

# **Point Loma Nazarene University**

## **Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages + Environmental Studies**

### **LIT 2000-4 Literature and Culture**

Spring 2024, Quad 1, 2 Units

Meeting days: Monday, Wednesday

Instructor: Scott Bennett, PhD, Professor of Spanish

Meeting times: 1:00pm-2:50pm

Meeting location: BAC 156

Phone: 619 849-2947

E-mail: [scottbennett@pointloma.edu](mailto:scottbennett@pointloma.edu)

Office location and hours: Listed on office door and by appointment, BAC 115 (in person or on Zoom)

Final Exam: Monday, February 26, 1:00pm-2:50pm (in our classroom)

### **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.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

LIT 2000 Literature and Culture (FE) (2 Units)

A study of the representative works of literature and cultural contexts.

Extended Course Description:

We will be reading and discussing short stories by a diverse group of writers from Latin America who explore local and universal themes and issues through their fiction. Exploring various cultural contexts through fiction opens our eyes to other worldviews as well as to the unique style of Latin American writing (all works are translated from the original Spanish or Portuguese). By the end of this course, you will be familiar with the genre of the short story and the various contexts and countries that have produced such famous works.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs):

Students will be able to:

1. Closely read and critically analyze texts in their original languages and/or in translation. (FELO 2c)
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts (FELO 2c)
  - a. Standard literary terminology
  - b. Modes/genres of literature
  - c. Elements of literary genres
  - d. Literary periods (dates, writers, characteristics, and important developments)
3. Connect the works with your own lives and with the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the works and their authors. (FELO 2c)

## FOUNDATIONAL EXPLORATIONS MISSION

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and cultures.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Readings: Each story is on the calendar and must be read thoroughly (at least twice!) before the start of the class period. Annotate in the margins and bring all questions and comments for in-class discussions. Our goal is to bring the joy of reading into your lives or enhance it, as a lifelong skill that will benefit you and maintain your critical thinking skills. **Also, please read the introductions to each author (these are considered part of the reading as well).**
- Exams: You will complete a midterm and final exam. Both tests require the knowledge and study of the readings, discussions, literary terms, and in-class notes. The final is cumulative. No make-up exams are allowed.
- Critical paper: You will write a short critical analysis paper based on one or more of the stories or authors, or a specific theme that perhaps runs through various texts (style standard: MLA; 750-1000 words). You cannot pass the class without completing this paper and the two exams. The paper will have a thesis paragraph and make use of at least 3 academic sources. Library services and the Loma Writing Center are available for help in this area, and there will be more detailed instructions for the paper in class and on Canvas.

- **Group Presentation:** In groups of 5, you will present to the class on an author (or authors) (and the cultural context of the story/country of the author), with a visual aid such as PowerPoint, Google Slides or Prezi. Each presentation should be around 30 minutes (total) (5 minutes per member), and the group will turn in a short breakdown of how each member of the group contributed to the work. Everyone in the group will receive the same group grade.
- **Respect and participation:** Your attendance requires active participation in discussion, as distraction-free as possible. We will show one another respect by listening closely, embracing varying perspectives on the issues brought up by the literature. Using your phone for purposes unrelated to class, falling asleep, disrespecting your classmates or your professor, will all result in a loss of participation points. In-class activities and being present cannot be made up at a later time. Please leave your cell phone in your backpack or pocket!

## REQUIRED TEXTS

1. González Echevarría, Roberto, ed. *The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories*. 1st ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1997. ISBN: 0-19-513085-5
2. Handouts and links provided in class and on Canvas.

You will need to bring your anthology as well as a notebook and pen/pencil in order to take handwritten notes during class. This method will improve your retention and keep you free from distractions if you are not relying on a phone, iPad, or laptop. Arrive in class with the reading for that day complete, your stories annotated, your questions and comments prepared. In this manner, we can enjoy rich discussions and use our voices to express what we have learned and processed, as well as personal reflections relating to the fiction. Please include 1-2 written questions that you have about the text or author to help promote discussion in class.

The anthology *The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories* contains most of the reading assignments for the semester. I will also assign a second short story for some authors, and will include a link or PDF. Please bring those to class as well (on the days we discuss those stories). Students must check their PLNU email regularly for announcements. Canvas is required for study resources and other homework assignments.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

### Assignment distribution by points:

- Participation/ Attendance 200 pts.
- Midterm 100 pts.
- Presentation 100 pts.
- Research paper 200 pts.
- Short pop-quizzes on readings 200 pts. (4 quizzes, 50 pts. each)
- Final exam 200 pts..

## **Grade scale:**

A=93-100	C=73-77
A-=92-90	C-=70-72
B+=88-89	D+=68-69
B=83-87	D=63-67
B-=80-82	D-=60-62
C+=78-79	F=0-59

## **ASSIGNMENTS / READINGS**

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Please complete the readings BEFORE our class period. If it is obvious that you did not complete the reading, I will deduct 10 pts. for lack of participation on that day.

## **FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted.

## **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY**

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g, ChatGPT, iA Writer, Marmot, Botowski) is not permitted, and use of these tools will be treated as plagiarism.

## **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](mailto: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.

## **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade.

**Specifically for our quad 1 class, we will have only 14 days of class. If you miss two days, I have the right to de-enroll you. If you miss 4 days or more, you will not be able to pass the class, per PLNU policy stated above. I will take off 20 points for each day missed (participation and activities in the class). Also, you must be in class the entire class period to receive credit for the day.**

## **STATE AUTHORIZATION**

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

## **LOMA WRITING CENTER**

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information

about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](#) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Material DUE on class date**

## **CLASS CONTENT AND READING/ASSIGNMENT**

### **Wk 1**

January 8-12

M8 Introduction to the class. Horacio Quiroga (Uruguay, Argentina). “Decalogue of a Perfect Storyteller” <https://barcelonabookclub.wordpress.com/2016/10/11/horacio-quirogas-ten-rules/> [Links to an external site.](#) Please print out and read before coming to class. Today we will discuss Latin America (the context and history of the short story in the region).

W10 The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories (OB). Introduction, pp. 3-22.

OB, Part I: The Colonial Period, pp. 23-24.

OB, Popol Vuh, “A Maiden’s Story” pp. 28-30

OB, El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega, “The Story of Pedro Serrano” pp. 39-42.

### **Wk 2**

January 15-19

M15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday, no classes today)

W17 Oral Presentation: Guatemala (Popol Vuh) and Brazil (Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis)

OB, Part II: New Nations, pp. 57-58.

OB, Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis, “Midnight Mass” pp. 95-101.

### **Wk 3**

January 22-26

M22 OB, Part III: The Contemporary Period, pp. 103-104.

Oral Presentation: Perú and Uruguay: El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega and Horacio Quiroga

OB, Horacio Quiroga, "The Decapitated Chicken" pp. 118-124.

Horacio Quiroga, "Adrift" <https://quiogatranslated.wordpress.com/2014/02/21/adrift/Links to an external site.>

W24 Oral Presentation: Argentina: Jorge Luis Borges and Julio Cortázar

OB, Jorge Luis Borges, author introduction p. 211, "The South" [Borges--The South.pdf Download Borges--The South.pdf](#)

### **Wk 4**

January 29-February 2

M29 OB, Julio Cortázar, "The Night Face Up" pp. 337-344.

Discuss ideas and possibilities for research paper, 750-1000 words, MLA format, with three academic sources.

W31 Oral Presentation: México (Juan Rulfo and Carlos Fuentes)

OB, Carlos Fuentes: author introduction, p. 354.

Carlos Fuentes, "Chac Mool" Translation by Margaret Sayers Peden.

[ChacMool - Translation.pdf Download ChacMool - Translation.pdf](#)

Compare topics, themes and literary techniques between "The Night Face Up" and "Chac Mool"

### **Review for Midterm Exam**

**Wk 5**

February 5-9

**M5 Midterm Exam**

W7 OB, Juan Rulfo, "Tell Them Not to Kill Me!" pp. 284-289, and "It's Because We're So Poor" <https://agnionline.bu.edu/fiction/its-because-were-so-poor/> [Links to an external site.](#) (Translated by Ilán Stavans)

**Conferences (office hours) concerning the research paper (sometime this week).**

**Wk 6**

February 12-16

M12 Oral Presentation: Colombia (Gabriel García Márquez)

OB, Gabriel García Márquez, "Balthazar's Marvelous Afternoon" pp. 383-389.

W14 Thesis and outline for Paper, with three academic sources. MLA style.

OB, Clarice Lispector, "The Crime of the Mathematics Professor" pp. 400-405.

**Wk 7**

February 19-23

M19 OB, Rosario Ferré: author introduction, p. 462.

Oral Presentation: Puerto Rico (Rosario Ferré)

Rosario Ferré, "The Youngest Doll" <https://collegelit2014.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/the-youngest-doll-rosario-ferre.pdf> [Links to an external site.](#)

W21 Review for Final Exam

**Wk 8**

February 26-March 1

**M26 Final Exam. Research/Critical paper DUE today!**

**FINAL EXAM:** Monday, February 26, 1:00pm-2:50pm (in our classroom)