs.edu/>).

## ✓ Course Requirements

---

### Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
------	--------	-------	-------

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Quizzes	22%		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. <b>Quizzes are not accepted late.</b>
Course Exam	22%		You will have a course exam for this course Week 7 of the semester. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, matching quotes, and short essay questions. The exam will be timed. A review sheet will be provided, online or in-class, at least five days before the exam. You should not wait until the review sheet is provided to begin studying for the exam. Check the schedule for the exam date and prepare accordingly.
Course Portfolio & Oral Presentation	22%		The course portfolio will be made up of 1 short analysis paper (850 words); three reviews of literary criticism articles which will be provided (500 words each); one course reflection or cover letter (300 words); and a survey. Further instructions will be provided on Canvas. This assignment will be accepted up to 48 hours late with a 5-pt deduction per day.
Creative Response Assignments	14%		In this course, you will complete three Creative Response Assignments. These assignments will encourage adaptations of the texts you read as well as artistic representations of the texts, themes, and topics in the course.
Reading Response Forums	10%		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 250 – 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. Reading Responses will be assigned as Forums and will be visible to the other class members. Meaningful discussion between you and your peers will be encouraged and sometimes required. You will have 5 to 7 of these assignments. <b>Reading responses are not accepted late.</b>
In-Class Activities & Participation	10%		This category of grades includes activities such as writing, group work, or discussions that we do in class. If you miss an in-class activity you cannot make it up. Participation grades are given based on different aspects of engagement including, but not limited to, being to class on time, listening actively, and contributing to discussion.

## Grading Formula

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90-100	Excellent work that goes beyond completing the requirements of an assignment. The quality of this work is clearly above average. Work shows higher level mastery of required knowledge and skills.
B	80-89	Work that meets all the requirements of an assignment and that is of average quality overall. Work shows mastery of required knowledge and skills.
C	70-79	Work that might meet all basic requirements of an assignment but is of below average quality. Work that does not meet some of the basic requirements of the assignment. Work shows some mastery of required knowledge or skills.
D	60-69	Work is just short of meeting basic requirements. Work is of inadequate quality in content, form, and/or style. Work shows very little and/or inconsistent understanding of required knowledge or skills.

Grade	Range	Notes
F	59 and below	Work fails to address the assignment requirements, is incomplete, and/or is significantly below average in quality. Work does not show mastery of required knowledge and skills.

## \* Instructor's Practices and Procedures

---

### Incomplete Policy

An incomplete grade for this course (I) will be granted only after an online virtual conference with the professor and only in instances of legitimate emergencies. In order to receive a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 80% of the work in the course and must be passing the course (C or better) at the time of the request. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

When you receive an incomplete, you must complete the coursework within **6 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.

### Attendance Procedures

To pass this course, students must attend class regularly. Being in class will help you succeed and will ensure that you don't miss any essential information that may be shared during course meetings. If you must be absent, remember that you are responsible for all materials covered during your absence regardless of the reason for it and for any changes made to the schedule or syllabus. Get in touch with a peer or send me an email to schedule a meeting with me if necessary. Not being prepared for class the next time you attend class because you didn't know of a schedule change will not excuse you from a quiz or an assignment.

HCC policy establishes that a student *may be* administratively withdrawn from a course upon missing more than 12.5% of the scheduled sessions. For this class that means you are permitted **THREE ABSENCES ONLY**. **If you accumulate four absences, you will be required to meet with me for a student-teacher conference before being allowed to continue in the course. A fifth absence will result in a grade of FX or in your withdrawal from the course.** Being absent five times or more does not automatically mean you will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W, but you do risk being withdrawn, dropped, or receiving a final grade of FX. If you want to withdraw from the course for sure or if you want the instructor to do so for you, you must let her know. What this policy stipulates is that upon a fifth absence you cannot receive anything other than an FX grade or a grade of W in the course. If you are not withdrawn from the course by the withdrawal date and have five absences or more, then you will receive a grade of FX.

**I do not distinguish between excused or unexcused absences, neither does the college.** You are allowed three absences (excused and/or unexcused) without serious or direct penalty. However, know that while I will not directly penalize you or withdraw you from the course for 3 or less absences, both absences and tardiness (excused or unexcused) *may still affect* the participation portion of your grade for apparent reasons – if you are not in class you cannot be engaged in class. Furthermore, your grade might also suffer insofar as you will be missing material discussed in class and work done in class.

It is of utmost importance that you understand what I've stated above: I do not distinguish between excused or unexcused absences. You have three allotted absences, period. For this reason, save your three absences for emergencies, rather than expecting further absences to be excused once emergencies arise.

Check HCC's calendar here for important days including the last day to withdraw: <https://www.hccs.edu/student-experience/events-calendar/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/student-experience/events-calendar/>)

### 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. More directly, you really don't need to be doing any research online as you read your texts and complete minor assignments.

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 may 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.

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>  
(<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>)

## Late Policy/Missed Assignments

An assignment is considered LATE if it is submitted 10 minutes or more after the deadline set for each assignment. Minor assignments (quizzes, reading responses, 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.

In order to account for emergencies, two quizzes and one reading response (forum) will be dropped. You will also be allowed to complete extra credit assignments during the semester. This policy is in place so that if you do miss an assignment, you do not have to request an exception to be made for you. Rather, use the drop policy and extra credit to make up for any late or missing minor assignments.

Creative Response Assignments are accepted up to 5 days late with a 5 point penalty per day starting **AFTER** the first 24 hours.

Any other major assignments (Course Portfolio, and Oral Presentation) will have their own late policies explained in the assignment instructions.

## Dropped Assignments

**Quizzes and Reading Response Forums are NOT ACCEPTED LATE as stated above. To account for emergencies and/or other legitimate issues that may arise, your TWO lowest quiz grades and your lowest Reading Response Forum grade 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 this drop privilege. 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 for the above mentioned categories of assignments.

## Late Exams/Missed Exams

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 may 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.

## Instructor's Practices

### Grading

I will grade the first few assignments within 24 hours of the due date, just so students can be at ease and confirm that they are submitting assignments correctly. After the first week of classes, I will be grading assignments every five or six days in chunks. Feedback is only provided on major assignments, (exam, course portfolio, and creative responses). If you have any questions regarding your grades, please do email me. Below is an explanation of grading icons that you will see in the Canvas Gradebook:

Name	Due	Status	Score	Out of
<a href="#">A Closer Look: The United States Constitution Written Response 1</a>	Jan 1 by 11:59pm		1 	20 
<a href="#">Course Introductions</a>	Feb 7 by 11:59pm		2 	10
<a href="#">The Bill of Rights Quiz</a>	Feb 13 by 11:59pm	LATE	3 	10
<a href="#">A Closer Look: Response 2</a>	Feb 18 by 11:59pm		4 T	25
<a href="#">Patriotism or Treason? Colonist vs. British Citizen Point of View Essay</a>	Mar 13 by 11:59pm		5 	30
<a href="#">The Declaration of Independence: A Revisionist History</a>	Mar 13 by 11:59pm		6 	50 
<a href="#">Revolution Quiz</a>	Mar 15 by 11:59pm		7 	30

The icons numbered above (# in black circle) represent different assignment submission types on your Grades page and are defined below:

- **Document Icon [1]:** File upload submitted, not graded
- **Discussion Icon [2]:** Graded discussion submitted, but not graded
- **Quiz icon [3]:** Quiz submitted, not fully graded (contains questions that must be manually graded, or an auto-submitted quiz score has been deleted and needs to be reassigned); can also display if a quiz has been edited and includes major changes that affect the quiz score, such as deleting questions or deleting quiz answers, and requires a grader to manually resolve
- **Text Icon [4]:** Text entry submitted, not graded
- **Link Icon [5]:** A URL has been submitted, not graded
- **Media Icon [6]:** Media recording submitted, not graded
- **Visibility Icon [7]:** Score is hidden while instructor is grading; you will not be able to view your grade, submission comments, or quiz responses until your instructor posts grades for the assignment

**Note:** Some external tool assignments may display a dash instead of a submission icon after you submit the assignment.

## Student Conferences

There will be multiple opportunities aside from office hours for you to individually meet with me for a short conference. I will post announcements regarding these opportunities and encourage to take advantage of them. It is a way for us to get to know each other as well as for us to address any areas of concerns you may have.

## 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.

## Student Conduct

### General Note on Student Conduct

The classes you take at HCC are not only beginning points for your academic journey; 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 the author's or another student's opinion or what you might understand as my opinion. A diversity of voices is important in the process of learning. Do take note, however, that 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.

## Faculty Statement about Student Success

Success comes in many different shapes and forms. It is not quantifiable simply in the form of a grade but grades can definitely be one way to think of success in this course. Whatever your goal may be, I am here to guide you and it will be important for you to reach out to me with questions or concerns as the course proceeds, if you have any. Furthermore, you will need to be able to dedicate time and careful thought to this course if you want to take from this course what it has to offer. If you can do that, you can succeed in this course. As a final note, I would like to add that literature is my passion and the college classroom to me is a sacred space. It is a space of contemplation and personal growth not only for you all, my students, but for me as well. Each moment spent seriously reflecting on the texts and topics of the course, on our thoughts about them, and on the experiences that inform our relation to these texts and topics is a moment of SUCCESS in my book. I hope you feel the same way!

## Social Justice Statement

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Furthermore, you will be expected to share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment as well. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

## Instructional Modality & Canvas Information

### Instructional Modality

This course is an in-person course that will meet **online on a schedule for the first two weeks of class**. Starting October 4, in-person classes will start to meet on campus. Still, most if not all assignments for this course will be submitted online.

All course information can be accessed on Canvas (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>)).

### Using Canvas - Connectivity & Performance

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

### Using Canvas - Course Specifics

- A. **Modules:** Any of the readings assigned for this class that are not the books you are required to purchase will be found in our Modules. Other materials will also be provided there. Our Modules are the best way to navigate the course. Our Modules will follow the order of the class and course schedule.
- B. **Announcements:** Sometimes I will post reminders about due assignments but not always. Reminders and other important notices will be posted in the ANNOUNCEMENTS section. I will not email you individually or in a mass email about these types of reminders, so it is important that you make it a point to check the announcements for this class by clicking on the ANNOUNCEMENTS link to the left of the screen. You can also set posted announcements to go directly to your email, if they are not already doing this, by changing the course settings.
- C. **Schedule:** A detailed schedule of readings, materials, and assignments will be posted on Canvas shortly.

## HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
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
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

## Link to Policies in Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>) 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

## Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/faculty/student-conduct-resources-for-faculty/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/faculty/student-conduct-resources-for-faculty/>)

## Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>)

## 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 \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

## Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>))

## Ability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-services/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-services/>)

## Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross  
 Director EEO/Compliance  
 Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity  
 3100 Main  
 (713) 718-8271  
 Houston, TX 77266-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu) (<mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu>)

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

## Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

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

## Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook
- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

## Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

## HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/online/>)

## Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>)

## 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 derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students during office hours, and before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your

communication with me

- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/)

## EGLS3

The EGLS<sup>3</sup> ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/)) 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. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

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

## Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

## Student Resources

### 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 \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/) 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 <https://library.hccs.edu> (<https://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 <https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>).

### Resources for Students:

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/>)

### Basic Needs Resources:

<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/>)



## Student Basic Needs Application:

[https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH](https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH)  
([https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH](https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH))

## COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/>)

## Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

## Instructional Modalities

### In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

### Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online course with virtual meetings at scheduled dates and times

### Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

### Hybrid (H)

Course that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

### Hybrid Lab (HL)

Lab class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

## Course Calendar

---

### Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

## Additional Information

---

### Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about any aspect of this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

Dr. Mary Lawson, [mary.lawson@hccs.edu](mailto:mary.lawson@hccs.edu), 713.718.2365