

LTAM 110GS: Latin American Literature in Translation

Course Description

In LTAM 110GS, we examine the development of Latin American Literature from the indigenous societies that pre-dated the arrival of European settlers up to the present day. In doing so, the course provides a broad exploration of the origins of Latin American literature, and it highlights some of the ways that colonization has impacted and shaped Latin American society and culture. Through this course, students will engage with some of the most influential Latin American texts and authors within a larger framework that puts those texts into context and conversation with one another.

Along with the texts that we read, being in Chile will help the students to understand some of the fundamental factors that have shaped the development of Latin American literature. In particular, being able to engage with the city of Santiago and its culture will allow them to see some of the real-world connections between literature, culture, and history. For instance, combining reading Pablo Neruda with visits to his houses in Santiago and Valparaíso will allow students to more fully engage with the individual and the place that shaped his point of view. This is true not only of the Chilean writers, but for all the Latin American authors who we will study.

Instructor

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Course Schedule

Date and Time: Monday – Thursday, 2pm – 4pm
In-class Seminars: Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays
Santiago Excursions: Thursdays

Required Texts

1. The Popol Vuh
 2. Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, *Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition*
 3. Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
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Course Requirements

Participation (30%)
Reading Quizzes (10%)

In-Class Presentations (30%)
Final Exam (30%)

Course Outline

Week 1: Indigenous Literature

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Introduction
Tuesday	The Popol Vuh
Wednesday	The Popol Vuh
Thursday (Santiago Excursion)	Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art

Week 2: Colonial Americas

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, <i>Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition</i>
Tuesday	Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, <i>Chronicle of the Narváez Expedition</i>
Wednesday	Catalina de Erauso, <i>The Lieutenant Nun</i>
Thursday (Santiago Excursion)	The Church and Convent of San Francisco

Week 3: Independence and Identity

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Jorge Luis Borges, Select Short Stories
Tuesday	Juan Rulfo, "El Llano in Flames"
Wednesday	Pablo Neruda, Selections from <i>Canto General</i>
Thursday (Santiago Excursion)	La Chascona Museum House (Pablo Neruda House in Santiago) and San Cristóbal Hill
Friday – Saturday	Overnight excursion to Valparaíso and Viña de Mar

Week 4: Twentieth Century Chile

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Pablo Neruda, Selections from <i>Twenty Love Poems and a Poem of Despair</i>
Tuesday	Gabriela Mistral, Select Poems
Wednesday	Isabelle Allende, "Letters of a Love Betrayed"
Thursday (Santiago Excursion)	Museum of Memory and Human Rights

Week 5: Writing Latin America

Day	Topic Excursion
Monday	Gabriel García Márquez, <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>
Tuesday	Gabriel García Márquez, <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>
Wednesday	Gabriel García Márquez, <i>One Hundred Years of Solitude</i>
Thursday (Santiago Excursion)	Craft Fair Saint Lucia