

## Latino Literature and Culture (LCS 01:595:240 / American Studies 01:050:240)

Instructor: Yolanda Martínez San-Miguel

SAS Core Code: ARTS AND HUMANITIES, Philosophical and Theoretical Issues (AHo)

Survey of Latino/a literary voices drawn from the Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican, Cuban and other Latin American migrations to the U.S. Analysis of the relationship between literary and cultural representation and exile, resistance and assimilation; political presence and identity formation; race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. Theorization of the links between literary modes and genres (autobiography, poetry, novel, film, music) in the cultural representation of U.S. Latinidad.

### Course Learning Goals

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand what is Latino literature and distinguish between Hispanic Caribbean and Chicano literature.
- Address key topics and questions that distinguish Chicano and Hispanic Caribbean cultural expressions in the U.S., such as conceptualizations of the border and hybrid identities; *mestizaje*, indigeneity, “la raza” and racialization; Spanglish and the limits of transculturation; the transformation of Latino gender and sexuality; and the subversion of internal colonialism in the creation of a new notion of American identity.
- Conduct discursive literary analysis by working on their close-reading skills.
- Improve writing skills, through essay exams written in class, workshops conducted during class time to work on peer-editing of their essays, and by writing and re-writing two short “reflexiones” on the primary texts analyzed in class.
- Understand a basic chronology of the immigration and incorporation of Latino populations into the United States.
- Critically evaluate philosophical and theoretical issues concerning the role of literature and cultural production in the articulation of a U.S. Latino ethnic identity and discourse. **This fulfills the Arts and Humanities requirement of the SAS Core curriculum (AHo).**

### Required Reading\*

Frederick Aldama, *The Routledge Concise History of Latino/a Literature*. ISBN-13: 978 0415667883

Sandra Cisneros, *House on Mango Street*. ISBN-13: 9780679734772

Richard Rodríguez, *Hunger for Memory*. 9780553272932

Piri Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets*. ISBN-13: 9780679781424

Cristina García, *Dreaming in Cuban*. ISBN-13: 9780345381439

Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. ISBN-13: 9781594489587

\*Most readings will be available by PDF on Sakai.

Consult Rutgers Barnes and Noble for current books ordered for the course.

### Evaluation\*

Class attendance and participation	10%
2 “reflexiones” or 500-650 words reaction papers	30%
Midterm (take home)	15%
2 essay exams written in class (open book)	20%
Pop quizzes	10%
Partial exam on the day of the final exam (take home)	15%

\*This synopsis is intended for informative purposes only; it is provisional and subject to change before the beginning of the semester.