

# South Plains College

## Course Syllabus: ENGL 2351

### Mexican American Literature

**Instructor's Contact Information:**
**Instructor:** Nimi Finnigan

**Office Location:** Lubbock Downtown Office# 2024

**Office Hours:**

**Scheduled Office Hours:**  
\*By appointment Monday-Friday

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1:00-2:30 pm	8:30-9:30 am	1:00-2:30 pm	8:30-9:30 am	9:30-12:30 pm

**Office Phone:** (806)-716-2733

**Email:** [nfinnigan@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:nfinnigan@southplainscollege.edu)

- I try to answer emails within 24-48 hours Monday-Thursday and Friday morning.
- Required for emails: Type your name, course, and subject in the subject box of your email to me (example: *Jane Doe – ENGL 1301-002 - Question about Week 2*).

*Dear Students, Please Note: The course schedule/calendar is subject to change. The instructor will notify the class of any changes within a sufficient time frame. **It is the student's responsibility to take note of the changes in the courses in terms of both policy and calendar deadlines.***

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Frida Kahlo said, "I never paint dreams or nightmares. I paint my own reality." Her reality, though, continuously criss-crossed the borderline between Mexico and the United States in order to discover, establish, and maintain her own identity. Similarly, this course is a survey of Mexican-American/Chicanx literature from Mesoamerica to the present. Students will study literary works of fiction, poetry, drama, essays and memoirs in relation to their historical, linguistic, political, regional, gendered, and cultural contexts. Texts will be selected from a diverse group of authors, literary movements, and media forms. Topics and themes may include the literary performance of identity and culture, aesthetic mediation of racialization, struggle and protest, and artistic activism. **Note: The material in this course at times deals with social issues that may be considered to be controversial; please be aware of this before you enroll.**

**Prerequisites:**

- ENGL 1301
- ENGL 1302

#### COURSE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED

- Communications skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

- Teamwork—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will:**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to (1) Identify key ideas, representative authors and works, significant historical or cultural events, and characteristic perspectives or attitudes expressed in the literature of different periods or regions; (2) Analyze literary works as expressions of individual or communal values within the historical, social, political, cultural, or religious contexts of different literary periods, including a focus on the life and times of the authors; (3) Demonstrate knowledge of the development of characteristic forms or styles of expression during different historical periods or in different regions; (4) Articulate the aesthetic principles that guide the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities; (5) Apply critical thinking to the study of literature and to the writing of analytical essays; (6) Demonstrate competent application of the elements of the writing process, including expository, analytical, and argumentative writing, as developed in English 1301 and 1302; (7) Research and write accurately documented, critical papers over assigned readings in clear and grammatically correct prose.

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Students will complete the following assignments:

Video Journals

Short Paragraph Responses

Essays

Quizzes over reading material

Class Discussion

Multimodal Projects

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**COURSE MATERIALS**

*REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS & SUPPLIES*

- No textbook necessary for the course. All reading materials will be made available to students via Blackboard
- A comprehensive dictionary or collegiate dictionary (such as *The American Heritage Dictionary* or *Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary*).
- A notebook to write in
- Access to a computer with internet access and a printer

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**DETAILED COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Process Work/Activities. 25%
- Minor Projects. 25%
- Major Projects. 50%

*GRADE/POINT BREAKDOWN*

- Process Work/Activities (25%)
- Minor Projects (25%)

- Major Projects (50%)

TOTAL PERCENTAGE – 100

**A RANGE 90 – 100:** Document exemplary. It exceeds assignment objectives. No revisions necessary.

**B RANGE 80 – 89:** Document is good. It meets assignment objectives. Minor revisions are necessary.

**C RANGE 70 – 79:** Document is satisfactory but marginal. It does not meet all assignment objectives. Revisions are necessary.

**D RANGE 60 – 69:** Document is unsatisfactory. It meets few of the assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

**BELOW 60 -> F:** Document is unacceptable. It does not meet assignment objectives. Major revisions are necessary.

All of these margins are strict margins. This means that 89.8% does not get you an A. You need 90% to be in the A range. **No exceptions.**

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## COURSE POLICIES

### SIGNING UP FOR REMIND

If Remind is being used for the course, all students need to sign up for Remind (through Remind.com) which will send class updates/notifications directly to your phone. Instructions will be given in class on how to register for the notifications. This will keep you updated on any changes to the class schedule and/or location, reading list, and any class cancellations.

### GRADING TIME FRAMES

When your assignments are evaluated, you will have them back and a grade will appear on Blackboard. **Please do not inquire as to whether or not your papers/exams are graded.** Guideline for a typical grading time frame: 14-17 days from the date of submission if submitted on time, but this is not always a guarantee.

### LATE WORK

While I do accept late work, any **assignments submitted after the due date will not be prioritized at all for grading.** Late assignment grades may be returned to you by the end of the semester. Moreover, late work will not receive any commentary.

**Please note: Official Assignments may be submitted three (3) days late. After three days, your assignment will earn a grade of zero.**

**Please note:** Improperly Submitted Assignments are considered late assignments, and do not get graded in a timely manner and will receive little to no commentary.

**Please note: Process Work will not be accepted late.**

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

- In face-to-face classes, role is taken every day. In online asynchronous classes, your timely completion and submission of our assignments counts as you being present in the course, so make a point to log into your Blackboard account and email at least on a weekly basis (if not daily). Any missed activity stands as non-attendance and will adversely impact your overall grade for the course.

- Reasons for missing assignments need to be discussed with instructor, and ultimately, student's grade is at the discretion of the instructor.

### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

- Face-to-Face students: The use of any electronic device is prohibited in class unless the student requires electronic media in order to perform academically. If student uses either cell phone, laptop, or other electronic media (i.e. ipod, media player, pagers) instructor reserves the right to require that the student leave the classroom. In that event, the student is automatically considered absent, thus his/her assignment is considered not turned in for that class period.
- Online students: during our peer-to-peer reviews, make sure to be kind and respectful with your commentary.

### VISITING DURING OFFICE HOURS: PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT.

Students are encouraged to come see me in my office or call me during the hours listed above. Those hours are reserved for answering your questions & concerns, so please do feel invited to stop in and voice any questions or concerns.

I also **prefer** meeting and visiting with students in person or via zoom instead of email. If you can't make my office hours, let's try and arrange for an appointment at another time that works for both of us.

### Important Note about Office Hours and/or Appointments with Instructor:

These meetings are important for both you and I, but most importantly for you. There are times when I may be running late. Please be patient. If we made an appointment, I will always honor that appointment.

If I can't make it, there will be an announcement on the course website and an email sent to you. For face-to-face encounters, there will be an announcement posted on my door if I can't make our in-person meeting. I will also send out a notification to you through Remind.

### EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Keep in mind that this is **not** my preferred method of contact. I prefer visiting together in-person, via zoom, or a phone call to my office number or Google Voice number.

If you need to contact me via email, you may do so at my primary email address at South Plains Email.

- Netiquette: I expect students to use professional language and tone in all communications with me, including in emails. To this end, emails should clearly **identify who the sender is, what course they are taking, present proper grammar, include salutations**, and should be void of vernacular turn of phrases or "texting" expressions.
- Emails that do not follow proper netiquette will most likely not be answered.
- Given that I prefer face-to-face interactions, students are encouraged to come and speak to me after class.
- Students are responsible for checking their South Plains email regularly.
- **Please make sure that your email includes your full name and section number and/or class meeting times.** I teach several sections and that information will allow me identify your account more quickly.
- Please wait between 24-48 hours before expecting a response to your submitted email.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** Students are expected to do their own work on all projects, quizzes, assignments, and papers. Failure to comply with this policy may result in an F for the assignment and an F for the course if circumstances warrant.

Plagiarism violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Using Artificial Intelligence websites or apps to generate and/or revise all or part of a paper or other assignment;
2. Turning in a paper that has been purchased, borrowed, or downloaded from another writer or from an online site;
3. Cutting and pasting together information from books, articles, other papers, or online sites without providing proper documentation;
4. Using direct quotations (three or more words) from a source without showing them to be direct quotations and citing them;
5. Submitting an assignment for this course that you also submitted to another course without my express approval;
6. Missing in-text citations and/or missing works cited entries.

Cheating violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Obtaining an examination by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination before it is given;
3. Using an unauthorized source of information (notes, textbook, texting, internet, Quizlet, etc.) during an examination, quiz, or homework assignment;
4. Entering an office or building to obtain unfair advantage;
5. Taking an examination for another;
6. Altering grade records;
7. Copying another's work during an examination or on a homework assignment;
8. Rewriting another student's work in Peer Editing so that the writing is no longer the original student's;
9. Taking pictures of a test, test answers, or someone else's paper.

**PROTOCOL REGARDING ZERO'S ON ASSIGNMENT.**

If you receive a zero on an assignment, please complete the following steps:

1. Read the commentary associated with the assignment. Commentary will be either in Blackboard or on Turnitin
2. Upon reading the explanation for your zero, you are welcome to get in touch with the instructor via email or make an appointment to see the instructor in person. This meeting with the instructor will determine if your zero will be removed or maintained.

In regards to plagiarism or AI issues, understand that **a second** occurrence of these issues will result in an automatic F for the assignment, and an F for the course.

**For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE TEAM, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit: <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>** Note: **The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies**, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

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