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Chicano and Latino Studies 150: Introduction to Chicano Literary Studies
I.C. Assignment

CHLS 150 Course Objectives

1. Students will analyze literature in a social, historical and cultural context
2. Students will understand and analyze the central conventions and process of discourse and inquiry in literary studies *
3. Students will understand the modern technological writing and research environment*
4. Students will effectively interact in interpersonal and group communication *
5. Students will acquire the basic competency to produce an original creative work

Learning Strategies

1. The Research and Writing Process
2. Peer Editing

Assessments:

The Research and Writing Process

Objectives two and three will be measured through the research and writing process. Students will be required to select a particular methodology to guide their critical analysis of a literary text. The instructor will dedicate class time to discussing the research process through a close examination of the *MLA Handbook*. The research process will be divided into many steps and at mid point through the process, they will have required conferences with me to discuss the project. Students will be evaluated based on a writing rubric adapted for the course.

Peer Editing

Objective four will be measured by peer editing groups. Students will work in groups of three as they carry out the progressive steps of their individual critical research papers. The grade for this part of the assignment will be evaluated by the specificity of the comments for revision. Students will be given guidelines for peer editing.

Information Literacy Standards

Parts one and two of this research assignment will allow students to meet the following information literacy standards (Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education, ALA, 2000):

- Standard One: Determine the nature and extent of information needed
- Standard Two: Access needed information effectively and efficiently
- Standard Three: Evaluate information and its sources critically and incorporate selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system
- Standard Five: Understands many of the ethical, legal, and socio-economic issues surrounding information and information technology

Critical Research Paper

For this paper, students will be required to select a particular methodology to guide their critical analysis of a literary text. The 9-11 page paper should include at least 10 bibliographical sources (books or articles that you are reading or have read, not included in the course's bibliography). The paper will follow the Modern Language Association Style Guidelines and will include an annotated list of works cited. It should include all the sources quoted in the paper with their respective annotations.

One of the goals of your critical research paper is for you to improve your research skills. The sources that you have from class can be used as primary texts and can be used as leads to other sources, but only your use of relevant outside sources constitutes research. You must have your own research in order for us to be able to guide and evaluate your critical research paper. Note that many books and articles may have titles that do not distinguish between Latin America and the U.S. Upon initial appraisal of your sources, be sure you select sources that are relevant to U.S. Latina/o criticism.

You will work in groups of three as you carry out the progressive steps of your individual papers. You will read each other's papers and submit your comments. Your grade will depend on the specificity of the comments for revision. Your research paper is worth 25 percent of your total grade. Deadlines and grade distribution are as follows:

Week Seven: Select topic according to guidelines provided by the instructor. 5%

For this portion of the assignment, you will achieve the following **outcomes**:

- Develop a thesis statement and identify key concepts and terms that describe the information need (Standard 1)
- Identify the appropriate literary methodology (Standard 2)
- Identify a variety of types and formats of potential sources for information (Standard 1)
- Define a realistic overall plan and timeline to acquire the needed information (Standard 1)
- Reevaluate the nature and extent of the information need (Standard 1)

Week Nine: Meet with group. Discuss each of your paper titles and topics. Discuss the texts to be included in your bibliography. Post title and first five annotated sources of proposed bibliography on the course website (beachboard). 20%

For this portion of the assignment, you will achieve the following **outcomes**:

- Construct and implement effectively-designed search strategies (Standard 2)
- Construct a search strategy using appropriate commands for the information retrieval system selected (Standard 2)
- Summarize the main ideas to be extracted in order to prepare the annotated sources for the proposed bibliography (Standard 3)

Week Eleven: Meet with group. Discuss your paper's organization and content as presented in your outline. Post your outline, your proposed thesis, and your complete, 10-source annotated bibliography on beachboard. 15%

Week Twelve: Submit a 6-page draft of your paper to your group and to your instructor. Include your annotated Bibliography. Discuss with your group and edit. Review the peer editing guidelines (which includes a discussion of plagiarism). You will each be evaluated for editing your group member's drafts in hard copy. These will be turned in with the final papers. Meet with instructor according to appointment schedule. 20%

Week Fourteen: Final Paper (9-11 pages, and your annotated Bibliography). 40%

For weeks eleven, twelve and fourteen, you will achieve the following **outcomes**:

- Validate understanding and interpretation of the information through discussion with your peer groups and your professor (Standard 3)
- Utilize the Modern Language Association's documentation style and use it consistently to cite sources (Standard 5)
- Demonstrate an understanding of what constitutes plagiarism and does not represent work attributable to others as your own (Standard 5)