

SYLLABUS
ENGLISH 3346-001 / MAS 3346-001
MEXICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE
SPRING 2017

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Erin Murrah-Mandril

OFFICE

Carlisle 612

E-MAIL ADDRESS

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Contact Response Time: I prefer e-mail and I will respond within 24 hours to an e-mail submitted Mon-Fri. Weekend response times may be longer.

OFFICE TELEPHONE NUMBER

817-272-2933

FACULTY PROFILE

<https://www.uta.edu/profiles/erin%20-murrah-mandril>

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00-12:30

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS MEETING

T/R 9:30-10:50 Preston Hall 103

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

This introductory class will cover Mexican American authored texts in several literary genres—poetry, memoir, novel, drama, and short story—and the ways the genres intersect, overlap, and blend identities. The course will include selections from the 19th century to the present, with special attention paid to the Chicano Movement, the Latina literary boom, and historical literary recovery. We will be exploring what shapes Chicana/o literature and the ways that this literature works to shape a Chicana/o readership.

TEXTBOOKS

You are responsible for purchasing books in time to read them before the assigned reading date and for bringing the appropriate book to class on the days we discuss it. This is true regardless of whether or not the bookstore has our book in stock. If the bookstore is out of stock, check Amazon.com, Arte Público Press online, local books stores, online stores, etc. E-books are acceptable when available, but you must bring the text to class on your e-reader. Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Paredes, Américo. George Washington Gómez. Houston: Arte Público, 1990.
ISBN: 9781558850125

Rivera, Tomás. ... y no se lo trago la tierra / ...And the Earth Did Not Devour Him. Houston: Arte Público, 1995 (originally 1971 in Spanish by Quinto Sol).
ISBN: 9781558850835

Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 2007. (originally 1987).
ISBN: 9781879960749

Morales, Alejandro. *The Rag Doll Plagues*. Houston: Arte Público, 1992.
ISBN: 9781558851047

Viramontes, Helena María. *Under the Feet of Jesus*. New York: Penguin, 1996 (originally 1994).
ISBN: 9780452273870

Ruiz de Burton, María Amparo. *The Squatter and the Don*. Ed. Rosaura Sánchez and Beatrice Pita. Houston: Arte Público, 1992 (originally 1885).
ISBN: 9781558851856

Serros, Michele. *Honey Blonde Chica*. New York: Simone Pulse, 2006.
ISBN: 9781416915928

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- **STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE STRONG ANALYTICAL SKILLS AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF KEY CONCEPTS IN MEXICAN AMERICAN LITERARY PRODUCTION.**
- **STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL READING SKILLS.**
- **STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO WRITE ANALYTICAL ESSAYS, DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE THESIS STATEMENTS AND USING APPROPRIATE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ARGUMENTS.**
- **STUDENTS WILL DEVELOP STRONG ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS, LEARNING HOW TO PRESENT ANALYTICAL ARGUMENTS IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER.**

WEB CONTENT AND ASSIGNMENTS

Technology and the internet are an important part of Chicana/o literary production and recovery. Many important authors publish web content and the internet is an important source for innovative forms of literary and cultural production. Consequently, we will be exploring some multimedia “texts” online including visual art and film. While we may watch some film clips in class, I will also ask you to view some video clips as homework.

Reading Material outside of our textbook will be posted on our Blackboard page. Try to read a work in its entirety before we discuss it, keeping in mind that there is much more time to read a text over the weekend for a Tuesday class than in the brief interim between Tuesday and Thursday. We will discuss texts in their entirety because you cannot fully understand the beginning of a text without knowing its end-point. I strongly recommend printing out short essays, articles and poetry so that you can highlight, underline and write in the margins. Please also write in your books! If you don't like to write in books, take notes in a notebook as you read and be sure to write down the page numbers as you go. Don't be a passive receiver of knowledge. Question, reflect, and comment as you go. If you are reading the text on a tablet or laptop please bring that equipment to class.

RESPONSE PAPERS

You will need to write 3 papers throughout the semester. They will all be posted to our class UNM Learn page (not turned in on paper). They should be 1000-1200 words (3-4 pages) typed in 12pt Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins and a proper MLA heading.

At this point in your academic life, you should be using proper grammatical construction with clear sentences and logical organization. Responses should be academic-style, thesis-driven short essays (ie. make a point in your paper and then prove that point through analysis of the text). These essays should not be stream-of-consciousness writing. I will respond to your ideas in the response papers. If grammar issues are a distracting and persistent problem in your response, I will send you a note instructing you to fix the grammar problems before I will give you a grade.

Papers will be due online by the beginning of class on the last day we discuss the text you are writing about. I will take one point off for each DAY a paper is late. I will not accept paper copies. You must complete at least one paper each quarter of the semester (you can get ahead by turning more than one paper in during a quarter). Papers are worth 10 points each. The grading rubric for these papers can be seen on our Blackboard page.

The essay assignment requires you to be self-directed and personally responsible. You chose what to write about and when. There is no assignment prompt or essay question. Instead, I have linked the UNC Writing Center's homepage in our Blackboard page. UNC has a number of helpful handouts about academic writing, including writing a thesis-driven essay.

I also strongly recommend visiting the Student Writing Center on the fourth floor of Central Library, whatever your writing skill level is. They provide high quality advice for writers from freshman English through graduate school. I am also willing to look at a rough draft if you give me the draft one week before the final draft is due.

EXAMS

You will have a midterm and a final, each worth 10 points. They will be essay question tests that you will take in-class. You will need to demonstrate a clear understanding of the texts and make a cohesive argument using evidence from our course readings. If you are unable to take an exam on the day that it is administered, please contact me *ahead of time* to schedule a make-up exam.

QUIZZES:

I give pop-quizzes throughout the semester to insure that students are coming to class prepared and having read the literature ahead of time. There are no make-up quizzes.

GRADING:

The final grade for this course will be based on a 100-point scale 90-100 equals an A, 80-90 equals a B, 70-80 equals a C, 60-70 equals a D, 60 and below equals an F. UTA does not assign + or – grades.

Response Papers	(3 x 15 pts. each)	45 pts.
Mid-Term		10 pts.
Final		10 pts.
Reading Quizzes		15 pts.
Participation		20 pts.
Total		100 pts.

ATTENDANCE:

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop her or his own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I **DO** require regular attendance. Much of our course is based on content from class discussions. You are an active participant in this course, not a passive receptor of knowledge. If you have four absences (that's two whole weeks' worth of instruction!), you will lose 10 participation points, which is one full letter grade for the course. Additional missed courses will place you in danger of failing the course. Furthermore, exam questions will be based on class discussions. Reading quizzes missed due to absence cannot be made up. If you are experiencing an ongoing issue that interferes with your attendance, please contact me so we can discuss your options. Expectations for out-of-class study: A general rule of thumb is that for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities (and sometimes more!), including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc. You will have one week of online instruction for this class toward the end of the semester. Your completion of online assignments by the deadline is considered part of your attendance.

DROP POLICY

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.

TITLE IX POLICY

The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX),

which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>. You can send e-mail to your instructor's and to classmate's MavMail account through the Blackboard e-mail link in Blackboard. However, you will need to go to your own MavMail account to check messages and responses you have received.

CAMPUS CARRY

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY

At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK

For semester-long courses, a period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring](#), [major-based learning centers](#), developmental education, [advising and mentoring](#), personal counseling, and [federally funded programs](#). For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

CAMPUS COURTESY ESCORT

UTA offers a free service to escort you to your car, dorm, or another class room on campus after 7 pm to help students feel safe walking on campus after dark. The number to request and escort is 817-272-5252.

SCHEDULE

Jan 17 Welcome!

Jan 19 Mario Suarez Short Stories on Blackboard

Jan 24 *With His Pistol in His Hand* Excerpts and Maria Cristina Mena Short Stories on Blackboard

Jan 26 *George Washington Gómez*

Jan 31 *George Washington Gómez*

Feb 2 *George Washington Gómez*

Feb 7 Corky Gonzalez *Yo Soy Joaquin*

Feb 9 *The Shrunken Head of Pancho Villa* on Blackboard

Feb 14 on Blackboard

Feb 16 **Essay 1 Due** on or before this date.

Feb 21 *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*

Feb 23 *And the Earth Did Not Devour Him*

Feb 28 *Borderlands/La Fonterra*

Mar 2 *Borderlands La/Fonterra*

Mar 7 Review

Mar 9 **Midterm**

Mar 14 Spring Break!

Mar 16 Spring Break!

Mar 21 *The Rag Doll Plagues*

Mar 23 *The Rag Doll Plagues*

Mar 28 *Under the Feet of Jesus*

Mar 30 *Under the Feet of Jesus*

Apr 4 *Heroes and Saints* on Blackboard

Apr 6 **Essay 2 Due** on or before this date

Born in East L.A. shown in-class

Apr 11 *Born in East L.A.* shown in-class

Read scholarly article on Blackboard

Apr 13 *The Squatter and the Don*

Apr 18 *The Squatter and the Don*

Apr 20 *The Squatter and the Don*

Apr 25 *Honey Blond Chica*

Apr 27 *Honey Blond Chica*

May 2 **Final Essay Due** on or before this day

May 4 Final Review

Thursday, May 11, 8:00-10:30 am