

	<p>Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30am-11:30pm or Thursdays 4-5pm, or by request.</p> <p>Office Location: HCC Central Campus SanJac Bldg. Room 215</p>	<p>English 2351: Introduction to Mexican American Literature Section 0120/ CRN 32910 HCC Central Campus San Jac Bldg, Room 252 Fall 2017, Tues/Thur 2pm to 3:50pm</p>
<p>Instructor: Dr. Melinda Mejia</p>	<p>Contact Info: Phone #: 713 718 6230 melinda.mejia@hccs.edu</p>	
<p>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</p>		

I. 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 of Component Area Requirement of your degree plan. Double check degree plans here: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/advising/degree-plans/2015-2016/>

II. 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 questions: Does the value of Mexican-American literature lie in its contributions to universal themes, issues, and concerns or does it lie in its particularity? Is Mexican-American literatura unique in its aesthetics, themes, and politics or does it fit within a particular tradition of literary production? And finally, what are the main characteristics of Mexican-American literature?

III. SUPPLIES AND TEXTBOOKS: You should have a notebook for taking notes in class and a dictionary and thesaurus as needed. The textbook list is on the next page. There are 6 required books for our course and 2 recommended. The texts labeled recommended on our course list are for an extra credit assignment. The books are available at the HCCS Central Campus bookstore. Other places to try are amazon.com and Arte Publico Press at University of Houston.

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>Shallow End of Sleep</i>	Jose Antonio Rodriguez	978-1882688418
<i>It Calls You Back</i>	Luis J Rodriguez	978-1416584179
<i>The King and Queen of Comezon</i> *recommended only	Denise Chavez	978-0806144832
<i>Deportation of Wopper Barraza</i> *recommended only	Maceo Montoya	978-0826354365

IV. GRADE BREAKDOWN: Below is the grade breakdown for the course.

In-class Work, Participation	10%
Quizzes/Reading Notes	20%
Group Project	15%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	20%
Term Paper/Annotated Bibliography	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 10-12 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 dates for quizzes will be on the schedule as will the due dates for reading notes. 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. Work in this category is not accepted late and cannot be made up. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Reading Notes: When reading notes are assigned, you should turn in a **typed** 275-word response to the reading 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. For the response only quote three to four sentences even if in your comments you are referring to the whole passage) **INCLUDE A CITATION – PAGE NUMBER**
- * A discussion of the passage and your interpretation of it.
- A discussion of why you chose that passage (optional: tell me how it ties in to the themes of the class.)

Group Presentation 15%: A group presentation will be assigned. Details will be provided in class. Your grade for the Group Presentation will consist partly of an individual grade that will include my evaluation of you as a presenter and an evaluation of you by your group members judging your contributions to the group. If you are absent on the day your group is supposed to present, you will receive a(n) 50/F for your group grade and a 3-point deduction on your final grade. Your group will be allowed to proceed without you. **NO LATE PRESENTATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

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. **See ATTENDANCE POLICY for EXAM makeup policy.**

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 have to include an annotated bibliography with at least 4 entries as part of your term paper grade. You will be given an instruction sheet with more details in class the last week of October; you will have at least 6 weeks to complete the paper. Term papers may be accepted late with a point deduction depending on when they are due. Please check Term Paper instruction sheet for details.

V. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance Policy and Missed Work: 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 TWO ABSENCES ONLY. I permit up to three absences without direct penalty. **A fourth absence will result in a grade penalty of 10 points on your final grade. A fifth absence will result in a grade of FX or in your withdrawal from the course.**

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. Regardless of reason, a fourth absence will result in penalty to your final grade, and anything beyond that will result 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, one quiz grade will be dropped and two grades from the in-class work category will also be dropped. Depending on general class progress and time, you may be also be allowed one to two opportunities for extra credit. Do not rely on extra credit to maintain your grades.

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 3 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.

VI. COLLEGE POLICIES

Withdrawal Policy: You may drop yourself or ask your instructor to drop you. You may drop yourself through your HCCS Student Center page (student log-ins). This semester the last day to withdraw (grade of W) is Monday, Nov 13. For other important dates including withdrawal with partial refunds see the academic calendar at <http://www.hccs.edu/district/events-calendar/academic-calendar/fall/fall-reg-term/>.

Important Notice Regarding Withdrawals: Students must withdraw by the withdrawal deadline in order to receive a "W" on a transcript. Final withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online Academic Calendar, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC advisor to determine class withdrawal deadlines.

Be certain you understand HCC policies about dropping a course and consult with a counselor/advisor to determine if withdrawing is in your best interest. It is your responsibility to withdraw officially from a class and prevent an "F" from appearing on your transcript. Senate Bill 1231 and limits the number of W's a student can have to 6 classes over the course of their entire academic career. This policy is effective for students entering higher education for the first time in fall 2007 and subsequent terms. Withdrawals accumulated at any other Texas public higher education institution count toward the 6 course total. Withdrawals for certain circumstances beyond the students control may not be counted toward the 6-drop limit.

In addition, withdrawing from a course may impact your financial aid award or eligibility. Contact the Financial Aid Office or website to learn more about the impact of withdrawing on financial aid. Furthermore, 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.

Repeating Courses: As a result of recent Texas legislative changes, please be advised that HCC is charging additional tuition for students who enroll in the same class three or more times at HCC. While it is the hope of HCC that students will be successful in their first attempt at classes, we realize that life demands, academic struggles, and other issues may result in students needing to take the same class more than once. Speaking with an advisor will help you develop student success skills, improving your overall academic performance. If a student repeats a course in which a grade (A-F) has been received, the highest grade received at HCC is the permanent grade for the course and will be used in computing the GPA. All grades earned in a given course will be reflected on the transcript. Other colleges may compute the GPA differently than HCC.

Reasonable Accommodation: HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including 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. Anyone who needs to arrange reasonable accommodation must contact the Ability Services Office. <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/disability-services/>.

Central College

713.718.6164

Coleman College

713-718-7376

Northeast College

713-718-8322

Northwest College

713-718-5667

713-718-5408

Southeast College

713-718-7053

Southwest College

713-718-7909

**Adaptive Equipment/
Assistive Technology**

713-718-6629

713-718-5604

**Interpreting & CART
services**

713-718-6333

It is advised that the student also immediately discuss any accommodations needed with the instructor whether or not those accommodations have been officially requested through the Ability Services Office.

Discrimination on the Basis of Sex: 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

(713) 718-8271

3100 Main

Houston, TX 77266-7517

or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

Campus Carry: At HCC the safety of our students, staff and faculty is our priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page at the following web address:
<http://www.hccs.edu/district/departments/police/campus-carry/>.

VII. 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: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/advising/>
- Counseling: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/counseling/>
- Veterans Services: <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/va/veteran-affairs-resource-centers/#d.en.215578>

VIII. 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**.