

Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages

Point Loma Nazarene University

Course Syllabus, Spring 2022

Professor (Profesor): Dr. Scott Bennett

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Office (Oficina): Bond Academic Center, Room 107

Office Hours (Horas de consulta): Posted, and by appointment

Class Meeting Days and Time (Días y horas de clase): T, R 1:30pm-2:45pm, BAC 104

Course (Curso): SPA 3020 (Mexican American Literature and Culture) (3 units)

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 3, 1:30pm-4:00pm

Course Description (Descripción del curso):

A survey of major twentieth century Mexican American writers and their cultural heritage in the United States. Genres for consideration include short story, essay, poetry, novel, and drama. Conducted in Spanish. *Prerequisites: Spanish 3002 and 3000 or consent of instructor.* All coursework will be done in Spanish.

Required Texts (Textos requeridos):

1. José Antonio Burciaga, *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo* (1877741078) 1st Ed., 1993, Joshua Odell Editions.
2. Gary Soto, *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (0811807584) 1995, Chronicle Books.
3. Luis Alberto Urrea, *Into the Beautiful North* (0316025267) Reprint edition, 2010, Back Bay Books.
4. Helena María Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus* (0452273870) 1st Plume Edition, Paperback, 1996, Plume/Penguin.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify key authors, movements, ideas, and values of the Mexican American experience in literature, film, art, and other cultural forms.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical perspective, social structures and social conflicts of the Mexican American experience.
3. Demonstrate a reasonable ability to analyze literature, film and other artistic modes.
4. Recognize basic lexical variations and linguistic phenomena present in Southwest Spanish.
5. Show continued improvement of language skills as evidenced in written and oral assignments.

PLNU Mission (To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send):

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Grading (Calificación): The final grade is based on the following point scale. (La nota final se basa en la siguiente escala de puntos):

Midterm Exam (Examen de medio semestre).....	200
Final Exam (Examen final).....	200
Film Critique (Análisis de película).....	50
Short Essay (Ensayo corto).....	50
Oral Presentation (Presentación oral).....	50
Cuaderno de vocabulario.....	50
Cultural Engagement Activities (Actividades de involucramiento cultural) (2) (50 pts. each)...	100
Attendance (Asistencia), Participation (Participación), Group Work (Trabajo en grupo).....	300

Grading Scale (Escala de calificaciones):

930-1000	A	780-799	C+	600-629	D-
900-929	A-	730-779	C	0-599	F
880-899	B+	700-729	C-		
830-879	B	680-699	D+		
800-829	B-	630-679	D		

Course Policies:

Student Responsibilities (Responsabilidades del/ de la estudiante):

La preparación de los materiales, las lecturas y las tareas (Preparation of course materials, readings and homework): Es necesario que los estudiantes lean *antes* de la clase. De esta forma, se puede hacer preguntas, comentar y conversar sobre los textos asignados y/o presentar con claridad sobre los temas del curso.

1. Asistencia (Attendance): Es obligatorio estar en clase y participar en las discusiones. La nota de asistencia se bajará **20 puntos** con cada falta (**la primera falta es gratis**, no se les quitarán los 20 puntos). Si el/la estudiante falta **tres (3)** veces o más, el profesor tiene el derecho de desmatricular al estudiante. Si el/la estudiante falta **seis (6)** veces, **no** puede recibir crédito para la clase. Según las normas de PLNU, el/la estudiante no puede recibir crédito para una clase si falta 20% de las clases. Para clarificar, explico en inglés: According to the college catalog, attendance is a requirement for each class. There are no excused absences, except those allowed by the Provost of the university.

2. Participación (Participation): La participación es de **suma importancia** en la clase. Responderán oralmente y también por escrito acerca de los elementos estudiados. Es necesario que hablen solamente en español en la clase, tanto con el profesor como con los demás estudiantes. **La hora de clase es para conversar y escribir en español, no tiempo para hablar inglés o usar los teléfonos celulares etc.** Si hablan solamente en español, si hacen y preparan las

tareas asignadas y si se mantienen enfocados en la clase tendrán una nota alta de participación. **Al mismo tiempo, es bueno tener una actitud positiva, especialmente si uno tiene un poco de miedo acerca de sus destrezas con el español.**

A key requirement will be maintaining a notebook with the new words that you learn or are learning in Spanish. I will check this regularly to see how your list of words is progressing. It is essential to do the readings, engage in class discussion, and continue working on the list of new words you encounter. Although most of our readings are in English, class discussion and all assignments will be done in Spanish. If you don't know the meaning of a word in English, most likely you wouldn't know the meaning in Spanish. So, please add to your vocabulary list actively on a regular basis. If necessary, it would be good to have a space for examples of usage, or your own practice sentences with the words you are learning.

3. Exams (Exámenes): There will be one midterm during the course, and also a final exam. No exams can be taken early, and there are no make-ups on exams, unless authorized by the professor, or in the case of an emergency. Please contact the professor if you have any conflicts concerning exams or due dates. Professor will provide instructions about the exams in class.

4. Film Critique (Análisis de película): Each student will need to write a short critical analysis of one film during the semester. More instructions will be given, and the critique needs to be two pages in length. A note of caution: some of the films may contain offensive and/or difficult parts in their content. The point of viewing films and doing a film critique is to broaden cultural perspectives, not to offend or upset the student. If you prefer to not view films that are rated R, please choose from the PG or PG-13 films that are available.

5. Short Essay (Ensayo corto): Each student will write one short (two page) essay concerning readings and other topics from the class. The professor will provide information about this requirement, and will also provide the prompts to follow and topics to analyze.

6. Oral Presentation (Presentación oral): Students will prepare an oral presentation on a Mexican American artist from a list provided by the professor. Students will present about the artist's life, work, and also analyze the importance of some of the artist's key pieces. Each presentation should be 10 minutes long. Professor will explain more about this assignment.

7. Cultural Engagement (Involucramiento cultural): Students will participate in cultural engagement activities during the semester in order to practice Spanish and connect with the Mexican American community. The professor will provide more information concerning this aspect of the class, and we hope to do some field trips concerning Mexican American reality. Also, **please plan on attending Chicano Park Day on Saturday, April 23, 2022.** The day starts at 10:00am and ends at 5:00pm. There will be music, dancing, street vendors, low riders, food, people, and many aspects of Chicano culture. We will reflect on this experience in class the next two class sessions following Chicano Park Day. The professor will provide more information about this event and how to document a meaningful experience during the day. There will be two (2) required cultural engagement assignments, each worth 50pts. (Chicano Park Day counts as a Cultural Engagement activity, most definitely).

8. Extra Credit (Crédito extra): Students can complete two **extra** Cultural Engagement assignments for 25 points each (a total of 50 possible extra credit points). Professor will explain more about this in class and offer other possible activities for the class.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course. Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

Final Examination Policy

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination is posted on the class schedules site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her class schedule. Should the need arise to drop this course (personal emergencies, poor performance, etc.), the student has the responsibility to follow through (provided the drop date meets the stated calendar deadline established by the university), not the instructor. Simply ceasing to attend this course or failing to follow through to arrange for a change of registration (drop/add) may easily result in a grade of F on the official transcript.

Key Information Concerning COVID-19:

We will follow PLNU guidelines concerning COVID-19. It is required to wear a mask indoors (inside of BAC, inside the classroom etc.) Please do not bring food to class, since we will not be taking off masks inside the classroom. We will be doing most of our work with digital files (provided on Canvas or through email), so you will need to have your laptop or tablet. I will have a few paper handouts, but they will be for your individual use (please do not share these with other students). Also, we will work outside whenever possible, to provide some fresh air for everyone!

Course Schedule (Horario de curso)

January 10-14

Week 1 (Semana 1)

M10 (No classes today) (No hay clases hoy)

T11 (Observe Monday course schedule today) (No hay clases hoy)

R13 Course introduction. Reading in class: two poems by Gina Valdés: “Where You From?”: the online version can be found here: <https://girlgriot.wordpress.com/2008/04/22/where-you-from/>

and also “English con salsa” <http://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2010/may/05/poetry-english-con-salsa/>

Watch in class: Dean Nelson’s interview with Luis Alberto Urrea for the PLNU Writer’s Symposium by the Sea:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ejxw-oRHjQQ>

There is another excellent interview with Luis Alberto Urrea with Bill Moyers here:

<http://billmoyers.com/episode/between-two-worlds-life-on-the-border/>

Homework for Tuesday, 1/18: read essays from *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo* (selected essays will be assigned students will present short summaries and interpretations). Class discussion will focus on historical perspectives and background, humor, and the nuances of Chicano reality. Please read all of the essays assigned for Tuesday, 1/18 and be ready to comment on them, not just the essay that is assigned to you.

January 17-21

Week 2 (Semana 2)

M17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday, no classes today) (No hay clases hoy)

T18 Reading for today: *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo* Class discussion will focus on historical perspectives and background, humor, and the nuances of Chicano reality. Please read all of the essays assigned for today and be ready to comment on them. (10 minutes per talk, 5-8 minutes for questions).

1. Karina M. *Con Safos*
2. Winton T. *Pendejismo*
3. Regan S. *The Joy of Jalapeños*
4. Emma P. *The Great Taco War*

R20 Reading for today: *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo* Class discussion will focus on historical perspectives and background, humor, and the nuances of Chicano reality. Please read all of the essays assigned for today and be ready to comment on them. (10 minutes per talk, 5-8 minutes for questions).

1. Cheyenne J. C. *A Mixed Tex-Cal Marriage*
2. Faith P. *La Cuetlaxochitl*
3. Ashley C. *Return to the Motherland*
4. Lauren D. *He Who Serves Two Masters Disappoints One ... or Both*

January 24-28

Week 3 (Semana 3)

T25 Reading for today: *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo* Class discussion will focus on historical perspectives and background, humor, and the nuances of Chicano reality. Please read all of the essays assigned for today and be ready to comment on them. (10 minutes per talk, 5 minutes for questions).

1. Cameron C. *Piñatas*
2. Isabella R. *The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes*
3. Lauren H. *Beggars and Pordioseros*
4. Beverly T. *The Desert*
5. Chris M. *My Ecumenical Father*

R27 Reading: *Under the Feet of Jesus*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 3-46) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

January 31-February 4

Week 4 (Semana 4)

T1 Reading for this week: *Under the Feet of Jesus*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 49-90) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

R3 Reading for this week: *Under the Feet of Jesus*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 93-130) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

February 7-11

Week 5 (Semana 5)

T8 Finish reading: *Under the Feet of Jesus*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 133-176) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

Once we finish *Under the Feet of Jesus*, it will be necessary to start reading *Into the Beautiful North*. **Since it is a longer text, you will need to get a jump on this to be able to participate and be actively involved in the discussion starting on Tuesday, February 15.**

R10 Reading for today: "Yo soy Joaquín," Rodolfo "Corky" González. You can find the poem online here: <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/latinos/joaquin.htm>

Here is a video version of the poem: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6M6qOG2O-o>

We will discuss and analyze this epic poem of Mexican American reality today. Please highlight significant sections and ponder on the meaning. It would be good to formulate a few questions concerning the meaning and symbolism. Please do a preliminary reading of the poem before class so we can have meaningful discussion.

Ensayo corto due today (two pages, double-spaced, MLA format)

February 14-18

Week 6 (Semana 6)

T15 Reading: *Into the Beautiful North*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 3-57) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

R17 Reading: *Into the Beautiful North*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 58-113) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

February 21-25

Week 7 (Semana 7)

T22 Reading: *Into the Beautiful North*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 114-163) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

R24 Reading: *Into the Beautiful North*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 167-220) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

February 28-March 4

Week 8 (Semana 8)

T1 Reading: *Into the Beautiful North*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 221-275) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

R3 Finish reading: *Into the Beautiful North*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 276-338) (15 minutes of group work/review of section, followed by class discussion).

March 7-11 (San Diego Latino Film Festival: March 12-22)

Week 9 (Semana 9)

Spring Break (No classes) Descanso de primavera (No hay clases hoy)

March 14-18 (San Diego Latino Film Festival: March 12-22)

Week 10 (Semana 10)

T15 Repasaremos el material del examen de medio semestre y tendremos las instrucciones para el examen.

R17 Examen de medio semestre (Midterm Exam)**March 21-25**

Week 11 (Semana 11)

T22 Reading for today: "El corrido de Gregorio Cortez." We will discuss the ballad in class, highlighting the historical and cultural context, and the nuances of the Spanish. Here is a link to the Spanish and there is an English translation as well: <https://genius.com/Ramon-ayala-el-corrido-de-gregorio-cortez-lyrics>

Película: *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez* We will start to watch the film in class.

R24 We will finish viewing and discussion on the film *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez*.

March 28-April 1

Week 12 (Semana 12)

T29 Readings for today: the poems by Pat Mora “Legal Alien” <http://peoplesworld.org/poem-of-the-week-pat-mora-s-legal-alien/> and “Elena.”

<https://hiv.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/SISTA.Latina-Elena-Poem.pdf>

We will watch Culture Clash (Video Clip) in class. We will consider humor as a means of protest and engagement <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvbx5k6ZGfc> (The *Return of Che* starts at 7:17)

Film Critique due today (two pages, double-spaced, MLA format)

R31 Reading: *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (Poems will be assigned for analysis and discussion today).

1. Spirit
2. The Tale of Sunlight
3. Mexicans Begin Jogging

April 4-8

Week 13 (Semana 13)

T5 Reading: *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (Poems will be assigned for analysis and discussion today).

1. The Widow Perez
2. The Plum’s Heart
3. Oranges

R7 Reading: *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (Poems will be assigned for analysis and discussion today).

1. Eve
2. Pink Hands

April 11-15

Week 14 (Semana 14)

T12 Chicano art: a brief introduction.

R14 Easter Recess (No classes) (Descanso de Día de Pascua) (No hay clases)

April 18-22

Week 15 (Semana 15)

M18 Easter Recess (No classes) (Descanso de Día de Pascua) (No hay clases)

T19 Oral presentations today (On Chicano art)

R21 Oral presentations today (On Chicano art)

April 25-29 (Last Week of Classes)

Week 16 (Semana 16)

T26 Finish oral presentations today (On Chicano art). Reflections on Chicano Park Day, 2022. We will reflect and share about some of the experiences during Chicano Park Day and will have the chance to share about meaningful interactions. We will begin review for the final exam today as well.

R28 (**Last day of class**) (**Último día de clases**) Review for Final Exam / Discussion.

We will reflect and share about some of the experiences during Chicano Park Day and the chance to share about meaningful interactions. We will also reflect on other Cultural Engagement activities during the semester. We will finish with some final observations and conclusions about the course and Mexican American reality.

All Cultural Engagement and Extra Credit due today.

May 2-6 (Finals Week)

Week 17 (Semana 17)

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 3, 1:30pm-4:00pm