

# Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages

## Point Loma Nazarene University

### Course Syllabus, Spring 2020

**Professor (Profesor):** Dr. Scott M. Bennett

**Telephone (Teléfono):** (619) 849-2947 (x2947)

**Email:** ScottBennett@pointloma.edu

**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):** M, W, F 11:00am-11:55am, RLC 112

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

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, May 6, 10:30am-1:00pm.

### 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. Charles M. Tatum, *Chicano Popular Culture: Que hable el pueblo* (9780816536528) 2nd Ed., 2017, University of Arizona Press.
4. Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Devil's Highway: A True Story* (9780316010801) Paperback, 2005, Back Bay Books.
5. 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):

Quizzes (Pruebas) (2) (100 pts. each).....	200
Midterm Exam (Examen de medio semestre).....	100
Final Exam (Examen final).....	200
Film Critiques (Análisis de películas) (2) (25 pts. each).....	50
Cultural Engagement Activities (Actividades de involucramiento cultural) (2) (50 pts. each)...	100
Short Essays (Ensayos cortos) (2) (25 pts. each).....	50
Oral Presentation (Presentación oral).....	50
Cuaderno de vocabulario.....	50
Participation (Participación).....	100
Attendance (Asistencia).....	100

**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 **15 puntos** con cada falta (**la primera falta es gratis**, no se les quitarán los 15 puntos). Si el/la estudiante falta **cuatro (4)** veces o más, el profesor tiene el derecho de desmatricular al estudiante. Si el/la estudiante falta **ocho (8)** 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. Será “de-enrolled” o recibirá una W o WF para el curso. 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. El abuso del inglés o el uso de los teléfonos seguramente les afectará la nota de participación.** 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. Quizzes and Exams (Pruebas y exámenes):** There will be two quizzes given during the semester, one before the midterm, and one after. Quizzes will be on literary readings, class discussions, films and key concepts. There will be one midterm during the course, and also a final exam. No exams or quizzes can be taken early, and there are no make-ups on exams and quizzes, unless authorized by the professor, or in the case of an emergency. Please contact the professor if you have any conflicts concerning quizzes, exams, or due dates. It is expected that all work will be completed on time.

**4. Film Critiques (Análisis de películas):** Each student will need to write a short critical analysis of two films during the semester. More instructions will be given, and each critique needs to be from one and a half to 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 viewing R rated films creates a problem for you, please choose from the PG or PG-13 films that are available.

**5. Short Essays (Ensayos cortos):** Each student will write two short (two page) essays 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 25, 2020.** 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 Monday following Chicano Park Day.

**8. Extra Credit (Crédito extra):** Students can complete two extra Cultural Engagement assignments for 15 points each (a total of 30 possible extra credit points). Professor will explain more about this in 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.

### **Academic Honesty**

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.

### **Academic Accommodations**

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

### **Attendance and Participation**

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.

**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.

### **Ferpa Policy**

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (Note: each faculty member should choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.) Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Informational Release" section of the student portal.

### **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.

## Course Schedule (Horario de curso)

### January 13-17

Week 1 (Semana 1)

M13 (No classes today) (No hay clases hoy)

T14 (Observe Monday course schedule today) 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/>

Ilan Stavans on "The Sounds of Spanglish" (Veremos algunos fragmentos de los videos en clase)

[http://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/great\\_minds\\_lectures/18/](http://digitalcommons.imsa.edu/great_minds_lectures/18/)

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/>

Tarea para el miércoles (1/15): read the introduction to *Chicano Popular Culture: Que hablé el pueblo* pp. 3-23. We will discuss some of the main points of the introduction on Wednesday. Please pay attention to definitions, new terminology, the historical context etc.

Tarea para el viernes (1/17): 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 Friday (1/17) and be ready to comment on them, not just the essay that is assigned to you.

W15 Historical perspectives: background and context of the Chicano movement (reading from *Chicano Popular Culture: Que hablé el pueblo*) pp. 3-23. We will discuss some of the aspects covered in the introduction.

F17 *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo* Students will present short summaries and interpretations on assigned essays. 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. Each student will present for 6-7 minutes, with a brief time for comments and questions after.

## January 20-24

Week 2 (Semana 2)

M20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday, no classes today) (No hay clases hoy)

W22 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.

F24 *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.

## January 27-31

Week 3 (Semana 3)

M27 Reading for this week: *Under the Feet of Jesus*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 3-46)

W29 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)

F31 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)

## February 3-7

Week 4 (Semana 4)

M3 Finish reading: *Under the Feet of Jesus*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 133-176)

Once we finish *Under the Feet of Jesus*, it will be necessary to start *The Devil's Highway: A True Story* by Urrea right away. Since it is longer, you will need to get a jump on this to be able to participate and be actively involved in the discussion on Wednesday, February 12.

W5 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 of this epic Mexican American poem. Please do a preliminary reading of the poem before class so we can have meaningful discussion.

F7 Review for Quiz #1. We will review and discuss the readings, themes and topics covered up to this point. **Ensayo corto #1 due today.**

**February 10-14**

Week 5 (Semana 5)

**M10 Quiz #1**

W12 Reading: *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. *Author's Note* – p.40)

F14 Reading: *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 43-83)

**February 17-21**

Week 6 (Semana 6)

M17 Reading: *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 84-129)

W19 Reading: *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 133-176)

F21 Reading: *The Devil's Highway: A True Story*. Please be prepared to discuss relevant themes, characters, interpretations, plot, symbolism, literary techniques etc. (pp. 179-235)

**February 24-28**

Week 7 (Semana 7)

M24 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 some of the film in class.

Please finish watching later if we don't complete the entire film in class:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlrP2IR58es>

W26 Vamos a ver la película: *Zoot Suit* de Luis Valdez en la clase.

F28 Vamos a ver la película: *Zoot Suit* de Luis Valdez en la clase.

**March 2-6**

Week 8 (Semana 8)

M2 Repasaremos el material del examen de medio semestre.

**W4 Examen de medio semestre (Midterm Exam)**



F6 Reading for today: *Chicano Popular Culture: Que hablo el pueblo* pp. 90-123 (Chicano Feature-Length Films Since the 1970s). Come ready to discuss pertinent films, themes, historical context etc.

**March 9-13 (San Diego Latino Film Festival: March 12-22)**  
Week 9 (Semana 9)

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

**March 16-20 (San Diego Latino Film Festival: March 12-22)**  
Week 10 (Semana 10)

M16 Readings for today: the poems by Pat Mora “Legal Alien” <http://peoplesworld.org/poem-of-the-week-pat-mora-s-legal-alien/> and “Elena.” **Film Critique #1 due today.**

<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)

W18 Reading: *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (Poems will be assigned for analysis and discussion today).

F20 Reading: *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (Poems will be assigned for analysis and discussion today).

**March 23-27**  
Week 11 (Semana 11)

M23 Reading: *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (Poems will be assigned for analysis and discussion today).

W25 Reading: *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (Poems will be assigned for analysis and discussion today).

F27 Reading: *Gary Soto: New and Selected Poems* (Poems will be assigned for analysis and discussion today).

**March 30-April 3**  
Week 12 (Semana 12)

**M30 Ensayo corto #2 due today. Review for Quiz #2 in class.**

**W1 Quiz #2**

F3 Reading for today: *Chicano Popular Culture: Que hablo el pueblo* pp. 208-238 (Chicano Art). Come ready to discuss pertinent artists and historical background of Chicano art. Use the discussion questions as a guide for deeper inquiry (pp. 237-238).

**April 6-10**

Week 13 (Semana 13)

**M6 Film Critique #2 due today. We will share a few examples in class.**

W8 Chicano art: a brief introduction. We will view examples of art in class and have a follow-up discussion concerning our earlier reading from *Chicano Popular Culture*. Students will be assigned artists to study for oral presentations.

F10 Easter Recess (No classes) (Descanso de Día de Pascua) (No hay clases)

**April 13-17**

Week 14 (Semana 14)

M13 Easter Recess (No classes) (Descanso de Día de Pascua) (No hay clases)

W15 Spanglish, code switching, including vocabulary examples. Reading for today: Ilan Stavans' translation to Spanglish of the first chapter of *Don Quixote de la Mancha*. (Professor will provide a handout for the reading).

F17 Oral presentations today (On Chicano art)

**April 20-24**

Week 15 (Semana 15)

M20 Oral presentations today (On Chicano art)

W22 Oral presentations today (On Chicano art)

F24 Oral presentations today (On Chicano art)

**April 27-May 1 (Last Week of Classes)**

Week 16 (Semana 16)

M27 Finish oral presentations today (On Chicano art). Reflections on Chicano Park Day, 2020. We will reflect and share about some of the experiences during Chicano Park Day.

W29 Review for Final Exam / Discussion / Final observations and conclusions

F1 (**Last day of class**) (**Último día de clases**) Review for Final Exam / Discussion / Final observations and conclusions

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, May 6, 10:30am-1:00pm.