



**Department of Literature, Journalism,  
Writing, and Languages**

LIT 200 (2 units): Literature and Culture  
Special Topic:  
*Crossover: Latin American Best Sellers in the US*

**Section: 04**  
**Time: MWF; 1:30-2:35**

**Fall 2018 (Quad 1)**  
**Location: BAC, Room 103**

Professor: Dr. Margarita Pintado  
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Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-2:00; Thursday 11:00-1:00, or by appointment

**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**

Many outside Latin America may recognize the name Pablo Neruda. His verses can be found even in Hallmark cards. But how many have really read his poetry? How many know the circumstances in which this Chilean poet developed? This class has several goals. First, it will introduce students to Latin America's vast, diverse, and complex literary culture through the works of its most widely-known and highly-regarded international best-sellers. Second, it will go beyond the superficial reading to which these major writers are often subjected. Finally, it will examine the possible reasons behind their success. We will try to answer the following questions: What makes a work a classic? What kinds of imagery, styles, and plots attract the average American reader and why? What kinds of characters? What kinds of authors? Students will read poems by Neruda (Chile), short stories by Jorge Luis

Borges (Argentina), Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia), Isabel Allende (Chile), and a short play by Ariel Dorfman (Chile).

***Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):***

By the end of the class, **YOU** will be able to...

1. Identify major authors and styles from the Latin American literary world.
2. Describe the historical and political background of each literary work read in class.
3. Successfully analyze a variety of literary texts, not only from Latin America.
4. Critique the role of the market in shaping our literary culture.

***General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs):***

**Learning: Informed by our Faith in Christ**

Students will:

- Effectively express ideas and information to others through written communication. \*Assessment: Students will write short response papers, and a more extensive paper at the end of the class.
- Examine, critique and synthesize information in order to arrive at reasoned conclusions. \*Assessment: Students will do literary analysis of short stories and poems.

**Growing: In a Christ-Centered Faith Community**

Students will:

- Understand and appreciate diverse forms of artistic expression. \*Assessment: Students will be reading texts (poetry, short stories, and a play) from different Latin American countries and taking reading comprehension quizzes.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the complex issues faced by diverse groups in global and/or cross-cultural contexts. \*Assessment: Students will be reflecting on the different sociopolitical circumstances in which each literary work emerged.

**Serving: In a Context of Christian Faith**

Students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of Christian Scripture, Tradition and Ethics, including engagement in acts of devotion and works of mercy.

**Assessment and Grading:**

Reading Quizzes (3)	15% (5% each)
Response papers (4)	20% (5% each)

In-class literary analysis (2)	20% (10% each)
Midterm Exam	20%
<u>Final Exam</u>	25%
Total:	100 %

### Grading Scale:

A: 93-100	C+: 77-79	D-: 60-62
A-: 90-92	C: 73-76	F: below 60
B+: 87-89	C-: 70-72	
B: 83-86	D+: 67-69	
B-: 80-82	D: 63-66	

### Course Policies:

Attendance: Any absence from class will be classified as either excused or unexcused. Examples of excused absences are: death in the family, required attendance at a sanctioned PLNU event, and student illness backed by documentation from competent medical authority. In each case of an excused absence, students will need to show some documentation. After the **second** unexcused absence, **your grade will be lowered one letter**.

Tardiness: Students must be in the classroom in time. Two episodes of lateness will constitute one unexcused absence. If you are going to be **more than 10 minutes** late, don't bother coming to class, or be certain that you will be marked as absent.

Electronic devices: All cellphones, computers, tablets, etc. must be turned off prior to entering the classroom. If you are expecting an emergency call, notify the instructor before class starts. **If you don't comply with this simple instruction, you will be asked to leave the classroom and marked as absent.**

### PLNU Policies:

Incompletes and Late Assignments: All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

Final Exam 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. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

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.

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.

Accommodations Policy: If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

Attendance and Participation Policy: Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

Diversity Statement: Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to diversity in the classroom, in its publications and in its various organizations and components. Faculty and staff recognize that the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of their colleagues and students are best served through respect toward gender, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture and other personal characteristics. In addition, the Department of Literature, Journalism and Modern Languages is committed to taking a leadership position that calls for promoting a commitment to diversity in and out of the classroom and in the practices of writing, journalism, and the study of literature and languages.

### **Texts required:**

Ariel Dorfman, *Death and the Maiden*, Penguin Group, 1991.

Pablo Neruda, Mark Eisner, Robert Hass, *The Essential Neruda: Selected Poems* (Bilingual Edition), City Lights Publishers, 2004.

\*The rest of the material will be provided by the professor or available in Canvas.

*Course Schedule and Assignments*  
LIT 200/ Fall 18/ Section 4  
*Crossover: Latin American Best Sellers in the US*  
Dr. Margarita Pintado

August

- 28 Introductions and Syllabus
- 29 Readings: Ashley Fetters, "The Origins of Gabriel García Márquez's Magical Realism," *The Atlantic*, April 17, 2014; Salman Rushdie, "Magic in Service of Truth," *The New York Times*, April 21, 2014.
- 31 Reading: Gabriel García Márquez, "The Handsomest Drown Man in the World" (pp.247-254)

**\*Reading Comprehension Quiz**

September

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**\*Response Paper Due on** *García Márquez's "Balthazar's Marvelous Afternoon"*, (200 words aprox.). All response papers must be sent to [mpintado@pointloma.edu](mailto:mpintado@pointloma.edu) before 5:00pm. Response papers received after 5:00pm will not be granted any points.

- 5 Readings: García Márquez "Balthazar's Marvelous Afternoon," (pp.148-157).

- 7 Reading: García Márquez, "Tuesday's Siesta," (pp.105-113).

- 10 Readings: Julio Cortázar, TBD

**\*Reading Comprehension Quiz**

- 12 Reading: Julio Cortázar, TBD

- 14 Readings: Jane Ciabattari, "Is Borges the 20<sup>th</sup> Century's most important writer?" *BBC*, September 2, 2014; "Jorge Luis Borges, "The Lottery in Babylon," (pp.101-106).

- 16 **\*Response Paper Due** on *Borges's "The Circular Ruins" and/or "The Shape of the Sword"* (200 words aprox.). All response papers must be sent to [mpintado@pointloma.edu](mailto:mpintado@pointloma.edu) before 5:00pm. Response papers received after 5:00pm will not be granted any points.

- 17 Readings: Borges, “The Circular Ruins” (pp.96-100); “The Shape of the Sword” (138-142).
- 19 **In-class analysis of a short story by Borges**
- 21 **Midterm Exam**
- 24 Isabel Allende, “Stories of Eva Luna” (TBD)
- 26 Reading: Rosario Ferré, “The Youngest Doll” (pp. 243-249)  
**\*Reading Comprehension Quiz**
- 28 Reading: Ariel Dorfman, *Death and the Maiden* (pp.3-26) and the “Afterword” by the author) \*Dramatic reading by students.
- 30 **\*Response Paper Due** on *Death and the Maiden*, (200 words aprox.). All response papers must be sent to [mpintado@pointloma.edu](mailto:mpintado@pointloma.edu) before 5:00pm. Response papers received after 5:00pm will not be granted any points.
- October
- 1 Reading: Dorfman, *Death and the Maiden* (pp.29-68).  
\*Dramatic reading by students.
- 3 Readings: Cristina García’s “Introduction” to *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair*; Pablo Neruda, *The Essential Neruda: Selected Poems*.
- 5 Neruda (selections)
- 7 **\*Response Paper Due** on Neruda, (200 words aprox.). All response papers must be sent to [mpintado@pointloma.edu](mailto:mpintado@pointloma.edu) before 5:00pm. Response papers received after 5:00pm will not be granted any points.
- 8 Neruda (selections)
- 10 **In-class analysis of a poem by Neruda**
- 12 Final reflections and review for the final exam
- 15 **Final Exam**