

LEH 301. 01W The Immigration Experience in Film and Literature
Prof. G. Russo Bullaro Spring 2007
Office: C 390 Tel: 960.8362 Hrs: Tues. 12-1 and by app't
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Course Outline and Syllabus

In this course we will examine the commonality of the immigration experience, its advantages and disadvantages. Among the specific issues to be explored are cultural identity and how it is affected by the departure from the old culture and the arrival into the new one; assimilation and its perils and joys; family relations and how the roles of parent and child may suffer a reversal, and psychological fragmentation, the feeling that as an immigrant, you don't fully belong in either the native or the adopted culture. The cultures we will look at are many. Among them we find Latino, Italian and Korean.

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez

The Last Cannoli by Camille Cusumano

A Step from Heaven by An Na

Crossing Over by Ruben Martinez

In addition we will be viewing the film, *Mi Familia* and there may be handouts. You are responsible for finding out what these are, obtaining them and reading them.

Because this is a writing intensive course, there will be only a few texts on our syllabus. We will be writing about the texts and using them as sources for essays etc. **It is your responsibility throughout the semester, to find out about individual writing and reading assignments and their deadlines.** If you are absent, you are still responsible for the deadlines. Therefore, I strongly advise you to take the contact information of at least a few people in the class in order that you may always stay informed.

1. It is very important for you not to be absent from class because:
 - A) **In-class writing, when there is any, cannot be made up.** If you miss an in-class writing assignment, you will get a zero for that particular assignment.
 - B) In-class writing assignments (including quizzes) will not be announced ahead of time.
 - C) At least 25% of your final grade will be based on attendance, punctuality, the degree of your preparation for the class, and the contribution you make to our class discussions. The more you can show that you have done the readings and are prepared to talk about them, the better this will serve you in the end. Please remember that asking questions or expressing lack of comprehension of the readings is also an important contribution and in no way does it hurt you to admit that you have struggled with a text. We are

here to struggle if necessary, and to overcome our struggles with a little hard work that will ultimately make you feel good about yourself.

- D) Since this class meets only once a week, departmental policy states that you are “allowed” 1 absence (which equals 3 credits/hrs.) and 2 latenesses. For every additional absence or lateness you will lose points off your final average.

2. Late papers of any kind will not be accepted. “Emergencies” should be discussed with me. I will be glad to listen to you and try to work out some way to help you.

3. All writing that is not done in the classroom must be typed. You should have a cover page with the following information: your name, course name and number, instructor’s name, name of assignment, due date of assignment, title of paper and thesis statement (underlined).

Syllabus

Feb.1: Introduction to course.

Feb. 8: Discussion of main topics and themes of this course.

Feb. 15: NO Class, follow Monday schedule

Feb. 22: In-class viewing of film with the following writing assignment based on it due next week.

Assignment: Create an outline of 3 of the film's major themes, naming and describing scenes that illustrate those themes. Also, write 1 paragraph that describes the film's structure and another that explains the significance of that structure..

March 1: Discussion of film.

Assignment: Read *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*

March 8: Discussion of *Garcia Girls*

March 15: Discussion of *Garcia Girls*

Assignment: Read *The Last Cannoli*

March 22: Discussion of *The Last Cannoli*

Assignment: Read *A Step From Heaven*

March 29: Discussion of *The Last Cannoli*

April 5: No Class: Spring Break

April 12: In-Class Writing for Mid-Term

April 19: Discussion of *A Step From Heaven*

Assignment: Read Chapters 9-13 in *Crossing Over*

April 26: Discussion of *Crossing Over* (Chapter 9 and 10)

Final Paper due today. You may submit it at any time before this date but it will not be accepted after it, so plan your schedule accordingly.

May 3: No Class

May 10: Chapters 11, 12, 13

May 17: Course Wrap-Up and Final In Class Writing Assignment