

	Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages + Environmental Studies
Spring 2025	

ENG 2000-4, Literature and Culture (Section 4)

Spring 2025, Quad 1, 2 Units

Meeting days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Instructor: Scott Bennett, PhD, Professor of Spanish

Meeting times: 2:45pm-3:55pm, Meeting location: BAC 103

Phone: (619) 849-2947

E-mail: scottbennett@pointloma.edu

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

Final Exam: Monday, March 3, 2:45pm - 3:55pm (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

ENG 2000 Literature and Culture (GE) (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. (GELO 2c)
2. Recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read and discuss texts (GELO 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. (GELO 2c)

GENERAL EDUCATION 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 (even better 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 and 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: 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. **Research/Critical paper due on Friday, February 28 on Canvas by 11:59pm!**

- **Group Presentation:** In groups of 4 (or possibly 3), you will present to the class on an author (and the cultural context of the story/country of the author), with a visual aid such as PowerPoint or Google Slides. Each presentation should be no more than 15 minutes (total) (about 3 - 3 1/2 minutes per member). Everyone in the group will receive the same group grade. These will be short, direct, and instructional presentations. Please include the author (a few details), the country (location), and some details from the story / stories we read (a **very** brief summary, a few possible themes). Please do not re-tell the story, but it is a good idea to bring up a few interesting points concerning the author and story. Likewise, it is a great idea to share a few new vocabulary words to help with the context of the story.

- **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! Also, please use the bathroom before class. If you are gone more than 10 minutes, I will mark you absent for the day.

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. I will call on students to hear some of your questions.**

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

Grading 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 [Traditional Undergraduate Records: Final Exam 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 RECORDING NOTIFICATION

In order to enhance the learning experience, please be advised that this course may be recorded by the professor for educational purposes, and access to these recordings will be limited to enrolled students and authorized personnel.

Note that all recordings are subject to copyright protection. Any unauthorized distribution or publication of these recordings without written approval from the University (refer to the Dean) is strictly prohibited.

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 in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). 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 work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

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. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes.

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. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

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 20 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. Please use the bathroom BEFORE class. Also, cell phones are NOT permitted in class. Please put them in your backpack or away during the class period, unless I give you permission to use them.

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. Please do the reading for that day BEFORE our class!

CLASS CONTENT AND READING/ASSIGNMENT

Week 1

January 13-17

M13 Introduction to the class. Horacio Quiroga (Uruguay, Argentina). “Decalogue of a Perfect Storyteller” or “The Ten Commandments for a Perfect Storyteller.” Please print out these ten “rules” that Quiroga shares and read them before coming to class. Today we will discuss Latin America (the context and history of the short story in the region). <https://mount-oregano.livejournal.com/248673.html>

W15 The Oxford Book of Latin American Short Stories (OB). Introduction, pp. 3-22. Please read the introduction to understand the context of the Latin American short story.

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

Overview of authors, stories, and countries covered in our Quad 1 course.

F17 Oral Presentation: Popol Vuh, “A Maiden’s Story” (Guatemala)

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

Week 2

January 20-24

M20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Holiday, no classes today)

W22 Oral Presentation: El Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (Perú)

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

F24 Oral Presentation: Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis (Brazil)

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

Week 3

January 27-31

M27 OB, Part III: The Contemporary Period, pp. 103-104.

Oral Presentation: Horacio Quiroga (Uruguay)

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

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

W29 Finish discussion about Horacio Quiroga’s stories “The Decapitated Chicken” and “Adrift.” Which elements of Quiroga’s “Decalogue of a Perfect Storyteller” does he use / incorporate in his own stories? Please bring / write out at least five examples from **each** story to discuss in class.

Discuss ideas and possibilities for research paper, 750-1000 words, MLA format, with three academic sources. (Please consider ALL of the stories we are reading before you choose your idea).

Quiz 1 (Covering weeks 1 and 2)

F31 Oral Presentation: Jorge Luis Borges (Argentina)

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

Week 4

February 3-7

M3 Oral Presentation: Julio Cortázar (Argentina)

OB, Julio Cortázar, “The Night Face Up” pp. 337-344. Please read this story **at least two times**. Try to mark / indicate on the page where the time frame changes in the story.

W5 Oral Presentation: Carlos Fuentes (México)

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”

F7

Review for Midterm Exam

Quiz 2 (Covering week 3)

Week 5

February 10-14

M10 Midterm Exam

W12 Oral Presentation: Juan Rulfo (México)

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). Also, please consider making an appointment with the Loma Writing Center to help guide you with the process of writing your critical paper.

F14 No class today. President Fulcher’s inauguration at 2:00pm.

Week 6

February 17-21

M17 Oral Presentation: Gabriel García Márquez (Colombia)

OB, Gabriel García Márquez, “Balthazar’s Marvelous Afternoon” pp. 383-389.

W19 Thesis and brief outline for research/critical paper, with three academic sources. MLA style. Due on Canvas by 11:59pm.

Oral Presentation: Clarice Lispector (Brazil)

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

F21 Group questions and review on stories, authors, literary analysis (themes, characterization etc.), and cultural connections across Latin America.

Quiz 3 (Covering weeks 5 and 6)

Week 7

February 24-28

M24 OB, Rosario Ferré: author introduction, p. 462.

Oral Presentation: Rosario Ferré (Puerto Rico)

Rosario Ferré, “The Youngest Doll” <https://collegelit2014.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/the-youngest-doll-rosario-ferre.pdf> Links to an external site.

W26 Review for Final Exam

Preparation for final Group presentations (I will explain this in class).

Group presentations.

F28 Review for Final Exam

Group presentations (I will explain / clarify this in class).

Final Group Presentations will count as Quiz 4.

Research/Critical paper DUE today on Canvas by 11:59pm!

Week 8

March 3-7

M3 Final Exam Today!

FINAL EXAM: Monday, March 3 (in our classroom), 2:45pm – 3:55pm.