

Spring 2016
Stony Brook University
Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature
College of Arts and Sciences

SPN 405 Issues in Hispanic Cultural Studies

Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:50, Melville Library N3063

This course satisfies the DEC category Skill 3

This course satisfies the SBC category ESI and HFA+

Course Instructor: Joseph M. Pierce

Section: 01

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:00 PM, or by appointment

Instructor contact information: Melville Library N3013, joseph.pierce@stonybrook.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Yo: Technologies of Self in Latin America

What does it mean to write the self? To record the self? What forms, what methods, what mechanisms does one dispose of to write as an individual connected to society? What is the relationship between narratives of nation building, told from the perspective of Latin America's founding fathers, and today's media-soaked selfie culture? This course focuses on autobiographical narratives in an effort to describe how the self becomes possible as a concept and as a form. This focus on self questions familial relations and cultural norms as it asks what technologies (writing, film, photography, social media) have to do with the imaginary of the "yo" in contemporary Latin America.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Introduce students to a diverse range of autobiographical writing in Latin America.
- Explore historical, cultural, literary, and political contexts for the representation of self, including issues related to race, class, gender, and sexuality.
- Develop analytical skills for reading literary and cultural texts that take the self as object.
- Develop and practice autobiographical writing.

Required Texts (available at Stony Brook Bookstore):

Reinaldo Arenas, *Antes que anochezca*

Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La frontera*

Juan Francisco Manzano, *Autobiografía de un esclavo*

Additional readings available on Blackboard in .pdf format.

Attendance: Consistent attendance and thoughtful participation are crucial to your success in this class. Arriving late causes a disruption, and will reflect negatively on your participation grade. After three absences your grade will be lowered by a half point and so on successively for further unexcused absences. If you have more than 6 absences, your final grade will be an F.

Participation: To receive an A for participation you must have excellent attendance, come prepared, and participate actively and thoughtfully in class discussions. If you participate occasionally and with little preparation or insight, you will receive a B. If you rarely participate

in class, you will receive a C; if you hardly contribute, are distracted, and often miss class, you can expect an F in this category.

Selfie Project: You will produce a narrative account of a selfie. Must be uploaded to our Blackboard Discussion Board by February 1, at 5PM.

Memoir: You will produce a written account of yourself (1,000 words) as a creative exercise in autobiographical writing. Must be uploaded to our Blackboard Discussion Board by February 22 at 5PM. You will also be asked to comment on a classmate's memoir by February 24 at 5PM.

Critical Analysis: You will write a detailed analysis (1,500 words) of one of the texts that we read this semester. Must be uploaded to Blackboard by April 6 at 5PM. You will also be asked to comment on a classmate's essay by April 11 at 5PM.

Critical Autobiography: You will write a nuanced, reflexive account of your life, or of a particular moment, achievement or challenge (2,500 words). You must provide an abstract of your project by April 25 at 5PM, and be prepared to discuss it in class.

Detailed instructions will be provided for all assignments. Written work should follow MLA style.

Evaluation criteria:

Selfie Project: 10%

Memoir: 25%

Critical Analysis: 25%

Critical Autobiography: 30%

Participation: 10%

Grading System

100-93	A	79-77	C+
92-90	A-	76-73	C
89-87	B+	72-70	C-
86-83	B	69-67	D+
82-80	B-	66-60	D
		59-0	F

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/>. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities/asp>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Part I: Technologies of Self

- January 26** Course Introduction: Technologies, Selves, Selfies
Tom Caramanno, “Reframing the Selfie”
- January 28** Marcy J. Dinius, “The Long History of the ‘Selfie’”
Theresa M. Senft and Nancy K. Baym, “What Does the Selfie Say? Investigating a Global Phenomenon”
- February 2** Michel Foucault, “Technologies of Self”
Selfie Project (Due Feb. 1) Discuss in Class
- February 4** Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson, “Life Narrative: Definitions and Distinctions”
Phillipe Lejeune, “The Autobiographical Pact”

Part II: Autobiography, Memoir, Diary

- February 9** Juan Francisco Manzano, *Autobiografía de un esclavo* (44-70)
Ivan A. Schulman, “Introduction”
- February 11** Juan Francisco Manzano, *Autobiografía de un esclavo* (72-135)
- February 16** Lucio V. Mansilla, *Retratos y recuerdos* (selection)
- February 18** Lucio V. Mansilla, *Retratos y recuerdos* (selection)
Joseph M. Pierce, “‘He ahí un hombre’: Composite Masculinity in *Retratos y recuerdos* by Lucio V. Mansilla”
- February 23** **Memoir Project (Due Feb. 22) Discuss in Class**
- February 25** Julia Bunge, *Vida: Época maravillosa* (selection)
Phillipe Lejeune, “On Diary”
- March 1** Delfina Bunge, *Diarios íntimos de una época brillante* (selection)
- March 3** Delfina Bunge, Manuscript diary
- March 8** Bunge Family Album
Marianne Hirsh, *Family Frames: Photography, Narrative, and Postmemory* (selection)
- March 10** Erving Goffman, *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (selection)
- March 15** No Class-Spring Break

March 17 No Class-Spring Break

Part III: Queer / Self

March 22 Reinaldo Arenas, *Antes que anochezca* (1-84)

March 24 Reinaldo Arenas, *Antes que anochezca* (85-159)

March 29 Reinaldo Arenas, *Antes que anochezca* (160-241)

March 31 Reinaldo Arenas, *Antes que anochezca* (242-end)

April 5 Javier Guerrero, “El reinado del cuerpo. Reescrituras de Reinaldo Arenas”

April 7 Andrés Di Tella, *La televisión y yo* (documental, watch before class)

April 12 **Critical Analysis (Due April 11) Discuss in Class**

April 14 Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (1-62)

April 19 Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (63-120)

April 21 Pedro Lemebel, *Loco afán* (selection)

April 26 **Critical Autobiography Abstract (Due April 25) Discuss in Class**

April 28 Claudia Rodríguez, *Cuerpos para odiar* (1-44)

May 3 Claudia Rodríguez, *Cuerpos para odiar* (45-99)

May 5 Juana María Rodríguez, “Welcome to the Global Stage: Confessions of a Latina Cyber-Slut”

Critical Autobiography Due TBD