

## Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

**Instructor:** Juan Alonzo

**Course:** ENGL 362

**Title:** U.S. Latina/o Literature

**Description:** This course is cross-listed with HISP 362 and examines significant literary texts produced by Latinx authors in the twentieth century. Through the close reading of fiction, poetry, essays, and historical documents, we will become familiar with the history of Latina and Latino literature, and we will develop an understanding of the experiences and aesthetic expressions of Latinx authors in the U.S. While we will look broadly at the Latinx experience, the course will focus on Chicana literature and make broader comparisons. Some of the historical sites and themes around which we will concentrate our study include the U.S.-Mexico War of 1848, the Chicano Movement, immigration and displacement, the concept of home, and issues of race, gender, sexuality and class.

The course does not presuppose a prior understanding of Latinx literature or of the history of Latinx peoples in the United States. The primary texts will be supplemented with historical documents and contextual readings, as well as other theoretical, socio-political and critical essays to give us a more complete understanding of Latinx literature.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Gain knowledge of the scope and variety of works by Hispanic authors in the U.S.
2. Understand the connection between individual works and their cultural, historical, and political contexts
3. Develop an appreciation for the variety of aesthetic elements (literary styles and genres, artistic movements) specific to Hispanic literatures in the U.S.
3. Become familiar with the modes of critical inquiry specific to the literatures of Hispanic peoples.
4. Apply critical reading skills to the writing of argumentative essays that develop original positions.

The course meets the University's Core Objectives in International and Cultural Diversity: the majority of texts are by U.S. Hispanics who draw from the literary currents of the Americas; the course addresses issues of international import, such as immigration, globalization, transnationalism, and colonialism and imperialism.

Course Work is TBD. Because this is an Honors course, there will be greater focus on presentations and a final research project.

**Proposed Readings:** Required texts are TBA, but in the past, we have read novels, essays and poetry by Américo Paredes, Tomás Rivera, Sandra Cisneros, Helena Maria Viramontes, Oscar Casares, Junot Diaz, Achy Obejas, Elizabeth Acevedo, and Valeria Luiselli.