

Survey of LatinX Literature & Culture

Grade Level: 12 Semester Elective: ½ Credit

In this one-semester senior elective, students will have the opportunity to survey fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from South American, Central American, Mexican, and Caribbean authors. The goal of this course is for students to develop an understanding of the cultures of these regions and to examine the leading issues, debates, and concepts that shape the LatinX experience in the United States. Students will explore this experience through various historical lenses and examine how LatinX culture and values are reflected in the studied works. As a survey course, students will have exposure to a variety of voices, rather than an in-depth focus on any one specific country or region.

How is the course structured?

Course Components

- Reading Fiction and Non-Fiction Texts, Annotating Texts for Central Idea, Analysis and Evaluation, Research, Language Interpretation and Analysis, Writing Narrative and Personal Essays

Course Grade Based On:

- Participation in Discussion, Individual and Small Group Activities, Daily Writing and Note-Taking, Projects, Research, Personal Essay Writing

What can I expect?

Course Workload:

- Active participation in class is necessary for success. Homework is given throughout the unit, and can be partly done in class. All work is presented on weekly activity lists, in advance, and students are encouraged to manage their time productively in class and out.

Homework Frequency:

- 2-3 times per week

Type of Homework:

- Reading and Annotating, Journal Responses for Close Reading, Outlining, Drafting, and Revision of Writing

Major Projects:

- Honest Poem, Personal Essay, Immigration Research Project, Cultural Identity Project

Text Titles May Include:

- Books: *Drown* by Junot Diaz and *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- Short Stories: “Nombres” by Sandra Cisneros, “A Question of Delicacy” by Liliana Heker, “The Stolen Party” by Liliana Heker, “Leaving Venezuela” by Laya Yagersys, “Los Abuelos, Two Bright Minds” by Juana Medina, “My Parents Collect Bottles For A Living” by Jessica Yauri, “The Paper Menagerie” by Ken Liu, “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings” by Gabriel García Márquez, “The Llano in Flames” by Juan Rulfo
- Poetry by various authors including, but not limited to: Elizabeth Acevedo, Aurora Levins Morales, Juan Felipe Herrera, Maya Angelou, Yesika Salgado