



Division of English and Communication/English Department

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

ENGL 2351:0120 Intro to Mexican American Literature| Lec | CRN 10220

Fall 2019 | 12 Weeks (9.23.2019-12.15.2019) | In-Person

Central Campus| San Jac Room 343 | T & R 2-3:50 pm

3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor	Office	Office Hours	Contact Info
Melinda Mejia, PhD	San Jac Bldg. Rm 215 HCC Central Campus 1301 Holman Houston, TX 77004	Tuesdays 10 to 11am Thursdays 4 to 5 pm	Office Phone: 713-718-6230 Email: melinda.mejia@hccs.edu Instead of emailing me directly from your HCC email, use the CANVAS inbox.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

My preferred method of contact is Canvas email/inbox. Expect a response within 24 to 48 hours.

Course Description

Mexican-American writers have been producing politically and culturally relevant literary work since the late 19th century (and arguably even before then); 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 work produced by MexicanAmerican 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 MexicanAmerican (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 MexicanAmerican 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?

Prerequisites and/or Co-Requisites

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

Learning Management System

This section of ENGL 2351 will use [Eagle Online Canvas](#) to as a communications and resources platform. HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Eagle Online Canvas or the Learning Web. It is recommended that you use [FIREFOX](#) or [CHROME](#) as your browser.

Required Books

The books listed below are required for this course and should be available at the HCC bookstore. Books must be purchased immediately. There should be a link on our Canvas page that will expedite the process. You may also try to acquire your books on Amazon, Half Price Books, 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).

The books are listed below in the order they will be used. We will be using our first book on the second week of class. You must have the book to complete the in-class quizzes and discussion questions. Please make sure you order your books as soon as you are done reading this syllabus. 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. Also, make note that 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)
- *Borderlands/La Frontera* by Gloria Anzaldua (ISBN 9781879960855)
- *The Hungry Woman* by Cherrie Moraga (ISBN 9780970534408)
- *The Shallow End of Sleep* by Jose Antonio Rodriguez (ISBN 9781882688418)
- *The Deportation of Wopper Barraza* by Maceo Montoya (ISBN 9780826354365)

Other Instructional 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](#) 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>.

Supplemental Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peerassisted 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/>.

Course Overview for ENGL 2351

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.

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

<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.

Student Success in ENGL

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 reading the material, attending class, completing assignments, and participating in class discussions.

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

Grade Formula/Breakdown

Quizzes/Homework	22%
In-Class Work/Participation	10%
Midterm	23%
Final Exam	20%
Group Presentation	10%
Course Portfolio	15%

Writing Requirement

Students will write a minimum of 4,000 words over the course of the semester. This requirement will be completed in the form of homework writing assignments, essay portions of exams, and the writing portion of the course portfolio.

Quizzes/Homework

This category includes minor homework assignments and reading quizzes. There will be anywhere between 12-16 entries of this type. **All homework writing assignments or reading responses MUST BE TYPED and turned in during class on the day they are due. If they are not typed, you will receive a 40-point deduction on your assignment.** The due dates for planned homework assignments are on the schedule. Some prompts are already provided on the schedule and some are not. It is your responsibility to email me if you have any questions about the homework. Not knowing the prompt will not be an acceptable excuse for not turning in homework. Unplanned homework may be assigned and may not appear on the schedule. It is your responsibility to find out what you have missed on days that you are absent.

Quizzes are announced on the schedule, are timed, and are administered at the beginning of the class period. Depending on the length of the quiz, you get between 8 to 12 minutes to complete it. I give about a 3-minute grace period before we start the quizzes. Extra time will not be allowed for you if you arrive late for a quiz. Additionally, if you miss the quiz because you were late, you cannot make up the quiz.

Missed work in this category (homework and/or quizzes) cannot be made up regardless of the reason you missed it. In order to account for emergencies, the two lowest grades from this category will be dropped.

In-Class Work/Participation

In this category, students will receive grades for any in-class work completed and picked up for a grade, including in-class writing, group work, and any other exercises assigned in class. You will have 6 to 10 of these types of grades. In this category, students will also be awarded participation grades. Participation grades are awarded at the instructor's discretion. Participation grades are often awarded on fruitful course days or as a general progress grade for the class. You might lose participation points for not being prepared during class time, for not attending class, or for showing up late habitually. You may also lose participation points for using your phone in class or for causing distractions of any sorts during class time. The professor will assign no more than 5 participation grades per semester as part of the total grades for this category. **Missed work (including participation grades) in this category cannot be made up regardless of the reason you missed it. However, the lowest grade in this category will be dropped.**

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. 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 exam dates. Exams can only be made up if proper documentation of an emergency is provided.

Course Portfolio

The portfolio will be a collection of analytical and creative responses that relate to the works and ideas covered in this course. There will be a minimum writing requirement of at least 1500 words for this assignment. Further instructions will be provided late October. The portfolio will be due towards the end of the semester.

Group Presentation

You will be assigned to present on a text for the course as a group. Instructions will be provided during the second week of class.

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:

<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

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.

Instructor's Policies

Academic Integrity

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

<http://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/studentprocedures/>

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. A recommendation for suspension or expulsion will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary disposition. 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 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 will result, at a minimum, in a grade of 0 for the assignment, NO DISCUSSION. You will not be allowed to rewrite or revise ANY plagiarized assignments (responses, quizzes, tests, or papers). Please note also that "accidental" plagiarism or collusion will result in the same penalty. More than one instance of plagiarism of any kind or on ANY assignment in the course will result in an F for the course without discussion. 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 the 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.

Attendance Procedure

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. 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. 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.

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 path that may be. As such, your HCCS classes are spaces in which you can and should polish your professional persona. This can be done in multiple ways, some of which are listed below:

- Complete the reading assignments before class.
- Actively participate in discussion of the readings in small group or large group.
- Do not speak over others or interrupt others.

- Ask questions, respectfully, of your colleagues or of me when clarification is needed.
- Respect others' ideas, experiences, belief systems, and worldviews.
- Be open-minded and expect to engage with ideas & beliefs that may not be your own.
- 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.

Other Instructor Policies & Information

Checking Announcements: It is important that you set your announcements on Canvas to go straight to your email. The announcement function on Canvas is one of the primary ways I communicate when the information being provided pertains to the whole class. If you don't have announcements going to your email, then make sure you sign-in to Canvas and check announcements frequently, especially if you are absent. While I try not to change the schedule very much, sometimes it is necessary to make adjustments and such adjustments will be announced in the ANNOUNCEMENTS section of Canvas. Announcements are also used to communicate with you for other reasons such as the following: checking in, my progress on grading or comments, reminders of deadlines (sometimes), extensions, extra-credit, etc. For this reason, the best thing is to change the setting of your Canvas course and have your announcements go directly to email.

Late Policy: I do not accept any late work regardless of the reason you missed the deadline except for the Course Portfolio. **Homework due, in-class assignments, and quizzes may not be made up, regardless of the reason for missing them.** Because I am aware that emergencies do happen, I have a "dropped assignments" policy. See below.

Dropped Assignments: In order to account for emergencies, two grades from the Quizzes/Homework category will be dropped and one grade from our In-Class category will be dropped. Depending on general class progress and time, you may be also be allowed one to two opportunities for extra credit. However, do not rely on extra credit to maintain your grades. **Major grades such as the Exams, Portfolio, and Group Presentation are not dropped.** The dropped assignments policy only applies to minor grades in the Quizzes/Hmwk and in the In-class Category. This policy is in place to help you succeed even when something unexpected comes up. That is, opportunities to succeed are built in to this course at all levels. Take advantage of these opportunities and make sure to practice good time management skills. **Do not ask for exceptions to be made for you.** If you remain in this course, you are agreeing to this policy. Asking for your work to be accepted late will result in your forfeiting of the "dropped assignments" and extra credit opportunity.

To be clear, a missed assignment **CANNOT** be made up. If you miss an assignment and are worried about your grade you can make sure you do well on your other assignments and/or take advantage of the "dropped assignments" policy and the extra credit opportunity.

IMPORTANT: *If you are experiencing an unusual or unexpected change in circumstances that is affecting your class performance let me know as soon as possible. We can decide together what the best route of action for you is.*

Late Policy for Course Portfolio: The Course Portfolio will be due towards the end of the semester. The window that you have for late submission depends on how many days are left until the end of the semester. A clear late submission policy for this assignment will be outlined in the Course Portfolio instructions that you will receive in class.

Missed Exams: Exams can be made up only if you have proper documentation of a legitimate emergency. The professor reserves the right to decide what is or isn't a legitimate emergency. You must contact the professor regarding a missed exam within 48 hours of the missed exam in order for your excuse to even be considered. Failure to do so forfeits the possibility of you being able to make up the missed exam. Make-up exams will be rescheduled based on the professor's availability or during scheduled office hours.

Grade Requests: Under no circumstances is it appropriate for you to tell the instructor the grade you "need" for this course. It is unprofessional and unethical to come to the instructor of this class with issues regarding how the class is putting your academic status/situation in danger. If you are concerned about the grade you will receive make sure you come to class every day, participate in class discussions and activities, do all your work in a timely manner, and meet with me during office hours when you have questions about an assignment. You may also seek extra help from the various tutoring services available. Finally, you may come to me to explain why you may be struggling in the course and we can work on a solution together if a reasonable one is possible. However, asking me to give you a grade you have not yourself earned is unacceptable behavior. Any instance of this will be reported to the chair of the department.

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 even 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, so that we can discuss your options.

HCC Policies

<http://www.hccs.edu/resourcesfor/currentstudents/student-handbook/> The link above will take you to the HCC student handbook where 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

EGLS³

The EGLS³ ([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. EGLS³ surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. EGLS³ surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

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.

Office of Institutional Equity

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>

disAbility Services

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/catalog/disability-support-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

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