

Instructor: Dr. Melinda Mejia	Office Hours: Thursdays, 3pm-6pm Or by request.	English 2351: Introduction to Mexican American Literature Section 0200/ CRN 10579 HCC Central Campus Room San Jac Bldg, Room 170 Spq 2017, Tues/Thur 1pm to 2:30pm
Contact Info: Phone #: 713 718 6230 melinda.mejia@hccs.edu	Office Location: HCC Central Campus SanJac Bldg. Room 215	

Learning Web: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/melinda.mejia>

Course Page: <http://eagleonline.hccs.edu>:

Library Resource Page for Mex Am Studies: <http://library.hccs.edu/c.php?g=228361&p=1514058>

Course Catalog Description: This is a survey of Mexican-American/Chican@ literature including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. This course satisfies the Language, Philosophy and Culture Degree Requirement or the Component Area Requirement of the HCC core (2015-2016 degree plans). Double check degree plans here: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/advising/degree-plans/2015-2016/>

Additional Description: Mexican-American writers have been producing politically and culturally relevant literary work since the early 20th century, yet their inclusion in the "Western canon" has been minimal and their presence in higher education as objects of study less than adequate. Part of the purpose of this course is to disrupt this pattern by introducing the student to a variety of literary work produced by Mexican-American authors that now constitutes part of the Chican@ Literary Canon. The works studied in this class will span multiple forms and genres and multiple periods of recent 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 while also studying the works as "works of art" and for their aesthetic components. 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. Other investigations will include the influence of the Western canon on Mexican-American literary production and the problematizing of the notion of a "canon" in general. 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? Is Mexican American literature unique in its aesthetics and politics or does it fit within a particular tradition of literary production?

Supplies and Textbooks: You should have a notebook for taking notes in class and a dictionary and thesaurus as needed. The textbooks listed below are required for this course. The list continues onto the nexts page. The books are available at the HCCS Central Campus bookstore.

Title	Author	ISBN
<i>The Collected Stories of Maria Cristina Mena</i>	Maria Cristina Mena, Ed. Doherty	978-1558852112
<i>George Washington Gomez</i>	Americo Paredes	978-1558850125
<i>Zoot Suit and Other Plays</i>	Luis Valdez	978-1558850484

<i>Hungry Woman</i>	Cherrie Moraga	978-0970534408
<i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i>	Gloria Anzaldua	978-1879960855
<i>Shallow End of Sleep</i>	Jose Rodriguez	978-1882688418
<i>Deportation of Wopper Barraza</i>	Maceo Montoya	978-0826354365

Grade Breakdown: Below is the grade breakdown for the course.

In-class Work Participation	10%
Quizzes	20%
Group Project	15%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%
Term Paper	15%

In-Class Work and Participation Grade (10%): Class discussion, group or group written work, and minor written individual assignments completed in class will be part of this category. There will be a total of **about 8-10 grades** for this category. These assignments will **NOT appear on the schedule**. You must be in class to complete them. This category is also used to assign a class participation grade. This grade is assigned at the instructor's discretion on any given day. Usually, I use it as a penalty grade or a boost grade. For example, if there is a student who has made it a habit to use their phone in class or stay silent during group work, I might document this by giving the class a 100 for participation that day and the student a 0. Or, as an example of a boost grade, I might just assign 100 to everyone present on a particularly engaging and successful class day.

Quizzes/Reading Notes (20%): You will have quizzes or reading notes for this course to motivate you to keep up with your readings. The quizzes and reading notes will appear on the schedule. The quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and they will be basic comprehension quizzes on the storylines, characters, main claims, or other such aspects of the readings.

Reading Notes: When reading notes are assigned, you should turn in a 250-word document typed or handwritten that includes the following:

- One passage from the text that you found interesting, compelling, problematic, enlightening, or appealing. (A passage is at least three to four sentences but it can be a whole paragraph. Please only include three to four sentences in your quote)
- A discussion of the passage and your interpretation of it.
- A discussion of why you chose that passage and how it ties in to the themes of the class.

Group Presentation 15%: A group presentation will be assigned. Details will be provided.

Midterm and Final Exam (20% each; 40% total): You will have a midterm exam and a final for this class. The exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, short answer questions, and 2 to 3 short essay questions. These exams are to be completed within an hour and 50 minutes in class on the exam date (check schedule). The midterm will cover the first half of class. The final exam will cover only the second half of class. The final is not comprehensive.

Term Paper (15%): You will have to write a term paper for this class. The paper's length requirement is a minimum of 1600 words. This is between 5 to 6 pages typed and double-spaced. You will be given an instruction sheet with more details in class sometime in March and have at least 5 weeks to complete the paper.

COURSE POLICIES & OTHER COLLEGE POLICIES

Attendance Policy and Missed Work: Attendance is required. Each class missed results in you missing important instruction or activities. This means that the more you are absent, the more your grade is likely to suffer. Both absences and tardiness (excused or unexcused) may affect the participation portion of your grade for apparent reasons – if you are not in class you cannot be engaged in class. More than three absences will result in serious penalty.

I do not distinguish between excused or unexcused absences. You are allowed three absences (excused and/or unexcused) without serious penalty. However, for these absences your penalty may still apply in the participation portion of your grade or for missed work/exams. Upon a fourth absence, regardless of the reason or excuse, unless we have made an arrangement ahead of time, you will either be dropped from the course or will receive a final grade penalty. 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. Regardless of reason, a fourth absence and anything beyond that will result in penalty to your final grade, in a grade of FX, **or** in you being dropped from the course.

Exams may be made up with proper documentation of a legitimate absence. Homework, in-class assignment, and quizzes may not be made up, regardless of the excuse. Because I am aware that emergencies do happen, two grades from the quizzes category will be dropped. Depending on general class progress and time, you may be allowed one to two opportunities for extra credit. Do not rely on extra credit to maintain your grades.

You are responsible for the material covered in class during your absence. Keep a peer's number or email handy in case you need someone to fill you in. You may also come see me during office hours if you have any questions. Do not expect me to explain everything you missed during your absence after class the next time we see each other or in my office. I can go over some of the material with you if you come to office hours or set up an appointment with me.

Preparation and Class Discussion: Students are expected to show up to class prepared. This means students should have all their reading assignments completed for that day before coming to class. Quizzes will be given to account for your preparation. Always bring your writing materials, notepads, assignments, and books to class. Furthermore, this class relies to some extent on class discussion. Active participation will be expected; come prepared to share your thoughts, opinions, and interpretations of the texts. Students are expected to be respectful of others' opinions and to express their opinions in a respectful manner and only when relevant to the class discussion.

Group Work: Some of the work you do for this class will be group work. You will be asked to discuss texts in groups. This group work time is not socializing time. During group work you are expected to act responsibly and respectfully. Your level of engagement affects both **your** thinking process and **your group member's** thinking process. Failure to follow these general guidelines may result in a penalty in your participation grade.

There will be one group project for this class. Groups will be assigned. No one will be exempt from group work unless an accommodations letter is provided. The group grade will consist of an average of the individual grade earned and the group grade earned. Each student will be evaluated by their group members and this evaluation will be part of the student's individual grade. Further instructions will be provided.

Use of Electronics: Students should put away their electronic devices upon entering this classroom. I don't ask that you silence them completely but simply that you put them on vibrate. If I observe you using your phone in class, you will lose points from your participation grade. (In the case of an emergency please let me know before class that you need to have your phone out). The same applies to the use of other electronic devices. If you are in the habit of taking notes on your laptop or similar device, please write me a formal email requesting the use of such device in the classroom. Otherwise, your electronic devices should not be visible to me at all.

Tardiness: Entering the classroom late disrupts the class. By being on time you are practicing courtesy and respect towards others as well as ensuring you don't miss out on anything that may be important. Quizzes are usually given at the beginning of the period but I don't take attendance and start quizzes until at least 5 minutes after the beginning of class. Given that you do have a few minutes as buffer, if you miss a quiz because you are late, you will not be allowed to make it up. Although you should not make tardiness a habit, please do go ahead and come to class even if you are running late. Many important things are discussed during one class period.

Disruptive Behavior: Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to talking out of turn, sleeping, and use of electronics. If any of the above are observed, you will be docked in participation points. I am also at liberty to have you removed from class, if necessary.

Late Work: I do not accept any late work. Do not ask to turn work in late regardless of the excuse. However, if you are having problems completing the work for this class or completing your readings, please come see me so that we can discuss a plan of action.

Missed Exams and Quizzes: Quizzes cannot be made-up regardless of the reason for your absence. Exams can be made-up only in the case of extreme emergencies and only if proper documentation is provided. It is up to the instructor's discretion to judge what constitutes a legitimate emergency.

Scholastic Honesty: Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by college

district officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. "Scholastic Dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarizing on a paper and collusion. **Cheating and plagiarism in this course will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment without a possibility of making up the work. A repeated offense of plagiarism will result in an F for the course.** Other forms of cheating will also be penalized. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of "0" or "F" on the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or referral to the college Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Please also review the Scholastic Honesty policy in the HCC Student Handbook. If you do not understand or know what plagiarism is, it is your responsibility to seek counsel, inform yourself, or speak to the instructor. You will be held to the stipulations above regardless of whether your plagiarism was "intentional" or not.

Academic Integrity: Requesting to know your grade at any point in the semester is always invited but it is never, ever appropriate to tell me what grade you "need." If you are in a bind and need a specific grade in order to remain in good academic standing, you should work for that grade so that you can achieve it. We can always meet regarding your progress in the course and discuss strategies to improve or the possibility of dropping if necessary (before the drop deadline). Instead of letting it get to that, I encourage you to be in touch with me early in the semester if you feel you are struggling.

Withdrawal Policy: You may drop yourself or ask your instructor to drop you. You may drop yourself through your HCCS student center login. This semester the last day to withdraw (grade of W) for this course is Monday, April 3, 2017. For other important dates including withdrawal with partial refunds for this course see the academic calendar at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/events-calendar/academic-calendar/>.

Important Notices: Students who must repeat a course face significant tuition/fee increases at HCC and at other Texas public colleges and universities. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, talk to your instructor or counselor about your study habits, reading skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

Reasonable Accommodation: Houston Community College is dedicated to providing an inclusive learning environment by removing barriers and opening access for qualified students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Ability Services is the designated office responsible for approving and coordinating reasonable accommodations and services in order to assist students with disabilities in reaching their full academic potential. In order to receive reasonable accommodations or evacuation assistance in an emergency, the student must be registered with Ability Services.

If you have a documented disability (e.g. learning, hearing, vision, physical, mental health, or a chronic health condition), that may require accommodations, please contact the appropriate Ability Services Office below. Please note that classroom accommodations cannot be provided prior to your Instructor's receipt of an accommodation letter and accommodations are not retroactive. Accommodations can be

requested at any time during the semester; however, if an accommodation letter is provided to the Instructor after the first day of class, sufficient time (1 week) must be allotted for the instructor to implement the accommodations.

Ability Service Contact Information

Central College

713.718.6164

Coleman College

713-718-7376

Northeast College

713-718-8322

Northwest College

713-718-5422

713-718-5408

Southeast College

713-718-7144

Southwest College

713-718-5910

**Adaptive Equipment/Assistive
Technology**

713-718-6629

713-718-5604

Interpreting and CART services

713-718-6333

For more information, see the following page: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/disability-services/ada-counselors/>

Title IX: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies and procedures that protect students' rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights is on the HCC website under Students-Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance. It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. For more information, log in to www.edurisksolutions.org. Sign in using your HCC student email account, then go to the button at the top right that says "Login" and enter your student number.

EGLS3—Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System: At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the EGLS3 as part of the Houston Community College Student System available online: hccs.edu/EGLS3.

Support Services: The following is a list of some of the support services available for students. For more information, visit the Houston Community College website.

- Library: <http://library.hccs.edu/home>
- Open Computer Labs
- Tutoring In person and Online: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/tutoring/>
- Advisement & Counseling