

ENGL 4360: American Regionalism
Ethnic Homelands, Migrations, and Place
Dr. Alex Hunt
Spring 2022



Emmanuel Martinez mural, Aztlan Park, Lubbock

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806-651-2457
Classroom Center 319H

Class Meeting:
MW 1:30-2:45
CC 226

Office Hours:
MW 9:00-11:00
or by appt.

Overview:

This course will first provide an overview of literary regionalism as it developed in the US. It will then focus on Mexican American southwest regionalism as a study of issues of place, the geography of ethnicity, and the meaning of regionalism at a time of globalism and increasing migration. The course's regional focus includes the Texas Panhandle/Southern Plains region and is connected to CSAW's "Forgotten Frontera" program, which will include some special features and opportunities. This course will count as ENGL 3361 "Survey of American Literature After 1865" if needed for requirements of the English major.

COVID-19 Syllabus Statement

In our EPML classrooms, the safety of our students, staff, faculty, and community is our highest priority. The Covid-19 pandemic demands special classroom exigencies. When engaging in face-to-face situations, please have the courtesy to wear a mask. We will all strive to distance ourselves 6 feet apart. We will not seat more students in a classroom than can be suitably accommodated at 6 feet apart. While this is an in-person course, and attendance is important to a successful experience, there are no assignments or attendance expectations that absolutely require in-person meetings. Therefore, if you even imagine you are sick or have been exposed to Covid-19, stay home—and I will do the same. I recognize this situation is constantly changing, and I expect participants to be flexible as we adjust our teaching to the needs of the moment. I cannot control your activities outside of the classroom, but behavior outside of the classroom determines our ability to continue to offer face-to-face components in our teaching. Please be mindful of your off-campus activities and stay healthy and safe.

The information contained here is current as of this syllabus publishing date (January 5, 2022). Individuals should inform themselves of the latest Covid-19 WTAMU policies and information via this website: <https://www.wtamu.edu/about/information/covid-19/index.html>.

Texts:

Aaron Abeyta, *Rise, Do Not Be Afraid* (2007)

Rudolfo Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima* (1972)

Ana Castillo, *The Guardians* (2007)

Sandra Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek* (1991)

Barbara Renaud Gonzalez, *Golondrina, Why Did You Leave Me* (2009)

Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Water Museum* (2015)

Shorter readings provided digitally as PDFs or handouts

Work:

Participation: 100 points. Awarded at the end of the semester, based on quality of contribution to class discussion, workshops, attendance, and general preparedness.

Quizzes: 200 points. There will be 20 quizzes throughout the semester worth 10 points each. Mostly, these will be online quizzes completed prior to class, concerning the week's reading. Other quizzes will take the form of in-class writing.

Preliminary Exam: 100 points. This exam will be early in the semester and will cover the selections read to illustrate literary regionalism and associated concepts and periods. The exam will be mostly objective in format and will involve identifying/defining quotations, terms, and concepts.

Paper 1: 100 points. The first paper will emphasize "close reading" or textual analysis and will be an argument of interpretation. You will choose to write on either Anaya or Cisneros, on the subject of identity's relationship to place. A paper prompt will be provided. 1000 words.

Paper 2: 200 points. For the second paper you will choose two books and do a comparative analysis. This paper will also involve discussion of the essays provided by Anzaldúa and Anaya concerning borders/frontiers. A prompt will be provided. 1250 words.

Final Paper or Cultural Project: 300 points. For the final act, you will choose between two options, a Final Paper, a revision and extension of one of your papers, including 2 secondary scholarly sources; or, a Cultural Project, collection and explanation of artifact that provides new knowledge or significance for our region. Further guidelines will be provided. Both options include presentation at university-scheduled Final Exam meeting. Proposal (250 words), 50 points; Paper (in general, 1500 words, but projects may be shorter), 200 points; Presentation (5-7 minutes, with PowerPoint), 50 points.

General Policies:

Late Work: Please hand in all work on time. Papers are due through WT Class dropboxes on the day and by the specific time indicated on the Paper Prompt and Schedule. Papers submitted late on the same day are docked ½ letter grade; papers handed in a day late are docked a full letter grade, and so on. Leave yourself enough leeway so that computer/technology problems do not lead to late submission—if you struggle with technology, submit your papers from a computer in the HELC, where you can find assistance.

Make-Up Exams: It is only under the most serious circumstances (dire emergencies documented through the office of the Vice President for Student Services) that I provide makeup exams or other make-up activities. If you must miss an exam or other obligation due to a pre-arranged university activity (like traveling for athletics), it is your responsibility to inform me well in advance and to make an agreement prior to the absence.

Attendance: I take role every day. More than 4 absences or 2 if night class) will affect your final grade dramatically. An absence is an absence; budget carefully. Excessive tardiness can constitute an absence. If you have a situation that leads to extensive or prolonged absence, you must document your case with the office of the Vice President for Student Services.

Office Hours: I encourage you to visit during my office hours or to make an appointment to meet with me to discuss any aspect of this course. I welcome opportunities to meet with you.

Attendance: I take role every day. More than 4 absences or 2 if night class) will affect your final grade dramatically. An absence is an absence; budget carefully. Excessive tardiness can constitute an absence. If you have a situation that leads to extensive or prolonged absence, you must document your case with the office of the Vice President for Student Services.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (Code of Student Life). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. Inappropriate behavior may result in disciplinary action or referral to the University's Behavioral Intervention Team. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

ADA: West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This university will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. Contact Information: Student Success Center, CC 106; www.wtamu.edu/disability; phone 806-651-2335.

Evacuation Statement: If you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assemble area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations and emergency telephone numbers (651.5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary: evacuate immediately; do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Integrity: All work must be completed individually unless otherwise stated. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the exam is given in any subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so. For more information, see the Student Code of Life at <http://www.wtamu.edu/webres/File/Student%20Life/Code-of-Student-Life.pdf>

Title IX: West Texas A&M University is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of sexual misconduct and discrimination. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. Harassment is not acceptable. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:
WTAMU Title IX Coordinator Becky Lopez–Kilgore Research Center 147, or call 806.651.3199
WTAMU Counseling Services–Classroom Center 116, or call 806.651.2340
WTAMU Police Department–806.651.2300, or dial 911
24-hour Crisis Hotline–800.273.8255, or 806.359.6699, or 800.692.4039
<https://www.notalone.gov/>

For more information, please see the Code of Student Life:
<http://www.wtamu.edu/webres/File/Student%20Life/Code-of-Student-Life.pdf>

This syllabus constitutes a contractual agreement between professor and student. I expect that you have read and understood the work load and policies for this course.

Schedule (Subject to Revision)

Part I

Week 1

- Jan. 10 Intro to Course
12 Twain, "The Notorious Jumping Frog of Calaveras County"; Jewett, "A White Heron"

Week 2

- 17 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
19 Howells, "Editha"; Garland, "Under the Lion's Paw"; London, "To Build a Fire"

Week 3

- 24 Zitkala-Sa, "The Soft-Hearted Sioux"; Hurston, "Sweat"
26 Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily"; Cather, "Paul's Case"; Steinbeck, from *Grapes of Wrath*

Week 4

- 31 Ruiz de Burton, from *The Squatter and the Don*; Gonzalez, "Among My People"
Feb. 2 Preliminary Exam

Part II

Week 5

- 7 Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima* 1-110
9 Anaya, 111-184

Week 6

- 14 Anaya 185-277
16 Cisneros, *Woman Hollering Creek* 1-40

Week 7

- 21 Activity TBD
23 Cisneros, 41-136

Week 8

- 28 Cisneros, 137-165
Mar. 2 Paper Workshop: bring printed out draft of Paper 1
Paper 1 DUE in Dropbox Friday, March 4, at 5pm

Part III

Week 9

7 Abeyta, *Rise, Do Not Be Afraid*, 1-96

9 Abeyta, 97-152

<<**Break**>>

14-18 Spring Break

Week 10

21 Castillo, *The Guardians*, 1-100

23 Castillo, 100-151

Week 11

28 Castillo, 152-211

30 González, *Golondrina, Why Did You Leave Me?*, 1-45; Discussion of Final Paper/Project Options

Week 12

Apr. 4 González, 49-154; Discussion of Anzaldúa and Anaya essays (PDFs)

6 González, 155-200;

Week 13

11 González, 201-242

13 Paper Workshop: bring printed out draft of Paper 2

Paper 2 DUE in Dropbox Friday, April 15, at 5pm

Part IV

Week 14

18 Urrea, *The Water Museum*, 3-103

20 Urrea 107-152

Week 15

25 Urrea, 155-255

27 Workshop Paper 3

Final Exams: April 29-May 5

Final 10:15 AM-12:15 PM, Wednesday, May 4