

Literature and Society

COLI 214B-04

Fall 2009, Credit Hours: 4 Credit Hours
9:40-10:40AM, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Student Services Wing 305

Instructor: Laura Collins

Office: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Email: lcollin3@binghamton.edu

Please call or e-mail me for an appointment.

Required Materials

- Chacel, Rosa, *Memoirs of Leticia Valle*
- Anaya, Rudolfo, *Bless Me, Ultima*
- Marquez, Gabriel, *Of Love and Other Demons*
- Cisneros, Sandra, *Caramelo*
- Rodriguez, Richard, *Hunger of Memory*

Course Description

This course focuses on literary representations of social conflict and how they shape culture and bring about social change. Examined are the issues of ethnocentrism, racism, sexism, class inequity and revolution, and the responsibility of individuals in changing societies.

Texts chosen for this course explore the link between identity and language, particularly as experienced in childhood.

Course Purpose

This course meets the Composition requirement. This means that you are required to produce 20 pages of *quality* written work. All compositions will be based on the course readings and the issues that they raise. In this class we will be exploring the role of language in the formation of identity, both personal and national.

PLEASE NOTE: All assigned readings are in English; HOWEVER, if you have a preference for reading the texts in Spanish, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. There are linguistic and cultural features of these texts that are highly dependent on whether the text is being read in English or Spanish, or if the reader is a native speaker of the language in which she/he is reading the text. Our class would be enriched by the introduction of these differences into our discussion. (Compositions must still be written in English.)

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will increase skills in accessing and evaluating relevant sources of information for writing.
2. Students will increase skills in writing compositions that are appropriately organized and developed.

Classroom Procedures

You are required to complete the readings assigned for each class as indicated on the course schedule. The success of class discussions on the readings depends on you. Please be prepared to share your questions, insights, and observations with your classmates. Our class will be enriched by these discussions as we learn and explore possibilities together.

Participation

Attendance and participation in this class account for 15% (15 points) of your grade. Regular class attendance is a strong indicator of academic success and is expected. One absence will be allowed without penalty; however, additional absences may result in grade deduction at the instructor's discretion. Please notify me in advance if you have a scheduling conflict that will prevent class attendance. Participation in class discussions is another key component to your success in this class and failure to participate will result in a deduction of points.

Tips on Using the Syllabus

The course schedule is intended to serve as your guide to the readings and assignments for the semester; however, it should be recognized that it is important to retain a measure of flexibility in our scheduling. If you must miss a class, please check with a classmate to get that day's assignment. Missed classes are not a valid excuse for missed work.

Assignment Descriptions

Students will write two 2.5 page reaction papers, one 5 page midterm essay, a revision of the midterm essay in response to instructor's comments, and a final 6-8 page essay. Each reaction paper will count for 10% of the final grade; the midterm essay and the revision will each count for 20% of the final grade (for a total of 40%). The final paper will count for 25%. All written work must be produced in hard copy, double-spaced, using standard margins and 12 Times New Roman. We will follow the *MLA Style Guide* in this class.

Grading Procedures

	A	93-100	A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
	D	60-69	F	>60	

Course Policies

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Please consult the University Bulletin and abide by the University academic integrity policy.

Course Schedule

Date:	Be prepared with:	Class Activities:	Due
Week 1: Monday	N/A	Course Introduction and expectations. Diagnostic writing activity.	
Wednesday	*Purchase books *Chacel pp. 1-31	Discussion: Chacel's world	
Friday	*Chacel pp. 32-59	Discussion: The role of confessional narrative	
Week 2 Monday		No classes (Labor Day)	
Wednesday	*Chacel pp. 60-91	Discussion: Linking language and identity	
Friday	*Chacel pp.91-120		
Week 3 Monday	*Chacel pp. 120-151		
Wednesday	*Chacel pp. 152-164		2.5 page response to Chacel
Friday	*Translator's Afterword, pp. 165-194	Discussion: Translation Issues	
Week 4 Monday	*Anaya capítulos: <i>Uno, Dos, Tres</i>	Discussion: Magical Realism	
Wednesday	*Anaya capítulos: <i>Cuatro, Cinco, Seis</i>		
Friday	*Anaya capítulos: <i>Siete, Ocho, Nueve</i>		
Week 5 Monday		No classes (Yom Kippur)	
Wednesday	*Anaya capítulos: <i>Diez, Once, Doce,</i>		
Friday	*Anaya capítulos: <i>Catorce, Quince, Dieciséis</i>		
Week 6 Monday	*Anaya capítulos: <i>Trece, Diecisiete, Dieciocho</i>		
Wednesday	*Anaya capítulos: <i>Diecinueve, Veinte, Veintiuno</i>		
Friday	Notes re: Márquez, his works, his translator	Intro to Márquez, importance of his work	2.5 page response to Anaya
Week 7 Monday	*Márquez Prelude Chapter One		
Wednesday	*Márquez Chapter Two		
Friday	*Márquez Chapter Three		
Week 8 Monday	*Márquez Chapter Four		
Wednesday	*Márquez Chapter Five		
Friday			1 st Paper: 5 pages

Week 9 Monday	*Cisneros Part I: 1-10		
Wednesday	*Cisneros Part I: 11-20		
Friday	*Cisneros Part II: 21-30		
Week 10 Monday	*Cisneros Part II: 31-40		
Wednesday	*Cisneros Part II: 41-51		1 st Paper: re-write
Friday	*Cisneros Part III: 52-60		
Week 11 Monday	*Cisneros Part III: 61-70		1 page outline and proposal for final project
Wednesday	*Cisneros Part III: 71-78		
Friday	ALTA Conference		
Week 12 Monday	*Cisneros Part III: 79-86, <i>Fin</i>		
Wednesday	*Cisneros <i>Pilón, Chronology, Acknowledgments</i>		
Friday			
Week 13 Monday	*Rodriguez <i>"Praise," Prologue, and Dedication</i> Chapter One		
Wednesday	*Rodriguez Chapters: Two, Three		
Friday		No class (Thanksgiving)	
Week 14 Monday	*Rodriguez Chapters: Four, Five		
Wednesday	*Rodriguez Chapter Six <i>Acknowledgments</i>		
Friday			
Week 15 Monday			
Wednesday			
Friday			Final Paper: 6-8 pages