

**Introduction to Ethnic Literature Through a Short Story and Comic Book Lens**  
English 581 MW 1:30-3:18 Denney 250

Department of English  
Fall 2006  
Prof. Aldama

Office: Denney 573  
aldama.1@osu.edu  
Weds: 4-6PM & Appt.

**Course Description:** We will visit the comic book and short story genres to explore how ethnic-identified authors engage readers in their creative texturings of racial and ethnic identity and experience. Our focus will not rest exclusively on questions of whether or not an author represents well a given ethnic experience; nor will the course gravitate around issues of identity politics. Rather, we will focus our energies on understanding how authors use a variety of techniques--point of view, tempo, mood, style, characterization, for instance--to complexly engage readers' ideas of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality. To this end we will use a critical approach that distinguishes between the goings-on within a given storyworld (event, characterization, theme) and the activity that takes place at the level of the form (play with time, style, point of view, tempo). Given that there is a two-way flow between content and form that unite in the reader's imagination, we will also keep centrally in mind how we as readers are cognitively and emotively drawn into the storyworld; how a given ethnic-identified author shapes a narrative to tug forth emotions and to cue us to imagine whole worlds from fragments. We will thus explore questions of cognition (individual and social memory, for example) and emotion (anger, sorrow, happiness, for example) as well as genre, point of view, style, temporality, and spatialization. You will be expected to write three papers (Times, 12, 1inch margins), submit every Sunday via email response pieces to weekly readings (Times, 12, 1inch margins, and facilitate one 10-15 minute in-class discussion by drawing upon secondary readings on ethnic literary studies. The comic books, *Brown on Brown*, *Arturo Islas: The Uncollected Works*, and *Spiling the Beans in Chicanolandia* are available at the campus bookstore; most short stories and secondary readings are available via the specified Carmen link (below); several are available via electronic reserve.

**Grading:**

25% First paper (5pages)

25% Second paper (5 pages)

25% Final paper (5 pages): December 8th, 6PM (via email attachment)

15% Weekly response pieces (2 pages)

10% Participation and attendance. In-class presentations t.b.a.

Extra Credit: 2 page response to guest talks either by Grivalva (Oct. 9th, 3:30PM Knight House), Delgadillo (Oct. 26, 3:30 PM Knight House), Aldama (Nov. 2, Noon Knight House) or Saumell (Nov. 10th, 3:30PM Knight House).

**Plagiarism:** As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is the representation of another person's work or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. All cases of suspected plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

**Students with Disabilities.** Students who feel s/he may need an accommodation for a disability should contact me privately. Students should also know that the Office

for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall; 292-3307) provides for students with documented disabilities.

## Writing Center

### Short Stories

- Sept. 25 (Week One) Latino:** Antony Farias "Red Serpent Ceviche", Junot Diaz, Julia Alvarez "Our Papers".
- Sept. 27** Ysa T. Núñez "Broadway", Abraham Rodríguez Jr. "Babies", Beatriz Rivera, Cristina García, Ana Menendez "In Cuba I was a German Shepard".
- Theory: "Contemporary American Short Story Cycle" and O'Rourke's "Morphological Metaphors for the Short Story"
- Oct. 2 (Week Two) Chicano:** From Islas's *Uncollected Works*: "Submarine", "Tia Chucha", "The Dead", "Nina", "Compadres y Comadres". Also, read Ana Castillo "Loverboys".
- Theory: *Arturo Islas: Uncollected Works* Introduction and "Saints, Artists, and Vile Politics"; also read Elizabeth Jacobs's "Mexican American Literature".
- Oct. 4** Alfred Arteaga; Dagoberto Gilb, Luis Urrea "Father Returns From the Mountain", Daniel Olivas "Muy Loca Girl",
- Theory: *Brown on Brown* Introduction, Chapter 4, Conclusion; *Spilling the Beans* Introduction and author interviews for Arteaga, Gilb, Urrea, and Olivas.
- Oct. 9 (Week Three) African American:** Ralph Ellison "In a Strange Country", Jewelle Gomez, Ishmael Reed, James Alan McPherson "Elbow Room", Maxine Claire "Cherry Bomb", John Edgar Wideman "Doc's Story".
- Theory: James Phelan's "Reading Across Identity Borders",
- Oct. 11** Edwidge Danticat's "Night Woman", Danny Leferrrière "America, We Are Here", Octavia Butler "Speech Sounds".
- Theory Madelyn Jablon's "Womanist Storytelling".
- Oct. 16 (Week Four) American Indian:** N. Scott Momaday "She Is Beautiful in Her Whole Being", Greg Sarris, Ronald Rogers,
- Oct. 18** Sherman Alexie "What You Pawn I will Redeem", Gerald Vizenor "The Baron of Patronia".
- Theory: James Ruppert "Fiction: 1968 to the present" (e-reserve).
- Oct. 23 (Week Five) Asian:** Sara Shun-Lien Bynum "Accomplice", Gary Pak "Hae Soon's Song", Jhumpa Lahiri, Ginu Kamani, Kadohata Cynthia "Gray Girl", Lois-Ann Yamanaka "My Nanny" and "Sunny Side Up", Fae Ng "Backdair", David Louie "Birthday."
- Theory: John Wright "North Pacific Rim Culture" articles by Qun Wang, Laurie Leach.
- Oct. 25** **Multiculti America:** Michelle Cliff, Michael Musto, Judith Freeman, Cecile Pineda,
- Theory: A Robert Lee "America and the Multicultural World".

**Paper I Due!**

**Comic Books**

<u>Oct. 30</u>	<u>(Week Six)</u>	<u>Latino: Frank Espinosa's <i>Rocketo</i>,</u>
Nov.1		Gilbert Hernandez <i>Sloth</i> .
Theory:		Aldama on "La Maggie La Loca": <a href="http://www.guttergeek.com">www.guttergeek.com</a>
Nov. 2.		Attend <b>Aldama's talk on Latino Comics. Noon.</b> Knight House
<u>Nov. 6</u>	<u>(Week Seven)</u>	<u>Latino Cont: Los Bros Hernandez, <i>Love &amp; Rockets X</i></u>
Theory		Darieck Scott's "Love, Rockets, Race & Sex
Nov. 8		Wilfred Santiago <i>In My Darkest Hour</i> .
<u>Nov. 13</u>	<u>(Week Eight)</u>	<u>African American: Aaron McGruder's <i>Birth of a</i></u>
		<i>Nation</i>
Theory		Marc Singer "Black Skins" and Jeffrey Brown's "Comic
		Book Masculinity"
Nov. 15		Ho Che Anderson's <i>King</i>
<u>Nov. 20</u>	<u>(Week Nine)</u>	<u>Multiculti. American: Ryan Inzana's <i>Johnny Jihad</i></u>
Nov. 22		Ivan Velez Jr. <i>Tales of the Closet</i>
Theory		Silversmith's <i>Superheroine</i>
		<b>Paper II Due!</b>
<u>Nov. 27</u>	<u>(Week Ten)</u>	<u>Continued:</u>
Nov. 29		
<u>Dec. 8</u>		<u>Final Paper Due 6PM</u> (Email as attached Word document)