ENGL 641, a graduate-level seminar, focuses on literary and other cultural material produced by writers of US Latinx heritage published in the second decade of the twenty first century, as well as works of scholarship and criticism in Latinx literary studies in order to accomplish a number of learning goals for students, including: familiarizing you with an emerging body of literary and cultural work by artists hailing from the largest (and still growing) cultural minority population in the United States; creating opportunities for critical reflection on how national, comparative, and “minority” literatures (and cultures) mutually interact and inter-implicate one another; modeling how forms of cultural production can both shape as well as represent the historical moments of their emergence, that is, how they participate in determining what “feels” contemporary, or what presents itself, at the matrix of time and space, as the present present, the here and now; tracing a genealogy of critical and scholarly work that, more than commenting on the “primary,” creative material, also creates positive conditions for the historical endurance of that material through rigorous interrogation of its own operations as a discipline and as a matrix of interdisciplinary fields; and, finally, offering you opportunities to put theory into practice in your own reading, thinking, discussion, and writing. The Anglo-US signifier “Latinx” already announces that our work can only be happening now, in the current moment, and in a United States cultural and political context that struggles violently to know and to manage itself in the face of its increasing complexity and diversity; for this reason, it implicates each of you in whatever way it calls you to participate in that still-unfolding “American” experiment, and in whatever way that participation can channel through your varying understandings of your intellectual careers as students of literature and culture. It also signals the necessarily intersectional as well as interdisciplinary nature of our work together, since “Latinx” demands being read not just as a complex marker of ethnicity and/or race, but also of gender, and of sexuality, and of class, nation, and political orientation. Written assignments in the course will include opportunities to practice both close reading (of literary work) and critical analysis (of critical and scholarly work), as well as a longer research-based written study that will serve as the
culminating term project for the course; the shorter assignments will also serve as the bases for in-class oral presentations, as we will discuss in person.

*This course is a Doyle Seminar, part of the Doyle Engaging Difference Program, a campus-wide curricular initiative, and gives faculty the opportunity to enhance the student research component of upper-level seminars that address questions of national, social, cultural, religious, moral, and other forms of difference. The Doyle Seminars are intended to deepen student learning about diversity and difference through enhanced research opportunities, interaction with thought leaders, and dialogue with the Georgetown community and beyond.*

*All participants in this course will hold themselves to the standards of academic, professional and personal conduct as outlined in Georgetown University’s Honor Code and other Codes of Conduct.*

*Information about these can be found here:* [https://scs.georgetown.edu/resources-current-students/academic-resources/honor-code/](https://scs.georgetown.edu/resources-current-students/academic-resources/honor-code/) [https://scs.georgetown.edu/resources-current-students/sexual-misconduct-title-ix/](https://scs.georgetown.edu/resources-current-students/sexual-misconduct-title-ix/) [https://lgbtq.georgetown.edu/resources/](https://lgbtq.georgetown.edu/resources/) [https://lgbtq.georgetown.edu/resources/transatgu/](https://lgbtq.georgetown.edu/resources/transatgu/)

**Assignments:**
- 1 Close Reading Essay (1500 words) 20%
- 1 Critical Analysis Essay (1500 words) 20%
- 2 Oral Presentations (Based on Short Essays) 10% each
- Term Project (5,000 words) 40%

**Books Ordered:**

**Critical/Scholarly Reading:**
- Guzmán, Joshua J. and Christina A. León. “Cuts and Impressions: the aesthetic work of lingering in


**On Junot Díaz**

https://twitter.com/carmenmmachado/status/992318598398992384
https://oshuncreative.wordpress.com/2018/05/04/i-tried-to-warn-you-about-junot-diaz/

**On Capó Crucet**

https://twitter.com/crucet/status/1182729245342216193?lang=en
https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/briannasacks/georgia-southern-burned-latina-authors-book

**On García Peña**

https://ethnicrise.github.io/roundtable/ethnic-studies-now/?fbclid=IwAR27FJSayFKIGhtFujljsx4xqmwQMHGFpN69OHfnYWz-HDubKHJgY25jTM#roopika-risam--responds
https://www.chronicle.com/interactives/20191218-During?key=m1OBf1vaHL09_no2Emg0XYCsaACdzhH EjIW3NTT8vqsiytXfGG5PQ4fxT1urMHZXamFhTEltN0tqaS1hQmdEdUVfd3JfZJWY00xVGpzdi6eVhrRkxiOA

**We the Animals (Film)**


**Hamilton**
**Course Schedule:**

**M 13 Jan:** Intro to Course; *Some Recent Controversies*
Díaz, Capó Crucet, García Peña (Readings Provided by Instructor)
Class Exercise: Close Reading an Image

**M 27 Jan:** *Disidentifying “Latinx”*
Beltrán; Millán; RT Rodríguez; Guzmán

**M 03 Feb:** *Unburdening Representation 1:* Literary Latinidades
Moya; Rodríguez
Limón; Olivares

**M 10 Feb:** *Unburdening Representation 2:* Latinidades in Performance
Alvarado; Ybarra
Hudes, *Water*; Hudes, *Song* (Miranda)

**M 18 Feb:** *Queer Latinidades 1:* Tales of Futures Past
Muñoz; JM Rodríguez
Cassara 1 (*Pose*)

**M 24 Feb:** *Queer Latinidades 2:* Forms of Precarious Survival
González
Cassara 2; Machado, “Real Women Have Bodies” (*We the Animals*)

**M 02 Mar:** *Gender and Race After Latinx:* Do We Have to Let it Linger?
Guzmán and León
Girmay; Acevedo

**SPRING BREAK**

**M 16 Mar:** *Burning X’s, Burning Books: Who’s Afraid of (White) Latinidad?*
Capó Crucet 1 (*Elián*)

**M 23 Mar:** *Latinx Literature and the Twilight of Identity*
Capó Crucet 2; Machado, “The Resident” (*Jane the Virgin*)

**M 30 Mar:** *Afterlives of Dirty Wars 1*
Giménez Smith; Borzutzky; Alarcón

**M 06 Apr:** *Afterlives of Dirty Wars 2*
Zamora (Forché, Archila)

**EASTER BREAK**

**M 20 Apr:** *Latinx Literature Now 1*
Luiselli 1 (*Vida*)

**M 27 Apr:** *Latinx Literature Now 2*
M 04 May: Term Projects Due