

## Paper I

Answer **one** of the following questions in an organized, well-developed and well-supported essay. You should have a discernible thesis, quotations from the text(s), and coherent paragraphs (should any of these requirements worry you, please come see me in office hours). Please do not consult any outside sources.

1) *La bruja* (or *curandera*) plays an important role in Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima*, in Fernandez's "Amanda," in Mora's "Curandera." How do these authors see the *curandera* in Chicano/a culture? What function does she serve in this literature? That is, what issues or questions do these authors address through the character of the *curandera*? (You may use any and all of these works in your paper, but it might be difficult to write a paper using only "Curandera.")

2) How and why do Chicana authors re-envision La Llorona? Consider what role she has played traditionally in Chicano/a culture and the effects of that changing role in Chicana literature. Use examples from Mora, Cisneros, and/or Villanueva. (To develop your ideas, you are going to need to use **at least** two of these works.)

3) In his "Overview of Hispanic Literature in the United States," Nicolás Kanellos suggests that this literature is of three kinds. How do the readings from Week Two fit into Kanellos's conception of "Native Literature"? (You may use as many or as few of these readings as you need to support and demonstrate your thesis.)

### **Requirements:**

*Format:* Follow paper requirements listed in syllabus.

*Title:* You need a title that suggests both your topic and intention in the paper.

*Length:* Your paper needs to be four or five pages long (at least 90 lines of text after your heading and title) in order to fulfill assignment requirements.

*Sources:* Please do not use any sources beyond our course texts.

*Due:* Wednesday, February 9, 2005

**ENG/LAS 254**  
**Spring 2005**  
Paper II

Answer one of the following questions in an organized, well-developed and well-supported essay. You should have a discernible thesis, quotes from the text(s), and coherent paragraphs (should any of these requirements worry you, please come see me in office hours).

1) Describe the character "types" that Váldez employs in "Los Vendidos." What do those characters convey to the audience? Why does he use these characters? Does the use of them undermine his purpose or allow him to perform some sort of "cultural work" (or other significant function for him as a writer)? You will want to contextualize your discussion within the *Teatro Campesino*.

2) What pattern has begun to emerge about this region that Anzaldúa calls "the borderlands" of the U.S. Southwest? How do three authors from our syllabus portray the U.S. Southwest in their work? Find three or four similarities in works by these authors, and construct an argument about those similarities.

3) We have read several works set in urban environments. Using Gloria Anzaldúa's concept of the borderlands, formulate an argument that responds to this question: How can the *barrio* be a kind of borderland?

4) In Demetria Martínez's *Mother Tongue*, the narrator, Mary or María, learns from Jose Luis about "liberation theology." How does Martínez define liberation theology in the novel, and how does she portray that definition through the actions of Jose Luis, María, and Soledad?

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*Sources:* Please do not use any sources beyond our course texts.

**ENG/LAS 254**  
**Spring 2005**  
Paper III

Answer one of the following questions in an organized, well-developed and well-supported essay. You should have a discernible thesis, quotes from the text(s), and coherent paragraphs (should any of these requirements worry you, please come see me in office hours).

1) How do exiles remember their homeland? What are some of the elements that appear in the remembered homeland (look for patterns and repetitions) in exile literature? You may use any of the authors we have read this semester as long as they fit your definition of "exile," which you should make explicit in your introduction.

2) How is the phrase "Geography is destiny" true or not true for immigrant or exile writers? Use at least three of the authors we have studied this semester.

**Requirements:**

*Format:* Follow paper requirements listed in syllabus.

*Title:* You need a title that suggests both your topic and intention in the paper.

*Length:* Your paper needs to be four or five pages long (at least 90 lines of text after your heading and title) in order to fulfill assignment requirements.

*Sources:* Please do not use any sources beyond our course texts.

*Due:* Wednesday, April 20, 2005