



Dr. Victoria F. Wolff

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AHB 3G28L

Office Hours: Mondays 2:30-3:30 and Tuesdays 2:30-3:30.

**Spanish
2216G:**

Exploring Hispanic Culture (II) [through Social Media]. Mondays 9:30-11:30; Wednesdays 9:30-10:30. KB-K203.

Course Description: We will use social media tools to learn, exchange, share, and create current information about Hispanic Culture. Materials will come from a variety of sources; class meetings and assignments will be conducted in Spanish.

Exploring Hispanic Cultures II focuses on four primary areas of study: **Digital Spanish, Literature, Film, and Popular Culture.**

The course will be organized as follows:



This year, the course will focus on Hispanic Culture in the United States, with opportunities for cross-cultural comparison with Canada.

The **literature** section will study writer **Sandra Cisneros** (1954-). In September of 2016, Cisneros was awarded a prestigious **National Medal of Arts** by President Barack Obama. When interviewed on her selection for the award, Cisneros asserted: “We’re living in such horrible times for people of color, immigrants, working-class people. There’s such open vilification of things I never would have imagined I would hear in my lifetime. I feel as a writer that I have a gift of expressing things that people feel, and speaking for them, and also creating clarity and bridges between communities that misunderstand one another. You can’t see clearly in times of fear. So I try to be of some use because when you witness or read intense hatred, it’s your obligation to try to right the planet. Otherwise, you’re part of the problem.”

<https://www.arts.gov/NEARTS/2016v1-telling-all-our-stories-arts-and-diversity/sandra-cisneros>



The **film** section will look at three **Latinx LGBTQ films**: *Mosquita y Mari* (2012), *Gun Hill Road* (2011), and *La Mission* (2009). The Latinx LGBTQ community was hit hard when, on June 12, 2016, the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, Florida was the target of a mass shooting. In the wake of violence targeted towards the LGBTQ community, there was a resounding call on social media to learn more about LGBTQ issues through literature and film.



The **popular culture** section will examine **lowriders** – “low and slow/*bajito y suavecito*” – as symbols of Hispanic Cultural Identity. As explained in a statement for a current exhibition by the New Mexico History Museum, “Lowriders, the cars, are built as works of art, expressions of faith, to honor the dead, bring families together, center a marriage and, most important, provide a proud ride. Lowriders, the drivers, require the skills of an engineer, the aesthetic of an artist, and the patience of a monk to create highly personalized, one-of-a-kind, mobile expressions.”

<http://www.nmhistorymuseum.org/calendar.php?&id=2672>

As part of this course, Professor Wolff will travel to Northern New Mexico – the once self-proclaimed lowrider capital of the world. This trip is also a return to her roots, as she was born in Santa Fe and spent the first few years of her life in Santa Cruz.



Clase uno 9 de enero lunes	Introducción al curso	My Name/ <i>Mi nombre</i>
Clase dos 11 de enero miércoles	Literatura	Sandra Cisneros I: “Una casa propia” - <i>Un lugar propio para escribir</i>
Clase tres 16 de enero lunes	Literatura	Sandra Cisneros II: “Una casa” - <i>Familia, frontera y ficción</i>
Clase cuatro 18 de enero miércoles	Literatura	Sandra Cisneros III: “Yo todavía decía que era poeta...” – La poesía
Clase cinco 23 de enero lunes	Literatura	Sandra Cisneros IV: “...había escrito cuentos desde la primera” – La narrativa
Clase seis 25 de enero miércoles	Literatura	Sandra Cisneros V: La influencia de las escritoras chicanas
Clase siete 30 de enero lunes	Literatura	Sandra Cisneros VI: La influencia de las escritoras mexicanas
Clase ocho 1 de febrero miércoles	Literatura	Sandra Cisneros VII: Invitada especial – Profesora Alena Robin nos hablará de su encuentro con Elena Poniatowska
Clase nueve 6 de febrero lunes	Cine	Latinx LGBTQ I: <i>Mosquita & Mari</i>
Clase diez 8 de febrero miércoles	Cine	Latinx LGBTQ II: El amor, el paso de la niñez a la adultez y el lesbianismo
Clase once 13 de febrero lunes	Cine	Latinx LGBTQ III: <i>Gun Hill Road</i>
Clase doce 15 de febrero miércoles	Cine	Latinx LGBTQ IV: La familia en transición y el transgenerismo
El 20 y 22 de febrero	Semana de lectura	
Clase trece 27 de febrero lunes	Viaje de investigación	No hay reunión de clase
Clase catorce 1 de marzo miércoles	Cine	Latinx LGBTQ V: Cultura de inmigrantes e identidad - Comparación y contraste de <i>Mosquita & Mari</i> y <i>Gun Hill Road</i>

Clase quince 6 de marzo lunes	Cine	Latinx LGBTQ VI: <i>La Mission</i>
Clase dieciséis 8 de marzo miércoles	Cine	Latinx LGBTQ VII: El machismo, la masculinidad y ser gay
Clase diecisiete 13 de marzo lunes	Cultura popular	Lowriders I: Introducción a la cultura (popular) chicana
Clase dieciocho 15 de marzo miércoles	Cultura popular	Lowriders II: La historia y la evolución de los lowriders
Clase diecinueve 20 de marzo lunes	Cultura popular	Lowriders III: Continuación de la historia y la evolución de los lowriders
Clase veinte 22 de marzo miércoles	Cultura popular	Lowriders IV: El arte popular y el arte de los lowriders
Clase veintiuno 27 de marzo lunes	Cultura popular	Lowriders V: Continuación del arte de los lowriders
Clase veintidós 29 de marzo miércoles	Cultura popular	Lowriders VI: La mujer en la cultura de los lowriders
Clase veintitrés 3 de abril lunes	Cultura popular	Lowriders VII: La mujer en el arte de los lowriders
Clase veinticuatro 5 de abril miércoles	Conclusión del curso	Volver a <i>La Casa en Mango Street</i>: “Boys and girls/Niños y niñas” y “Sometimes Mango says goodbye/A veces Mango dice Adiós”

*For each class session, you will receive a **plan for the day** that will include **learning objectives** and **outcomes**; details regarding the **readings/assessments/assignments** will also be provided. The professor reserves the right to change the course calendar as needed or as required.

Readings will be available **via OWL**.

Evaluation:

	Assignments	In-class writing & learning assessments
A+	90 - 100% One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level	√++
A	80 - 89% Superior work which is clearly above average	√+
B	70 - 79% Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory	√
C	60 - 69% Competent work, meeting requirements	√-
D	50 - 59% Fair work, minimally acceptable	√--
F	below 50% Fail	0

In-class writing and learning assessments (25%): For each scheduled meeting, a variety of in-class learning activities and writing assignments will take place. Assessments may also take place in the form of a quiz. If you are absent and/or do not complete the work, they cannot be made up.

Assignments (75%)

Literature/Sandra Cisneros: Word Cloud (5%), Concept Map (10%), and Timeline (10%)
 Film/Latinx LGBTQ: Wiki (10%) and Movie Review (15%)
 Popular Culture/Lowriders: Collaborative Group Project/Presentation (25%)

*Specific instructions for each assignment will be provided. No late work accepted. You have two weeks to query any grade or missing grade after it has been returned. I will not answer any questions about grades via e-mail or before, during, or after class; instead, you are encouraged to attend office hours.

Words of Wisdom from Professor Amy Weldon: “As you begin your college career, which might eventually involve asking professors to recommend you for graduate programs, jobs, or internships, please be aware that professors are not obligated to write references for any student who asks us. I don’t write a reference for a student unless I can write a very positive and specific one. Therefore, *your job as a college student is to become the kind of student professors can rave about in recommendations — hardworking, collegial, and intellectually inquisitive and honest.* Consider maintaining relationships over time with professors, so that they know you well enough to write for you.” https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1657-claiming-your-right-to-say-no?cid=oh&utm_source=oh&utm_medium=en&elqTrackId=aff5e1f26bc0407789993fca68c65721&elq=aa778ba0b27c440f85b1904ba8e36296&elqaid=12017&elqat=1&elqCampaignId=4839

Please read the following **academic policies** regarding **course selection, academic accommodation, mental health, participation, academic offenses, electronic devices, and final deadline for all outstanding assignments.**

<http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>

NO RECORDING DEVICES ALLOWED – All types of recording device are prohibited. This means no video, audio, or photography at any time.