

Course Syllabus

English 6390.01 (Summer II, 2010)

Latin American Rhetorics

Instructor: Danika Brown

Email – danika@utpa.edu

Class meets: Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-9:45pm

(Most Wednesdays, class meets online)

Phone – 381-3447 (office); 381-3421 (department/message)

Office: CAS 263

Office Hours:

T/W/Th: 12:30-2:00pm

And by appointment.

Online Office: www.tappedin.org danikab's office (by appt and during regular office hrs.)

Official Objectives and Outcomes:

Following are the Program Intended Student Learning Outcomes for the M.A. in English:

1. Understand and contribute to the ongoing conversation about issues, current theories, and discursive formations within the field of literature through research, writing, teaching, and professional development.
2. Produce critical interpretations and analysis of literary texts with attention to language and literacy.
3. Be familiar with literary canon, genres, and history of literature, as well as with interdisciplinary approaches to study of literature.

This course is designed to meet SLO's by engaging students in analyzing genres of discourse and approaches to rhetorical criticism that are commonly used in literary studies as well (3). Students will research and discuss major rhetorical theories and examples of rhetorical analysis(1). Students will study historical and primary texts within a context for analysis (3). Students will identify appropriate objects of study and produce an extensive critical interpretation of discourse according to an identified theoretical approach (1,2,3).

Overview and Assignments

This course will examine cultural and ethnic identity through rhetorical theory in order to consider the complexities of how identities are constructed and the implications for those

constructions. We will look specifically at the question of “Latin American” identity by analyzing primary historical and contemporary texts, including pre-Columbian codices, speeches and letters from the conquest, and post-colonial narratives. In addition, we will read philosophical and theoretical texts that engage substantive issues of language and power, and the possibility of alternative ways of knowing (or epistemologies) in subordinated cultural identities.

Students will be responsible for leading discussions on selected texts and presenting on a theoretical framework. While the majority of the course will be an examination of issues in Latin American thought, students will apply the rhetorical theories and methods in other sites where similarly productive questions can be analyzed through consideration of the material and discursive constructions of identity. The major assignment for the course (in addition to presentations and shorter analyses of specific texts) will be a seminar paper with an identified venue for possible publication or presentation.

Formal Assignments:

Reading responses for all assigned readings posted on tapped in discussion: 100 points

Group discussion participation: 100 points

Seminar Paper (theory and analysis): 200 points

400 points total

Course Expectations

Because this is a graduate course, I will be treating it as a “seminar.” That means that the course will depend on discussion and student contributions more than on my lecturing over content. It also means that despite the fact that you have assigned readings, you will be identifying and responsible for additional research and reading on the theories we are covering. The readings serve as an introduction, at best, to these theories. I will expect you (with my guidance and support) to identify additional resources. One class a week will be in small groups online. That means you will be facilitating and enhancing the discussion of the readings you are responsible for. We will meet in class on Mondays, but Wednesdays, you will be working independently with your groups.

I expect the writing in this class to reflect graduate level quality. If you are having trouble with academic discourse, I will work with you or recommend that you work with a peer reviewer in the writing center or other informal settings. All formal work should use MLA format.

I expect you to hold yourselves to a standard of curiosity, engagement, enthusiasm, and contribution that distinguishes you as committed graduate students. Regular attendance in this class is mandatory.

