



English 4250.001

Latinx Literature

Profesora Vanessa Ramirez
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Office Hours: 11 am – 1pm (or by appointment) @ GAB 515

Spring 2026 | University of North Texas
Meeting Time: TR 8am – 9:20 am
Room: LANG 114

Course Description

Study of historical as well as contemporary Latinx literature, including a preponderance of Mexican American and Chicanx literature and cultural production. Works may range from the local to the national and global, and may include indigenous American, Spanish colonial and writings from a range of Latin American nations.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Course Purpose

This course serves to enhance students' knowledge of multicultural literatures for a representative education in American literature overall. Students will gain a familiarity with the development of Latinx literature and culture that covers historical periods from 1520 to the present period. Assignments and discussions in this course provide a forum for articulating an understanding of foundational works and themes in Latinx literature and culture. In pursuing these goals, students will write three literary analysis essays, one final, write regularly scheduled reading reflections, complete reading quizzes, complete in-class writing assignments, deliver a presentation, lead one reading discussion, and participate in classroom discussions.

Required Texts:

Song of the Hummingbird by Graciela Limón | ISBN: 9781558850910
George Washington Gomez by Américo Paredes | ISBN: 9781558850125
Ink by Sabrina Vourvoulias | ISBN: 9780998705996
You Sound Like a White Girl by Julissa Arce | ISBN: 9781250827821

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Discuss key issues in the development of Latinx literature—the literature of a distinctive culture of the United States
- Integrate a discussion of contemporary Latinx issues with an array of past and contemporary Latinx literature, verbally and in writing
- Identify the varieties of Latinx identity demonstrated in Latinx cultural production
- Explain the historical context of four stages of Latinx literature

- Identify major authors in four periods of Latinx literary production

These expected learning outcomes will be measured by means of the assignments listed below, including grade percentages for each assignment:

Grading

Course Work	pts	%
Participation	100	10
Quizzes	100	10
Short Writing Assignments	200	20
Lead Discussion	50	5
Presentation	50	5
Essay 1	100	10
Essay 2	100	10
Essay 3	150	15
Final	150	15
TOTAL	1,000 pts	100%

Lateness:

All assignments are due by 11:59 PM on the designated due date (unless told otherwise by your instructor).

Short Writing Assignments: SWA must be turned in on the due date. Failure to do so, will grant you one week to make up the missed assignment for 50%. After one week, the assignment will close, and you will receive a 0 for the assignment.

Quizzes: Quizzes are unavailable to make up and will be given at the beginning of class. If you come to class late after the quiz, you cannot make up for the missed quiz. Each quiz will contain a bonus question. Completing a bonus question can add up to a missed quiz. If quizzes are given online on Canvas to complete outside of class, you may use your book and notes.

Essays: I will deduct 5 points each day you fail to turn in your essay on the due date. This also includes the days we do not meet in class. You have a free extension to use on any essay of your choosing (choose wisely). Please let me know when you decide to use your free extension before the due date. Failure to do so will result in a late penalty. If you know that meeting the deadline of the assignment will be an issue for you, email me as soon as you can before the deadline.

Lead Discussion: You CANNOT miss the day of your lead discussion. If this will be an issue, you must let me know as soon as possible, and we will figure out another date. This is an important assignment, one that places responsibility for what we learn and discuss in class regarding the assigned reading.

Presentation: You CANNOT miss the day when presentations are due. Everyone is expected to show up, listen, participate, and support peers. If this will be an issue, you must let me know as soon as possible. Failure to present for this assignment without communication with your instructor will result in a 0.

Attendance:

You are required to attend class unless you are:

- Sick — your doctor told you not to attend
- Attending a university-approved activity — sporting event, debate team, etc.
- Have an emergency — car accident, sick child, or family member, etc.

According to the UNT Policy, **no student missing more than 20% of classroom instruction in a writing course should be able to pass the course.**

I will check your attendance at the start of every class period. And while I understand everyone gets sick or has emergencies, you must attend class regularly or your grade will be affected:

Number of Classes Missed

10% of total Classes — 3 classes

20% of total classes —6 classes

Effect on Grade

I will deduct 5 points from your final grade for each additional class you miss.

You will fail the course.

If you know ahead of time that you must miss class for a planned reason, see me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Authorized Absences:

UNT authorizes absences for the following reasons as excusable by the university (policy 06.039):

- Religious holy day, including travel for that purpose
- Active military service, including travel for that purpose
- Participation in an official university function
- Illness or other extenuating circumstances
- Pregnancy and parenting under Title IX
- When the university is officially closed by the President

If you plan to miss class for one of the events above, please see me as soon as possible before the date of your absence, so we can arrange for you to submit work.

Participation and Civility

We are all members of an academic community where it is our shared responsibility to cultivate a climate where all students/individuals are valued and where both they and their ideas are treated with respect.

Therefore, I expect you to conduct yourself professionally and respectfully during all online interactions and class-related activities. I expect you to listen to and respect the viewpoints of others, even if you strongly disagree with them. When you do voice disagreement in your writing, do so in a civil manner. Remember that you are accountable for your actions in this course, including your submitted work, your grades, and your interactions with other students.

Everyone will have multiple opportunities to participate in class. Participation can be many things, including the following:

- Participating actively in small group work, class meetings, and discussions
- Showing attention to others in discussion posts
- Completing all assignments on time
- Coming prepared to conferences/office hours

Here are some of the “Rules of Engagement” UNT recommends as guidelines for our class:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individuals’ experiences.

- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

You also can visit the [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) page at <https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips> for more information.

Academic Honesty:

According to UNT Policy 06.003, [Student Academic Integrity](#), academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to:

1. Cheating--submitting work that is not your own (This includes using ChatGPT)
2. Fabrication--pretending you are writing about a real interview when you really made it up
3. Facilitating academic dishonesty--helping someone else cheat
4. Forgery--pretending your work is someone else's
5. Plagiarism--using someone else's published work without citing it correctly
6. Sabotage--setting someone else up to fail

A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. I am obligated to report any academic dishonesty.

IMPORTANT: If you commit any academic dishonesty and or plagiarism for a short writing assignment/major essay, you will receive a 0 for the assignment with no second chances. No shortcuts, no excuses! Write your own paper.

AI IS NOT ALLOWED IN THIS COURSE

- Do not submit any AI generated material as your own. This is recognized as plagiarism by UNT.
- Do not use AI to identify or correct any specific errors in your work. This is considered academic dishonesty by UNT. For example, do not submit a paper with this prompt: “Find and correct every grammar and punctuation error.”
- Do not use AI to translate your work from one language to another.

Consequences for Unacceptable Use of AI

Action	Consequence
Copying and pasting AI generated work and submitting it as your own writing.	Whether you copy and paste an entire paper, or just a few sentences, you will receive a zero for the assignment.
Using AI to find and correct your errors.	You will receive a zero for the assignment.
Using AI to translate your work from one language to another.	You will receive a zero for the assignment.

No policy can cover every possible scenario for AI, so when in doubt about whether how you plan to use AI is acceptable or not, contact your instructor immediately.
To ensure that you understand this policy, and will follow the guidelines listed, please sign and submit the form your instructor gives you.

Disability Accommodation

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. To receive

accommodation, follow these steps:

1. Register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility.
2. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs.
3. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.
4. Students must obtain a new letter of accommodation every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website](#). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

The University Writing Lab

Located in Room 105 of the Auditorium Building, was created to serve the needs of the students at the University of North Texas in all aspects of writing. Undergraduate and graduate students consult with the staff of the Writing Lab for help in writing better papers. All services of the Writing Lab are **free of charge** for all University of North Texas students. writinglab.unt.edu Located at Sage Hall 152. HOURS: Monday-Thursday 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. (walk-ins only 5pm – 9pm); Friday 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Syllabus Change Policy

I have made every attempt to provide your syllabus as an accurate overview of the course. However, unanticipated circumstances may make it necessary for me to modify the syllabus during the semester. These circumstances may arise in response to the progress, needs, and experiences of students. Advance notice will be given for any changes made to the syllabus.