



**Division of English and Communication
English Department**

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

ENGL 2351: Mexican-American Literature | Lecture | CRN
Fall 2019 | 16 Weeks (8.26.2019-12.15.2019) | Online
3 Credit Hours | 48 hours per semester

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Melinda Mejia, PhD	Office Hours: Tues, 9:30 to 10:30am & by appt
Office Phone #: 713-718-6230	Office: Rm 215, San Jacinto Bldg, Central Campus
Learning Web Page: http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/melinda.mejia	Email: melinda.mejia@hccs.edu ; USE CANVAS INBOX

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. Your performance in my class is very important to me.

Instructor's Preferred Method of Contact

My preferred method of contact is email. Please contact me with questions or concerns via Canvas Inbox. I will respond to emails within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. I am usually active on email even on weekends. But if I do not get to a weekend email right away, expect a response by Monday.

What's Exciting About This Course

The Department of English helps students find and develop their authentic voices, establish political power, and create social capital. We teach critical thinking, close reading, and analysis. We coach students on the rhetoric of messaging with consideration of purpose and audience. We support them as they craft their own narratives.

Personal Welcome

Welcome to the course. You have already read a "Personal Welcome" during online orientation. It was titled "Professor's Greeting." To read it again, click on the link below.

<http://de2.hccs.edu/orientation/main.php?Sem=6201&crn=16442>

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 Mexican-American authors that now can be said to constitute part of the Chicana/x 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?

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 is to be accessed on [Eagle Online Canvas](#). When accessing the Internet, it is recommended that you use [FIREFOX](#) or [CHROME](#).

HCC Online Information and Policies

<http://www.hccs.edu/online/>

Instructional Materials

Course Books

The books listed below are required for this course and should be available at the HCC bookstore. Books must be purchased immediately. There is 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 work. No late work will be

accepted, nor will extensions be granted to students who don't have a book. 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 peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>.

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

Can be found at:

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

Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs) for ENGL 2351

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

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

Student Success in ENGL

As with any three-hour course, expect to spend **at least six hours per week** on this course reading and studying the material. Additional time will be required for written assignments. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of signing into the course regularly, reading the materials, listening to the lectures, and completing assignments in Eagle Online. 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.

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

Assignments

Written Assignments and Essays

Students will write a minimum of 4,000 words over the course of the semester. This will be met in the form of discussion forums, exercises, essays on exams, and a portfolio assignment.

Quizzes

There will be reading quizzes for most of the readings assigned for this course. There may also be reading quizzes on some of the power points and lectures. There will be a total of about 10 to 12 quizzes. The quizzes are made up of 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. I assign quizzes to motivate you to read the material. The quizzes are timed. Generally, your quiz performance is a reliable measure of your overall class performance.

Reading Responses

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 must 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, including length requirement, will be given online in the assignment submission link. You will have 5 to 8 of these assignments.

***Your two lowest grades from the Quizzes/Reading Responses category (only) will be dropped. This will be indicated by a greyed out grade on the Canvas gradebook. This policy is meant to account for emergencies, illnesses, or any other reason for which you may have made a bad grade on a quiz or reading response.*

Exams

There will be two exams in this course. The exams will be part multiple choice, part matching quotes with speaker/character, part short answers, and two short essays (500 words each). A few of the multiple-choice questions will come from quizzes that you will have already taken on the material. Exams will be timed. A missed exam can only be made up with proper

documentation of a legitimate emergency. It is up to the instructor to determine what constitutes a legitimate emergency. A very general review outline will be provided a few days before the exams.

Course Portfolio

For this assignment, you will be asked to include a 1200-word review of literary criticism, a poem or other creative response to the course readings, and an infographic. Further instructions for this assignment will be provided in class.

Power Point Presentation with Audio

For this assignment you will be required to produce a power point with audio. A prompt for this assignment and further instructions will be provided on Canvas.

Grading Formula

Quizzes & Reading Responses	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	23%
Course Portfolio	12%
Power Point Presentation	10%

HCC Grading Scale can be found on this site under Academic Information:
<http://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>

Course Calendar

A tentative and general schedule of topics is provided below.

- Week 1- Introduction
- Week 2 – Early Chicano/a Literature
- Week 3 – Education-Assimilation: *George Washington Gomez*
- Week 4 – Education-Assimilation: *George Washington Gomez*
- Week 5 – Pachucos and the Portrayal of Mex Am Culture: *Zoot Suit*
- Week 6 – The Chicano Movement & “El Plan Espiritual de Aztlan”
- Week 7 – Midterm Exam
- Week 8 – To be announced
- Week 9 - Chicana Perspectives & Aztlan: *Borderlands/La Frontera*
- Week 10 – Chicana Perspectives Continued: TBA
- Week 11 – The Fall of Aztlan: *The Hungry Woman*
- Week 12 – Immigrant Perspectives: *The Shallow End of Sleep*
- Week 13 – *The Deportation of Wopper Barraza*
- Week 14 – Work on Portfolio
- Week 15 – Work on Portfolio
- Week 16 – Final Exam

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/student-procedures/>

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. 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 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 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.

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. 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

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

Students who miss more than 3 assignments in a row **may** be dropped from the course for excessive absences.

IMPORTANT Students who have not signed in and completed at least one assignment by the official day of record will be dropped for noncompliance with the attendance policy. Completing the online orientation does not count as attendance.

Student Conduct

The classes you take at HCC are not only beginning points for your academic career; they also prepare you for your professional life, whatever 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:

- Doing the assigned readings on time so that you can respond to them appropriately.
- Posting or uploading your work on time or even ahead of time.
- Actively participating in any discussions available.
- Responding to classmates' writing, discussion posts, and emails when appropriate.
- Asking questions, respectfully, of your peers and/or me when an idea or assignment is unclear.
- Formatting your emails respectfully and professionally.
- Contributing seriously and responsibly when assigned group work.
- Being open to new ideas and perspectives and respectful of other's opinions.
- Avoiding purposefully inflammatory comments or behavior.
- Abiding by course policies

Other Instructor Policies & Information

Checking Announcements: It is important that you check announcements at least every two days. 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. The best thing is to change the setting of your Canvas course and have your announcements go directly to email.

Late Work Policy: Quizzes and reading responses are NOT ACCEPTED LATE. There are no exceptions to this rule regardless of the reason or excuse for missing a deadline. Even if your excuse is a good and legitimate excuse, this policy stands. To account for emergencies and/or other legitimate issues that may arise, your TWO lowest grades from this category are dropped as mentioned previously in this syllabus. This way you don't have to ask for exceptions to be made for you when you miss a deadline. Asking for an exception to be made for you, may result in your forfeiting your privilege of dropping your two lowest grades from the Quizzes and Reading Responses grade category. Note that even if you are running behind on a couple of minor assignments in this course, you should be okay. That is the purpose of the DROP rule, to help you succeed even in the case of an emergency and even though I don't accept late work.

Exams have to be completed by the deadline. Exams that are submitted more than 10 minutes late will not be graded. If an emergency keeps you from completing the exam by the deadline, you may request extra time; however, documentation of your emergency will be requested and the request must be made ahead of time. It is up to the instructor to determine whether the emergency is legitimate or not.

Grade Requests: Under no circumstances is it appropriate for you to tell the instructor the grade you "need" for this course. It is absolutely unprofessional and unethical to come to the instructor of this class with your personal issues regarding your college grades and academic

status/situation. 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

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. You may also consider taking another course.

HCC Policies

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <http://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

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

<http://www.hccs.edu/support-services/disability-services/>

Title IX

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

Office of the Dean of Students

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

Department Chair Contact Information

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