

Summer 09 course

3-week course: June 1st-June 19th, 2009  
Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs: 9:30am – 1:15pm

CWL 415I: Ethnic Literature & Culture in America  
(section 1)

Prof. Nhora Serrano (nserrano@csulb.edu)  
GE Designation: C2A, HD, I  
LA1-314

This is an interdisciplinary course designed to fulfill the Human Diversity (multicultural) and IC course requirement. This course is intended to introduce students to the comparative study of multicultural literature through the discussion of texts from various cultural backgrounds. The class discussions of narrative and subjectivity will permit students to explore, challenge and reformulate definitions of gender and cultural identity.

Students will discuss cultural notions of selfhood as they appear in the modern novel, short stories, plays, television and film. Recurrent themes in multiethnic literature will also be examined and situated in specific historical and sociopolitical contexts.

**Texts:**

- \* Oscar Hijuelos, Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love
- \* Julie Otsuka, When the Emperor Was Divine
- \* Sherman Alexie, The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven
- \* August Wilson, Fences and The Piano Lesson