

University of California, Irvine
Department of Chicano/Latino Studies
Spring 2014
TuTh 2-3:20; PSCB 140
<https://eee.uci.edu/14s/61100>

**Chc/Lat 129: Special Topics in Literature, Arts, Media, Culture:
Latina/o Spirituality**

Instructor

Joseph Morales (email: joseph.morales@uci.edu; office hours: F 3-5 at HIB 192)

Course description

This course explores different moments in Latina/o literature's representation of religion and spirituality. Of primary concern will be race-based definitions of religiosity, religion/spirituality as a form of decolonial thinking, and the question of a religious heritage. We will also consider issues relating to hemispheric networks and divergent histories of Christianity. Texts will include selections from the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, Chicana/Latina feminist thought, and the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project, among others.

Materials

Rudolfo A. Anaya, *Bless Me, Ultima* (1972)
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (1987)
María Amparo Ruiz de Burton, *The Squatter and the Don* (1885/1992)
Alex Espinoza, *Still Water Saints: A Novel* (2007)
Richard Rodriguez, *Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography* (2013)
Select critical texts at Langson Library Course Reserves

Requirements

- (1) Attendance/Participation (15%): Please attend all course meetings, participate in discussion, and complete any supplementary assignments, such as contributions at EEE MessageBoard, in-class essays, etc.
 - a. Note: there will be an opportunity to give a brief (5-10 minutes max.) individual or group presentation, focusing on religion and/or spirituality in one or more of the assigned texts. Students who elect this option should select a timeslot at EEE SignupSheet AND submit the presentation at EEE DropBox.
- (2) Midterm Essay (35%): Write an analytical essay (4-6 pages), focusing on "religion" and/or "spirituality" in either Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima* OR Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. Due: 1 May.
- (3) Final Essay (50%): Write an analytical essay (4-6 pages), focusing on "religion" and/or "spirituality" in a) either Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima* or Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* AND b) one of the following texts: Ruiz de Burton's *The Squatter and the Don*, Espinoza's *Still Water Saints: A Novel*, Rodriguez' *Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography*. Due: 12 June before 3:30 pm.

Protocol

- (1) The Essay Grading Rubric is available at <https://eee.uci.edu/14s/61100>
- (2) Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Disability Services Center at (949) 824-7494 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
- (3) The instructor reserves the right to make changes to any feature of the course plan as needed.

Outline

1 April	Introduction
3 April	Anaya, <i>Bless Me, Ultima</i>
8 April	Anaya, <i>Bless Me, Ultima</i>
10 April	No class
15 April	Anaya, <i>Bless Me, Ultima</i>
17 April	Anzaldúa, <i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i>
22 April	Anzaldúa, <i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i>
24 April	Anzaldúa, <i>Borderlands/La Frontera</i>
29 April	Open date
1 May	Midterm essay due / Volunteer presentations
6 May	Ruiz de Burton, <i>The Squatter and the Don</i>
8 May	Ruiz de Burton, <i>The Squatter and the Don</i>
13 May	Ruiz de Burton, <i>The Squatter and the Don</i>
15 May	Espinoza, <i>Still Water Saints</i>
20 May	Espinoza, <i>Still Water Saints</i>
22 May	Espinoza, <i>Still Water Saints</i>
27 May	Rodriguez, <i>Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography</i>
29 May	Rodriguez, <i>Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography</i>
3 June	Rodriguez, <i>Darling: A Spiritual Autobiography</i>
5 June	Last day of class
12 June	Final essay due before 3:30 pm

Select Bibliography

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 See especially “The Semitic Hypothesis (Religion’s Last Word)” and “Secularism.”
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- Carrasco, David. "A Perspective for a Study of Religious Dimensions in Chicano Experience: *Bless Me, Ultima* as a Religious Text." *Aztlán* 13, no. 1-2 (spring-fall 1982): 195-221.
- Carrasco, David and Roberto Lint Sagarena. "The Religious Vision of Gloria Anzaldúa: *Borderlands/La Frontera* as a Shamanic Space." In *Mexican American Religions: Spirituality, Activism, and Culture*, ed. Gastón Espinosa and Mario T. García. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008.
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- Rabasa, José. "(In)Comparable Worlds." In *Tell Me the Story of How I Conquered You: Elsewheres and Ethnocide in the Colonial Mesoamerican World*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2011.
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